



Sparta Bands

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Sparta Bands Update (ADD LINK TO 6th Grade Band Site)

The high school band just finished our “best of middle school” music unit and we are moving on to high school level music that students wanted to play. This week, we are starting “Guardians of the Galaxy” (music from the movie soundtrack), “The Thunderer” march by John Philip Sousa, and “Off The Edge” by Alex Shapiro. The last piece I (Mr. Walsh) am especially excited about! Alex Shapiro is a modern composer who creates electronic soundscapes to accompany the musicians playing her music. This is something we have never programmed before and I look forward to working on this piece. I think the kids will really dig the sound of it as well.

Our middle school bands are working on a number of awesome pieces as well. One of our 8th grade groups is actually working on a percussion ensemble piece and the other is learning some jazz music. It is pretty cool to see all the brass and woodwind players playing the percussion instruments. We have also had some “percussion jam session” time where Mr. Walsh played drum set and created a groove for the kids to play. Our 6th grade bands are expanding instrumentation, adding saxophone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. The overall sound of our 6th grade bands is really starting to mature, and will only continue to get better as we add these new instruments. One of our 7th grade groups was able to get some playing tips on one of their pieces from the high school band kids through FlipGrid and Google Docs. It was pretty awesome to see the high school students teach virtually and to see the 7th grade band improve from their instruction.

Marching Band Update

Band Camp will be July 29-30 (Th-F) and August 2-4(M-W). Exact times are still TBD, but it will be “all day” at the high school. The Marching Band Contract and other dates are still being finalized, but I wanted to get that information out ASAP. If you have a high school student next Fall, please do all you can to clear those dates.

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp

If your student is interested in attending Blue Lake, please read [THIS LETTER](#). This is a fantastic opportunity for any musician regardless of age!

Senior Trip Update

Because seniors were unable to have a Florida trip while in high school, we are arranging a trip just for seniors. I am currently looking at June 22-24 (Tu-Th). We will be visiting the Motown Museum, Ford Field for a quick photo, Cedar Point, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I am hoping to make this available for around \$150-200 per person. Attendees would need to bring money for some meals as well as spending money. Senior parents are welcome to attend as well. If you are interested, please email Mr. Walsh.

Florida Trip Update

We have rescheduled our trip to Spring Break 2022. Any student in marching band next Fall is eligible to attend the trip. We will be having an informational meeting later in the school year with more details.

5th Grade Recruiting

We have begun visiting 5th grade classrooms to recruit for band next year. Check out [THIS WEBSITE](#) for information regarding beginning band in the 2021-22 school year.

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