



OWEN J. ROBERTS "WILDCAT" BANDS

Todd R. Mengel, Director

www.ojrhsband.com

2024 SUMMER BAND INFORMATION PACKET

Dear "Wildcat" Marching Unit Member and Parent:

Our 2024 marching band season is coming up fast and my staff and I have been busy preparing for it. The purpose of this packet is to pass along some important information and to share some thoughts about our upcoming season.

2024 SEASON: This season is a special one for me personally, as it will be my final marching band season at OJR, and I am so happy that all of you are joining me for what promises to be a show of shows! Once again this year, we have a fantastic band, a top-notch staff, and strong support from the music parents and from the school district. All of you should already have a copy of our summer practice schedule, our fall performance schedule, and a copy of the show music to practice. You can also find current schedules and music posted on our band website anytime at www.ojrhsband.com

THE SHOW: Last year's show, *Rocked by Love*, was amazing and having the opportunity to perform the show at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland this past spring was just perfect! This year we are pulling out all the stops and thinking big....Big....BIG!!! Our show is a collection of some of the Biggest and BEST moments of the OJR Band over the past three decades. We are calling the show "**Eyes With Pride!**", and it features music & moments from various points in time from our band's history. I am quite sure that we will once again be the audience favorite this fall! To listen to the show, just go to our band website (www.ojrhsband.com) and click on the '2024 Show Page' where you will find all of the musical parts posted for you to print out. You can also find a recording of the show on that same page on our website. All band members are required to learn their parts and have them prepared & memorized by the time we start band camp. In addition to the show music, we also have lots of stand songs to learn and the national anthem. **Please bring all stand music and flip folders to every practice!!!**

SUMMER PRACTICES & BAND CAMP: Summer practices and Band Camp are where it all comes together! The two-weeks of band camp are the most important two weeks of the entire season. Please check our band website regularly for schedule updates. ***Reminder that band camp starts at 2:00pm each day.*** You will be given a dinner break each day from approximately 5:30pm to 6:00pm. Please bring along something to eat and **plenty to drink**. You are all required to stay on campus during the dinner break, so please plan accordingly.

Here is a list of other items you should bring with you each day:

- **SNEAKERS – No other shoes are acceptable for practice, except your Dinkles and I doubt you want to wear those! No sandals or flip flops!**
- **INSTRUMENTS AND MUSIC**
- **BASEBALL CAP AND SUNGLASSES**
- **SUNSCREEN**
- **PENCILS TO MARK YOUR MUSIC WITH**
- **PLENTY TO DRINK AND EAT**

Remember, band camp is absolutely mandatory. It is critical that we get as much done in those weeks as we can, so we need to have everyone in attendance. **For those of you with jobs, please give your employers your band schedules now and make arrangements with them now so you're not surprising them with your band schedule in August.** Don't wait until the week before to do these important things – please arrange them now. If you are absent from any portion of band camp it doesn't just make it harder for you to learn the show, it makes it harder for all of the people in your section to learn their spots on the field with people missing – and that's not fair to the people who ARE there. REMEMBER, YOU CHOSE TO BE PART OF A GROUP THAT RELIES ON YOU AND YOUR ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL AND EXPECTED!





ATTENDANCE POLICY: Our attendance policy is outlined in the BAND HANDBOOK which is posted on our band website. You are expected to be at all practices and performances of the marching band, but we do have a system and procedure in place to request absences when absolutely needed. Please take the time to review our attendance policy which is designed to promote effective communication and record-keeping of marching band attendance at rehearsals and performances. **It is also my hope that everyone realizes we do not practice nearly as much as most other high school marching bands, and we have come up with a very minimal practice schedule out of respect to you and your time so that you can schedule other things in your life and be a part of other groups, activities, teams, clubs, etc. This means, however, that missing even just one or two practices (of an already light practice schedule) is a bigger deal than it would be otherwise, both to you and to the band. Please do your absolute best to schedule other events, activities, doctor/dentist appointments, etc. around your marching band schedule.**

MARCHING UNIT HANDBOOK: To save paper, our marching band handbook is now posted online on the band website: www.ojrhsband.com under the “Handbook” tab in the menu. Every marching unit member must complete the “Contract and Acknowledgement” form found at the back of this packet indicating that you have viewed the handbook online and that you understand and accept the rules and policies of the OJR band.

MEDICAL FORM: All marching band members must complete the **medical form** found at the back of this packet and return to Mr. Mengel in the band room at the start of band camp. Parents are asked to notify the band director if there are any changes or updates as they occur.

