



OAK GROVE BANDS

THE SOUND OF GRIZZLY PRIDE

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Mike Howell, Director of Bands

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Students and Parents:

I am hoping that you are all staying well. As many of you have heard, Governor Cooper has mandated that all NC schools are to remain closed through the end of this school year. Although we understand that this has been done for our safety, it is all the more disappointing for our students and programs, particularly for our senior class. As the parent of a senior, it is heartbreaking to know that they will not get to experience this “once-in-a-lifetime” milestone in a normal situation. I know that all of our students miss their friends, teachers, and for our band, making music together. I do as well.

I know that all of you have many questions as to what this decision means for our schools and I am sure that you will be getting much information over the next days and weeks. I wanted to take a second and give some updates from a band program standpoint. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

- **BUTTERBRAID/COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER**

- Now that we know that returning to school is not happening, I have asked the administration for guidance as to possible delivery and pickup. My thoughts are that we may be able to have a “drive-thru” method similar to the academic packet pickup. We will let you know as soon as it is possible to make that happen. This was a very successful fundraiser for us and we want to get everyone their delicious pastries as soon as possible.

- **CONCERT BAND AND WIND ENSEMBLE ASSIGNMENTS via GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

- Assignments that have been posted through May 15th and should be completed by the due dates. This work was also provided in a hard copy format available for pickup at OGHS per their instructions.
- I am making alterations to some Proficient (Honors) level portfolio bullets and will be sharing those soon. Students are to complete all current posted assignments as normal.
- Please review due dates for the assignments, complete and submit accordingly.
- Now that we will not be returning to school, I would like you to continue to practice any and all music that you have. Continue with the posted assignments.

- **BAND BANQUET**
 - Unfortunately this will be cancelled for this year. I will be reaching out to the band booster board members in regards to the possibility of a virtual recognition ceremony for our students, particularly seniors.
- **SPRING CONCERT**
 - Much like the banquet, this will not be possible for this spring. It is again heartbreaking for me to not be able to make music with you, particularly for those of you that would have experienced this as a “finale” performance at OG. We will pick-up this fall, rehearsing some of the same music and will premier our special composition piece that will be dedicated to the class of 2020 in October. These students will be invited back “home” to participate in the premier of this piece. Much more information will be provided between now and then.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Students and Parents that are getting emails and REMIND messages from me are urged to reach-out to other band members to make sure they are as well. It is critical that students are checking their school emails daily and that all band students and parents are on the REMIND groups if possible. Again, reach out to other band members, friends, etc. during this time to make sure they are getting messages from me.
- **EQUIPMENT and PERSONAL BELONGINGS**
 - A few of you have already asked me about getting things from the band room. I am sure that we will all be getting info from administration about that this coming week. Please be patient and we will figure that out together.
- **REGISTRATION for the 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR (particularly ensemble placement)**
 - Now that all students have returned their course requests, I will begin going through those to determine ensemble placement. Unfortunately, a placement audition will not be possible given the varied access students have to recording and online resources. The sight-reading component of the process is critical and cannot fairly be completed online.
 - Mr. Larsen and I will be going through the class lists and students will be placed into the appropriate ensemble based on our observation of performance and growth for this past school year.
- **MARCHING BAND REGISTRATION for the 2020 SEASON**
 - Instructions regarding registration has been sent via REMIND and EMAIL. Over the next week or so, Mr. Larsen and I will be reaching out with more information.
 - Student Leadership (section leaders, captains, and drum major(s)) will be contacted soon regarding their applications and interview process.
 - We are making plans to move ahead as normal with our marching camp in July. Be aware that this may be altered given the COVID-19 situation. Any changes to the schedule that was provided will be communicated as soon as possible.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns, let me know.

Musically,

Mike Howell 

Mike Howell