

 **OAK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL BAND** 

340 EAST PUETZ ROAD
OAK CREEK, WI 53154

(414) 768-6210 Ext 7265 FAX: (414) 768-6130

Amy Fuchs & Guy Gregg—Directors

a.fuchs@oakcreek.k12.wi.us & g.gregg@oakcreek.k12.wi.us

June 5, 2009

Dear OCHS Band Members and Parents:

Congratulations and welcome to our new and returning band members and parents to the 2009-2010 OCHS Band Program! This is our **22nd** year in continued pursuit of musical excellence based upon a rich tradition of positive experiences and successful accomplishments! Our success is due to YOUR attendance, discipline, dedication, pride, enthusiasm, and sacrifice. As a member of the OCHS Band, you are expected to accept the responsibility of being a young adult and contribute your personal best in all our endeavors: home practice, memorization, attendance at all rehearsals-performances and your very best behavior.

So what's up for 09-10? Membership is 196! The '09 Marching Show is more exciting and beautiful than ever! The music and drill are ready for you to make it come alive! The staff anxiously awaits your presence to begin teaching.

We'll be traveling for marching contests at Waukesha, Wilmot, Wheaton, IL, Cudahy, Marengo, IL, and UW-Whitewater (State Championships). We will also perform 3 home football half-times and Special Encore Performance at OCHS. Everyone will again be required to participate in WSMA District Solo-Ensemble and be expected to participate in HOME PRACTICE, rehearsals, performances, concerts, and fundraisers. We have not finalized our spring trip destination; however, it promises to be another memorable tour.

Rehearsals will take place on the OCHS practice and stadium fields. We will again hold required **Band Camp Rehearsals on August 8, 15, 22, 29 and September 12.** This will ensure our competitive readiness, so plan ahead!

Another vital part of being prepared for the fall season is having all students know their music before they return in August. Parents: It is required that your musician practice, learn, and memorize their music during the summer (see deadlines below).

Remember that August brings hot temps, rain, and mosquito fest, so bring a water bottle and comfortable tennis shoes to march in. TENNIS SHOES ONLY!! This is for your safety! Don't forget to bring the sunscreen and bug spray and to dress for the weather!

The 09-10 Band will devote our season to working to see how far we can take our show. Ms. Fuchs and Mr. Gregg are ready to say, "Band...A-Ten-Hut!" We will see the **Freshmen, all flags and all percussion** starting on **August 3 and 6, at 5:45 pm.** Remember to bring your music, instrument, water bottle, tennis shoes and above all, a positive attitude to work hard. **The First FULL ENSEMBLE Rehearsal is Band Camp #1 on August 8th from 9 am-3 pm. NOTE:** We will again be holding weekly summer sectionals for all (except pit percussion). The sectional schedule is included below.

******Mark your Calendar for the MANDATORY PARENT MEETING AUGUST 20th in the OCHS Cafeteria at 6:30pm. ALL FORMS** (Permission For Field Trips; Travel Agreement; Contract; Parent Support, District Background Check), will be distributed, completed & **RETURNED** at this meeting. **The \$75 Transportation Fee** (checks payable to OCHS Band; #451 in memo section) will also be **due** at this meeting. **ANY ONE with a student in the OCHS Band MUST ATTEND this meeting. If you are ABSOLUTELY unable to attend, you must call or email to set-up an individual appointment with the directors.**

The \$75 transportation fee is used to offset the cost of our motor coach transportation, food provided each weekend, and also to offset decreased fundraiser participation. These coaches are needed for shelter, storage, comfort, timesavings, restrooms, and entertainment.

Uniform Fitting: Required for everyone at registration-OCHS room 265 (band room)

August 11 8:00-11:00 am & 4:00-7:30 pm

August 12 8:00-11:00 am & 4:00-7:30 pm

Note: Marching Uniforms are provided-students must supply their own black socks and plain white T-shirt with sleeves. Students also need to purchase a Blue Dri-Fit Band Polo for non-formal performances. These can be purchased through the Band ONLY (NOT OCHS Spirit Wear). Info will be available at the parent meeting.

