

Hey everyone,

So we've put a couple very busy weeks behind us. I'm glad to say that things are going according to plan. While that's extremely good news, it doesn't mean we can take a break.

Firstly, the last few rehearsals have been very productive. We had our camp with Nick Angelis this weekend, and he left very excited about where we are. He did make a few changes concerning who is marching or playing which instrument. Please understand that the changes that have been made were for the betterment of the ensemble.

I think that I need to point out something that became obvious over the past week or so. This applies not only to one individual, but to everyone related to this program. This ensemble will not work if we don't put 100% behind it. This means that I need to change some things about the way I teach and schedule things. This means that the students need to make every rehearsal, and continue raising funds. This means that the parents need to get involved with the program. I want so badly to see this program grow, but it won't happen unless we all pick up the pace.

For the next couple of weeks, we have a few more important things taking place. We have the standard rehearsals this week on Tuesday (6-9) and Friday (3:30-6). I'm hoping to get moved into the All Purpose Room this week. I'm also hoping to start music (at least for the front ensemble) on Friday. We have a lot to do to get to that point, but I have full faith in the students and the staff working with them.

Next Tuesday is another camp with James Sparling. He's going to do another session of fundamentals, and then also begin teaching them the drill for the show. This will be a big day. Take note that the rehearsal time is different that day. It will be a 3:30 – 8:30 rehearsal. I understand that this is a long day, but we've got to keep up the pace if we expect to get things done in time. After that camp, we'll have almost an entire week off. The following rehearsal will be our second camp day, and James will be in town for that also. In the next update, I'll have an opportunity to discuss the remaining Christmas break rehearsals in more detail.

Concerning scheduling, I need everyone to be aware that the schedule I passed out at the initial winter meeting wasn't 100% finalized. (An updated and finalized schedule is on the band web site.) I want that schedule to be as accurate as possible, but I need everyone to understand that things come up, especially when we need to cater to well known instructors coming in for camps. Please be understanding.

To end on an extremely high note, I can proudly say that the program has grown considerably over the past few weeks. Kids are working extremely hard, and I am unbelievably proud of them. If we continue at this pace, it truly will be an unforgettable season.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions. I'll do the best I can to get a timely answer for you. Thanks so much in your participation with this ensemble. It truly means a lot for the students involved.

-Jeremy