BAND PHOTO: This year we are once again planning to take the band group photo during the annual “Fall Preview Night” on Friday, Aug. 16th. Also, we will take individual shots of everyone in your uniforms like we did last year and you will have an opportunity to purchase the photo if you choose to.

 **T-SHIRTS:** **Each of you are required to purchase a T-shirt** that will go along with our show theme. The purpose of the shirts, as most of you remember from years past, is to wear them under your uniform to performances. Then, you can take off your uniform jackets to cool off after we perform and still be in a uniform appearance. The shirts will cost \$20.00 each. I already have your shirt sizes from the band registration you filled out before school ended. **Your payment will be due on or before the first day of band camp.** Checks are preferable and can be made out to the “OJR MPO Band Chapter”. *Shirts can be ordered by parents and chaperones as well – this would be a great way to show your support at games and cavalcades! Parents can simply email me at tmengel@ojrsd.net with your name and shirt size.*

 **SHOES:** **All band members are required to wear black marching shoes.** If any of you would like a brand new pair of shoes, you will be sent a link later this month to an **online store set up specifically for our band** where you can purchase your shoes. The link, along with additional information, will be sent to all of you close to the start of band camp. *(We also have a limited quantity of used band shoes in various sizes and in good condition that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.)* For freshmen, if your shoes from middle school band still fit and are in decent shape you can continue to wear them with the high school band until you feel it is time for new ones.

GLOVES: All brass & woodwind players will need a pair of white musician gloves to use for our performances when the weather gets cooler, typically around the beginning of October each fall, and the gloves will be made available at that time.

UNIFORMS & UNIFORM FITTINGS: Our band uniform consists of the uniform jacket, black pants, sleeve gauntlets, black shoes & socks, white gloves, hat & plume. You are responsible for keeping your uniform cleaned at all times. **A weekly inspection will take place before performances and you will be unable to perform if any part of your uniform is dirty or missing!** **Uniform fittings** will take place during band camp. Each student and parent will receive an email with a sign-up link for your uniform fitting. If the scheduled time is not convenient, or if there are any problems or questions, please contact the head of our OJR parent uniform committee – Mrs. Danielle Blackledge at: blackledge1@comcast.net

FALL PREVIEW – ALL PARENTS INVITED: **Fall Preview** is the kick off to our season and is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, August 16th at 6 pm** in the stadium. **PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF ALL BAND MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO COME OUT FOR THIS TRADITIONAL START TO THE FALL SEASON.** This is a FUN night and a great way to meet other parents and get a sense of how our terrific program is run. The High School Band will be performing their show and the Middle School Band will also perform their fall music selections.

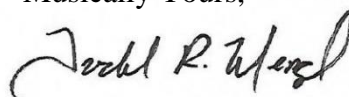
Parents will have the opportunity to sign up for various volunteer committees to help us out throughout the school year. **Fall Preview** is the best way to come out and see why the OJR band program is the pride of OJR!

OJR BAND WEBSITE / E-MAIL / COMMUNICATION: The easiest and quickest way for all of you and your parents to find any band-related information you need is to visit our band's website: www.ojrband.com. The website will be updated regularly with schedules, schedule changes, dates, reminders, etc. I will also continue to email my regular band updates which I like to call "Mengel's Minders". These updates will go to all band members and parents of band members providing that I have a current email address on file, so please update me whenever your email addresses change. For those of you who prefer not to use email, I always print out some hard copies and they are available on the band bulletin board (across from the soda machine) for you to take. We will also be using the BAND APP for quick communications on your phone. Students & parents can get the app here: <https://band.us/n/a1a802ha14g7F>

MPO WEBSITE: Our terrific OJR band parents have their own website. The address is www.ojrbandmpo.com. There is a calendar which is updated regularly and there are lots and lots of great photos of the band from our performances each week. Of course there is plenty of information on how you can volunteer with the MPO and support the band.

I think that's about it for now. I know that's a lot of information, but I wanted to keep everyone well-informed. I hope you're as excited as my staff and I for our upcoming season. Of course the most important ingredient in our success is all of you. I know I can count on you to come to band camp well prepared and with a good attitude. Call me if you have any questions. See you soon!

Musically Yours,



Todd R. Mengel,
Director of Bands
610-469-5349
tmengel@ojrsd.net

P.S. – Please don't forget to complete both the Medical Forms and the Contract and Acknowledgement Form found at the back of this packet and return to Mr. Mengel in the band room as soon as possible.

