

**South Madison Community School Corporation Band Boosters, Inc.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2010-11**

What is a band booster? If you have a student in a PHHS or PHMS Band or Guard program, then YOU ARE a booster! If you love to see students grow in leadership and performance skills, then you are a booster! If you enjoy the fun camaraderie of a group working together to support our students, then you are a booster! Band boosters are adults who support the band program through fund raising efforts, hospitality, and event organization. The South Madison Community School Corporation Band Booster Association is an incorporated, non-profit, tax-exempt organization (501c3). It is the parental portion and behind-the-scenes backbone of our students' band activities. We provide food, service, and funds to the band program throughout the year. You do not sign up to be a member and there are no dues for Band Boosters.

How do I communicate with the Boosters? We communicate primarily by **e-mail, phone, or website**. If you are not on the booster e-mail list, then you are not receiving information. Our budget is limited and it is costly and time-consuming to mail. In addition, flyers that are handed to students do not often make it from school to home. Please make sure we have your e-mail address!

When do band boosters meet? We meet monthly at 6:30 p.m. in the PHHS Band Room or as otherwise noted on the band web page (schedule may vary). Meetings generally last 1 – 1½ hours. Plan to attend; a lot of information is given out at these meetings. Minutes are posted on our web page.

Where can I find additional information? Check out the band website at **www.phhsband.com** for contact information, by-laws, updated calendars, handouts, photos, and more. Or, contact a member of the executive board.

What is a Student Account? Every student in the band or guard program incurs some fees and has a student account (6th-12th grade). The account reflects funds raised by or paid by the student, as well as any amounts owed to the band by the student.

Why are there band fees? As in most school & extracurricular activities, participating in band costs money. Expenses include marching/concert/guard uniforms, t-shirts, competition entry fees, breathers, instrument rentals, overnight camp, etc.. Depending on your child's choice of activities, band fees can add up. But there is a way to OFFSET fees and build a balance in your student account.

How Can Students/Families Raise Money for the Student Account? The Band Boosters have signed contracts with several organizations that can help benefit our accounts.

1. ***Pendleton Jr. Baseball/Softball:*** boosters/students staff the concession stand on specific dates throughout their season. For this, students earn money for their accounts. For every shift worked at the ball park, \$3 goes into the student account (for example, 2 parents + 1 student work = \$9 into your account). The remaining \$ goes into the Booster account (in general, we make \$1200/week and \$25 each hour on Sundays). Evenings usually run from 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Saturdays, we generally divide shifts 8 - 1 or 2 and 2 - 9, and Sundays are generally 9 - 5.
2. ***Indy Motor Speedway Parking*** (generally about 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.) \$15 per day credit toward student account (2 parents + 1 student = \$45).
3. ***Trash Pick-Up in Pendleton:*** put clean bags in trash bins around town/park; empty after events/etc. The band usually helps with trash pick-up during June Jamboree and Heritage Fair.

What is "scrip"? "Scrip" is a fundraising program that works while you shop. Scrip is a term used to denote gift cards from national and local retailers; the same gift cards that you'd buy at the store. But when you buy them from us, you're helping the SMCS band programs and helping put money in your student's account. For each scrip bought through the boosters, the scrip company donates a small percentage to the band (sometimes up to 10% of your card's value; it varies by company). This is split 50/50 between your student's account and the band boosters.

Many popular retailers participate in scrip program including Amazon, iTunes, Home Depot, , Macy's, Papa John's, Borders, Wendy's, Starbucks, and scores of others. We're talking about money you're going to spend anyway! So, in that sense, scrip is "shopping cart fundraising" that costs you nothing except a little bit of time to *plan ahead*. Scrip is available for AIRLINES, HOTELS, and other major purchases. It can really add up. Scrip can be

purchased through our Scrip Coordinators by e-mail and at all meetings and events. Contact Carl or Faith Willans willans@hrtc.net or 765-533-4828 to place your order TODAY!

What is the Booster Account? Funds which are raised by the Boosters are used for any purchases that the directors deem necessary for their band programs but are not covered by the school (equipment, props, trailer(s), competition registration fees, educational opportunities, permission fees, chaperone costs for camp, etc.). As we raise more funds, Boosters can help offset potential increases in band fees.

Do I have to do a Fundraiser? No, but it is highly encouraged. Fundraising provides the band opportunities to raise money for both general accounts and student accounts. In the fall, high school students are encouraged to participate in our major fundraiser (usually sausage/cheese/chocolates) that funds our general accounts. Other fund raisers such as pie sales & pizza sales, provide the opportunity to raise money that helps fund the individual student account (usually a 50/50 split between general and student accounts).

What other ways does the band raise funds? Booster volunteers bake and sell Otis Spunkmeyer Cookies (2 for \$1) at boys' home basketball games and other events (intermission at the school's musical, Christmas parade, etc), solicit sponsors who donate various amounts in return for "ads" on the band trailer and in our event programs, host events such as the Jazz Café featuring a silent auction of donated baskets/items, sell concessions at events hosted by PHHS (ISSMA contest, Madison County Jazz Festival, etc), host a State Road 38 Band Booster Garage Sale, host pre-concert dinners, an Ice Cream Social, Strawberry Shortcake & Music in the Park, Dan's Fish Fry, and more.

What are some volunteer opportunities for band (in addition to fund-raising events)?

For Marching Band: pit crew, prop crew, hospitality committee (water/snacks/chaperones), uniform committee, band camp chaperones, events (Music in the Park, Ice Cream Social)

For Concert Bands/jazz bands/guard/indoor percussion: set up/tear down crew, pre-concert dinners, scrip/sticker/spirit wear sales, ushers, pit/prop crew, uniform committee

Who are the Chaperones? Parents chaperone trips including to and from contests and field trips. Parents also chaperone the overnight event in May (for marching band) & the marching band camp in July. There is a job description available for chaperones listing duties (ie., may include loading water/snacks on buses, taking attendance, supervising). We need at least 2-3 chaperones per bus and 5 for band camp.

Who pays for uniforms? Uniforms (marching band & concert) are loaned to band members; the rental cost is included in your band fee, as is the cost for pep band shirts. Other items offered for sale, such as "spirit wear" (T-shirts, tote bags, car clings, hoodies), are optional. Look on our web page for a Spirit Store to open in summer 2010.

What kind of time commitment will my child have by being in the marching band? A rehearsal schedule is available on-line. Marching band will also participate in the Ice Cream Social (August), Music in Falls' Park (August), and all home Arabian football games. A home football game includes a rehearsal, meal, pre-game preparations, and the actual game. Students are typically involved with a home game from 3:30 pm until 10:30 pm. Marching Band contests occur on Saturdays starting in September. These are typically all-day events. Detailed itineraries are available at band parent meetings, distributed to the students, distributed via e-mail, and posted on the band's website. **www.phhsband.com**

Are we allowed to watch marching band rehearsals? Yes, you are allowed to watch the kids, but please do not distract them. They are practicing and this is a very important time for the directors. It is always exciting to see a show progress from the beginning of the season to the finale.

Can we take pictures? Yes! We encourage parents to take pictures (when appropriate) of students/events. Send your photos to our publicity chair via e-mail; it is our goal to promote the band throughout the community by sending pictures to local media. In addition, the boosters host a end-of-year banquet and pictures of all events are needed for our wrap-up presentation.

Can my student participate in both sports and marching band/jazz band? Yes! Although it is time-consuming, there are students that participate in both sports and optional bands (MB/jazz/pep/indoor percuss/guard) each year. It is the responsibility of the student to address and resolves any schedule conflicts with their coach and Mr. Taylor.