

Hey everyone,

This is the first official e-mail update for the 2009-2010 winter percussion ensemble season. It shouldn't be too long, but I would like to briefly touch upon a few things.

Firstly, I want to thank everyone for the initial support that you all have shown. This program wouldn't be possible without all of your support! It has been a great first week of auditions, and I'm looking forward to next week getting here already.

I suppose I should mention something about the schedule, since we've already encountered a couple of conflicts. There are no rehearsals over the weekend. I just want to clarify that. Originally, we had some camps, but due to conflicts for both several of the students and several of the staff, we can't have them. This does mean that eventually we'll need to make them up, but we'll have plenty of time to give you all notice.

Next week, we have two rehearsals to finish up the audition period. We have a rehearsal on Tuesday from 3:30 – 5:30 for everyone (**except the cymbals**). We still need the rehearsal time, but couldn't do the normal time due to a pep band conflict. This should be the only Tuesday that isn't in the normal time slot (except for those few camps where our drill guy will be coming in town to work with the kids). For Tuesday, the cymbal players will still be there at the normal slot (from 6-9).

We also have the Friday rehearsal next week from 3:30 – 6. After that rehearsal, the entire line will be set. We'll know who will be where for the rest of the season. The staff is still discussing which route to take, but we'll know for sure what we're going to do by the end of Friday's rehearsal. The students can expect to hear the announcements of who is where the following Tuesday rehearsal.

Also, on November 24th, we have James Sparling coming in to work with the students. James is writing our drill, and he wanted to come in and get a chance to see where our students are at. The rehearsal will be extended, and I'll let you know as soon as I hear back from him concerning the definite times. We'll probably start directly after school, and let you out around 8 or so. Again, I'll let you know definite times as soon as those are determined.

As of next week, Andrew Markworth will begin preparing the show music, so I'm rather excited about that. We should know by the 1st of December where we stand with instrumentation, and we may even have a peek of the 1st movement. I'm very excited about our design team this year, and I can't even begin to explain how good this show is going to be.

I want to briefly thank everyone for the quick start we've had for fundraising. Again, I understand that it gets annoying, but we must continue to sell if we want this program to work this year. Things are tight, but I have total faith that we can make this work. We need to sell 20 boxes during this month, and that is on top of the boxes that you all need

to sell for your first fee which is due on December 5th. I know it's a lot, but keep selling, it will be worth it!

Lastly, I'm very happy to announce that we're in the process of negotiating for a practice slot. It's possible that the drum line will be given our own gymnasium for the entire season. We'll also have storage directly next to the gym, so we'll only have to wheel a couple of instruments from the band room. This is a huge step for us, and it will make things much more efficient.

Again, I want to thank everyone for your participation, and I look forward to a great season!

Thanks,

Jeremy