

Hey everyone,

So things have been going really well lately. As of tonight, we were able to play through the entire first movement on the move. It means that we can officially move on to getting the second movement music done so we can get that on the move next week. In terms of show completion, we're making extremely good progress. We still need to push through learning everything else, but we'll be in great shape for our first contest, which is only three weeks away!

Concerning rehearsals, I need to thank all of the students for the hard work that you have put in. It's great to be with a group of kids that want to succeed and do well. It makes the staff members enjoy working with you, and it will only produce high results come State Finals. Please continue on with that work ethic and discipline. Understand that as time progresses, the bar will only move higher. We will expect more out of you each and every rehearsal. Understand that we prod you on because we know that you can do it!

As the season progresses, and as I've mentioned before, the rehearsals become more and more intense. We worked very hard at the beginning of the season to make sure we started and stopped on time. Please understand that we'll still continue to try to hold up to that. We simply don't have enough time to do all that we need, so every minute we can spare makes a huge difference. There will be a couple late nights. For instance, we didn't let out until 9:10ish tonight. I hate having late rehearsals, but sometimes we just need to move for an extra few minutes when we have that opportunity. Again, thanks to everyone for being so understanding of that!

For scheduling, we have an extremely important day coming up. I've been talking with the design staff quite a bit recently, and it turns out that Nick Angelis wanted to have another camp with us if we were available. We'll be rehearsing on February 20th, from 9 AM – 5 PM. We had an open Saturday in between our first two contests. From the beginning of the season, this Saturday was in place for a purpose. In case some prior camp were cancelled (due to snow or scheduling conflicts) or if we just needed the extra time to prepare, we'd have that day free of a contest.

Now I am fully aware that this has not been on the schedule until now. I've only given a four week notice of this camp. I explained to the students this past rehearsal that if something has already been scheduled, then I would understand their absence. I did ask that they consider rescheduling. It would mean a tremendous amount to the staff and ensemble if we could get another camp with Nick Angelis. Our first contest out is 2/13, and we'd be able to have a full day after that and before our next contest out on 2/27. I can't stress how much we could accomplish in that one day.

Again, this is a HUGE opportunity for the students. Working with Nick is about as high as it gets in the musical realm, and I really hope that each and every student makes this a priority.

From the logistical setup this season, things are coming along nicely. We've had lots of time to prepare, now we just need to make the purchases to do what we need, such as building the props, painting the tarp, fitting uniforms, ordering show shirts, etc, etc. It's all in place, we simply need the funds to secure everything. The students have done a tremendous job raising money this season (just under \$9,000 so

far!). That doesn't secure us everything though, we still need to raise the money to take care of the logistics, and order drum heads, new mallets, marching cymbals, etc. We've come a far way, and I couldn't be more proud of them, but it's important to understand that we still have a far way to go!

I find myself saying this a lot, but I couldn't be happier than to be working with North Harrison this season. The kids are doing a great job, and I'm going to be so glad to see the success that is produced in just a few weeks. On behalf of the staff, thank you so much work working hard, and being understanding of the intense commitment that this type of activity demands of not only the students involved, but also the parents.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

-Jeremy