

Good morning all,

First off, congrats on another great weekend. While I'm sure the students would agree that we didn't perhaps have the absolute best "run" of the show that we could have, we were still positively reviewed by the judges. I got many personal messages over the weekend expressing how much many colleagues enjoyed our show. Moreover, after getting to look at the recap, we were awarded the highest visual ensemble score of the day by a considerable margin. And all of that WITHOUT props, giant band-covering flags, huge choreographed moments; just good old fashioned clean drill. Our scores in other captions were very encouraging as well. All the judges reacted positively to the show and I think the scores mostly reflect that. We were 3rd out of 6 in our class which has many many fine programs in it; this is certainly something to be very proud of. The best part is that while we didn't have our strongest performance of the season, we were still recognized as doing all the right things. Certainly that is an endorsement of us being on the right track. I'm sure I don't tell the students enough that I am proud of them and their efforts over the last few months, but I am very very proud of them.

JMU: As many of you have personally inquired, our name did not appear on their initial schedule. I was made aware of this about two weeks ago and have been since on the phone and emailing the folks at JMU to resolve this: our registration info and payment was completed in June, or so I thought. I inquired about why we hadn't heard anything just before I was made aware of the schedule and started to work with them to resolve it. Despite my efforts and the JMU people's attempt to retrieve our info, ultimately, they weren't able to add us into the schedule. While I am understanding of the logistical and scheduling challenges here, I am **VERY** disappointed in the outcome. While technology is always a hurdle, I would be a poor leader if I blamed the situation on that, or on the wonderful people at JMU. The fact is, I messed this up and didn't catch it soon enough to resolve it. Our competition season is only made up of a few shows and to remove one is a huge blow to our schedule and pacing of the season. While it is nice in a way to have a Saturday off, I'm sure most of the students would have preferred the opportunity to perform in such a cool venue for a huge crowd of supportive band students; I would have preferred this too. I also apologize for holding onto this info until today. My hope was that we could resolve this somehow and as of last night I hadn't heard back from them so I had to make a decision and notify everyone.

I'm happy to talk about this with anyone who would like. I would ask that you try and give me a call or schedule a sit-down with me instead of email. I understand people may be upset by this news and that's understandable, but my experience has shown me that people can be quick to write emotionally charged emails and are generally more level-headed in person or over the phone. My only other "ask" is that we not consume the Patrons meeting this Thursday with this topic; we have a lot to cover and while I will reiterate what I've written above, I do not want to open the floor up to questions on this. Still happy to talk one-on one about it, but I do not want to derail that meeting.

We are still good to go for VBODA at Patriot HS on 10/26. Our performance time is 3:45, ratings at 4:45 so our approximate return time to Woodson will be around 5:45. Expect a mid-morning call-time.

Apologies for the long email. Thanks,

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