

Hey everyone,

We have a lot of exciting things going on; so expect a decently long update.

First and foremost, we had a spectacular camp with Thomas Sparling yesterday! So many things were accomplished, and I'm extremely excited about the show being pieced together this year. We finished the drill for the 1st movement, and added in body work for the 1st. We've never been close to having this much drill done this early, so I find it to be a very good sign for the season.

For the front ensemble, we wrapped up just about every exercise we've wanted to get done, and we began working on show music today. We're about ½ through the 1st, and I expect us to have the rest of the 1st ready to go before our next camp day with Thomas (12/18). Not only did the front ensemble get some music done, but we also received our first portion of the show for the battery from Nick. I was really optimistic when I first heard the front ensemble book, but that didn't prepare me at all for how tremendous the battery book is sounding thus far. We're expecting to receive the rest of the music for the 1st before Tuesday's rehearsal. I can't wait to get a look!

For next week, we have quite a few things going on. Firstly, we have our regular Tuesday and Thursday rehearsal taking place. For Tuesday night, we have a guest instructor (Chuck McCurdy) coming out to work with the battery. Chuck is a friend of mine that I worked with at New Albany High School. He's a tremendous instructor, and I can't wait to have him out! On Thursday, we have our cymbal technician beginning to work with us for the season. I'm very excited about having him come out and work with our cymbal line. I'm expecting great things!

On next Saturday, we have a lot going on. Concerning behind the scenes work, we'll be having a day for pot pies. This day is unbelievably important, as we're going to try and assemble 200 pot pies. **The tentative plan is to begin at 8 AM at Unity Chapel.** The parents that led this process last year will not be available this year, which means we'll need almost ALL NEW PARENTS working on things. If you haven't gotten involved in the past, or your student is brand new to the program, WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP ON SATURDAY! Not only will we need parents (and possibly students) available to help on Saturday, but we'll also need some parents to help contribute to preparing 1-2 days in advance. For any questions, please let me know, and I'll do my best to either answer, or find someone with the answer asap.

For the students, we have one of two things taking place. On the schedule, we have the IPA Winter Meeting and Clinic day taking place. This is entirely optional. I'll be passing out information next rehearsal discussing the plans for the day. This is our back up plan, in case the following plan doesn't work. Nick Angelis, our battery composer, has mentioned his interest in coming in to work with us. We only get a few times a year where he has the time to come in, as his work is so strongly demanded. If he confirms by Tuesday concerning a camp, then we will have a camp next weekend.

I discussed this with the students at camp yesterday. I understand that it will be short notice, but we have to do this once or twice a year when working with clinicians. For those that have definite plans established, I understand if things can't be worked out, but I do expect students to do their best to make

any camp that is scheduled with Nick. It is a HUGE opportunity to work with him. Again, I'll clarify plans for next weekend on Tuesday.

For the remainder of December, we have a few more big days ahead of us. We have two more camps with Thomas Sparling (12/18, and 12/28). We should hopefully have the drill on the floor for at least the first 2 movements. We also have a front ensemble clinician, Jon Corson, coming in for four camp days (12/21, 12/22, 12/28, 12/29). These will be big days for the pit kids, so please make sure to have these days set aside. It's hugely inefficient for us to pay to have guys like Jon come in and then miss students in the ensemble. We need everyone there to properly go about teaching and cleaning music.

Just as I was explaining yesterday to the front ensemble; we plant a lot of seeds the first couple months of the season. How much work we accomplish in the first 2-3 months determine the amount of success we encounter once competitions begin in February. A few things that we'll be doing this month to be prepared for the season is firstly making sure that we have full attendance at all of the camps. Behind the scenes, we'll have fundraising begin in full swing. Not only do we have chicken pot pies to sell and assemble, but we also have advertisements beginning. We need to pay out close to \$2,000 in December; so we have to hit the fundraising hard.

We'll also have uniforms to begin preparing. We're ironing out a design now, and will be purchasing the necessary pieces soon. Once we get it all in, we'll need parents to help put things together though. Normally we have two parents help out with this; we definitely need more this year. Lastly, we'll be painting our tarp in late December. This will be extremely important. So for any parents that are good with painting, please speak up; we could definitely use your expertise.

I know that we have a lot going on, and I know that we're beginning to ask for a lot out of everyone, but this is what will take the program to the next step this year. It was great earning a Silver Medal last year at State Finals, but that was just the tip of the iceberg. We can do so much more if we all pitch in and work together!

Please let me know if you have any questions whatsoever.

Thanks all for your support and interest!

-Jeremy