NEW THIS YEAR: Students must provide their own **CONCERT BLACKS**. This means ALL students MUST have Black Dress Pants or Skirt/Dress (Knee-Length MINIMUM), Black Dress Shirt or Blouse, and Black DRESS SHOES for ALL Concert Performances! NO EXCEPTIONS!

While At Registration: Sign-up for Saturday Camp food and Parent Volunteer assignments.

Instrument Repair: Your instrument MUST be taken in for summer repair/cleaning/check up. Take care of it NOW to ensure proper playing condition. Students who need a school instrument will be contacted to pick them up when they return from summer repair.

Marching Rehearsals: Rehearsals begin August 3 and 6 for Freshmen, All flags and All percussion from 5:45-9:00 pm at OCHS. Enter the Northeast doors at OCHS & proceed to 2nd floor. **EVERYONE REPORTS** for Camp #1 on August 8 from 9am-3pm with lunch provided. We will meet in Miller Park (North End of OCHS) at 8:45 am. These rehearsals are part of your commitment as a member of the OCHS Band. READ YOUR SCHEDULE & PLAN AHEAD! YOU ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE ALL MUSIC MEMORIZED BY AUGUST 22nd. Parents please help monitor your student so that we may progress rapidly through our show!

Bring water bottle, cool/comfortable clothes (jeans are not recommended) and comfortable tennis shoes. Bring your music, instrument, & pencil! The first 3 weeks of rehearsals concentrate on music and basics, while the Saturday camps focus on the visual drill aspects of our show.

****Memorization Deadlines****

August 8 Warm-Ups, Opener & School Song Complete

August 15 Flight & Pursuit Completed

August 22 Battlefield & Star Spangled Banner Complete

We have scheduled the **summer sectionals in order to help you accomplish your memorization deadlines. Remember: there is a reason that you have received your music EARLY!!!! You are expected to work AHEAD!!!!

Sectionals are held in OCHS Band Room #265 and Choir Room #260

Dates of Sectionals are: June 17, 24 and July 1, 8, 15

9:00am Flute, Clarinet

10:00 Alto Sax, F Horn

11:00 Trumpets

12:00 Baritone, Trombone, Tenor Sax

1:00 Bass Clarinet, Bari Sax, Tuba, E. Bass

10-11:30 am Colorguard and Battery Percussion*

*Be prepared to rehearse OUTSIDE, wear comfortable TENNIS SHOES and bring Water!

We hope you enjoy the summer and return with a positive attitude, renewed commitment to band, and much excitement to see your friends. Please return with an abundance of enthusiasm, energy, pride, dedication, and commitment to carry us through another adventurous year enjoying our band together!

If you will be on vacation or discover a **conflict with the schedule**, please email the above address or leave a message at 768-6210 ext. 7265. **ALL** absences must be accompanied by a signed note from a parent or guardian. We are responsible for your safety!

IF for some reason you will not be marching with us this year, CALL IMMEDIATELY!

Enclosed you will find the TENTATIVE schedule for the 2009-2010 school year. For your convenience, we have also included the schedule in calendar format. Please read it carefully and plan ahead to adjust your personal and work schedule to attend all scheduled activities. Attendance impacts your peers, staff, and directors. We **depend** on each other and therefore, NO ABSENCE GOES UNNOTICED! **Work is NOT an acceptable excuse.** It is your responsibility to share your band schedule with your employer and make it very clear that you cannot compromise the commitment you have made to the Band and everyone who works with it. We will accept nothing but your Absolute Best! We will work around other activities, but you must communicate with us and make every effort to resolve conflicts. You must follow the example set forth by those who came before you and learn to budget your time wisely to accomplish band-homework-

other activities. The fall season is crunch time for everyone, but you can do it. The key is to be personally accountable and meet the memorization deadlines before August 22nd. We wish you a safe, restful summer and we'll see you soon!

Musically Yours,
Amy Fuchs & Guy Gregg