2024 “*WILDCAT*” MARCHING UNIT

SUMMER PRACTICE SCHEDULE

BRASS & WOODWIND SECTIONALS:

- TUESDAY, JULY 16th (10:00am to 12:00pm)
- TUESDAY, JULY 23RD (10:00am to 12:00pm)
- TUESDAY, JULY 30TH (10:00am to 12:00pm)

FRESHMAN DAY:

(For ALL freshman and/or newcomers to the band)

- THURSDAY, AUG 1st (9:00am to 12:00pm)

BAND CAMP:

- AUGUST 5th through 9th (2pm to 8:30pm): All Units
- AUGUST 12th through 16th (2pm to 8:30pm): All Units
- AUG. 20th (5:30pm to 8:30pm): All Units
- AUG. 22nd (5:30pm to 8:30pm): All Units

COLORGUARD AND PERCUSSION WILL HAVE THEIR OWN SEPARATE REHEARSALS PRIOR TO BAND CAMP. THOSE SCHEDULES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE COLORGUARD AND PERCUSSION INSTRUCTORS.

All Rehearsals are mandatory. Please keep in mind that your attendance is critical, particularly at band camp. We cannot learn the show without you there! If you chose to be a member of the marching band, then you are expected to make a commitment to being at all functions. Please contact either Mr. Mengel or your instructor ahead of time with any problems you may encounter with the schedule.

2024 “WILDCAT” MARCHING UNIT

(*Tentative*) FALL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

(*Update – 2/20/24*)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE RETURN/FINISH</u>
Aug. 23	Home Game (Conestoga)	5:00 pm	9:45 pm
Aug. 30	Home Game (Pottsgrove)	5:15 pm	9:45 pm
Sept. 6	Home Game (Great Valley)	5:15 pm	9:45 pm
Sept. 13	Away Game (Avon Grove)	4:30 pm	10:45 pm
Sept. 14	CAVALCADE (Twin Valley HS)	TBD	TBD
Sept. 20	Home Game (Perk Valley)	5:15 pm	9:45 pm
Sept. 21	CAVALCADE (Lampeter Strasburg HS)	TBD	TBD
Sept. 27	Home Game (Norristown) HOMECOMING	5:15 pm	9:45 pm
Oct. 4	Home Game (Boyertown) Senior Parent Night	5:30 pm	10:00 pm
Oct. 5	HOME CAVALCADE (OJR BAND CAVALCADE)	TBD	TBD
Oct. 11	Away Game (Methacton)	4:45 pm	10:15 pm

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE RETURN/FINISH</u>
Oct. 16	HALLOWEEN PARADE (Elverson) <i>Rain Date Oct. 17th</i>	5:00 pm	9:30 pm
Oct. 19	Away Game (Springford) <i>Saturday Afternoon Game</i>	11:45 am	5:30 pm
Oct. 25	Away Game (Opponent TBD)	TBD	TBD
Oct. 26	CAVALCADE - PAMBC FINALE (J.P. McCaskey HS)	TBD	TBD
<i>Nov. 2</i>	<i>Rain Date for Final Cavalcade</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Nov. 7	Marching Band BANQUET (High School Cafeteria / Auditorium)	6:00 pm	

Please Note: All times listed are tentative at this point. Cavalcade times are listed as “TBD” or “To Be Determined”, but will generally involve a late-morning practice, followed by a meal together at OJR in the afternoon before we leave for the cavalcade in the evening.

OJR MARCHING BAND

CONTRACT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(Due at Beginning of Band Camp)

To save paper, we no longer print out copies of the marching band handbook. The handbook can be viewed on our band website: www.ojrhsband.com. Please sign and return this form acknowledging that you have viewed the handbook online and are aware of all policies and expectations of marching band membership.

I acknowledge that I have read the 2024/2025 marching band handbook (handbook can be found on the band website at: www.ojrhsband.com). I pledge to adhere to all policies and guidelines outlined in the handbook and to contribute to the marching band in a positive way. I understand the consequences and/or penalties if I do not.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PLEASE NOTE: This contract, along with the medical form, must be signed and returned before you will be permitted to perform or travel with the marching unit.



OWEN J. ROBERTS MARCHING BAND

Request for Excused Absence

Excused: _____

Unexcused: _____

Director
Initials: _____

(Office Use Only)

Name: _____ Section: _____

Requested Date(s) To Be Excused: _____

Reason for request: _____

Student
Signature: _____

Parent
Signature: _____

*** This form should be submitted before the absence occurs (except in illness or emergency in which case it should be submitted immediately afterward). Submission of this form does not necessarily mean the absence is excused. You will receive the bottom half back indicating whether or not the absence was approved by the director.*

This portion will be returned to student...

Name: _____

Requested Absence Date(s): _____

Director Signature: _____

Comments:

Excused

Unexcused