

Good afternoon band families!

On behalf of the SME Band Boosters, I am reaching out to all families to provide some updates regarding **Merchandise, Dues, and Support**.

Generally, in a non-world pandemic time, there's an all band meeting at the school during which Mr. Toepfer goes over things like uniforms, band festivals, rehearsals, district auditions, etc. And during that meeting, the Boosters take a few minutes to extend a welcome and some background regarding our purpose and opportunities for parents to get involved. Unfortunately that did not get to happen this year, but we still have expenses we need to cover.

The SME Band Boosters is a 501(c)3. This allows us to participate in non-profit only programs like Amazon Smile (please consider adding the Boosters as your charitable partner!). It also allows for tax favorable donations and, for a few folks, employer matching programs for charitable donations. The Boosters organization has been around for many years, but only 5 as a non-profit. With well over 100 students involved in Band, the Boosters organization supports a program with many financial needs that district funds cannot cover.

To support the band, we generally raise money in a few ways:

- Student Dues (between \$100-275, depending on level of involvement)
- Fundraising
- Corporate and Individual Donations

In a typical year, we'd expect net revenue of about \$40,000 with \$20,000 in student dues and \$20,000-25,000 in fundraising or donations.

Those financial resources are then budgeting to support things like:

- Marching festivals (buses, entrance fees, food)
- Lunch during band camp, finals breakfast in December, snacks on Lancer Day, pizza on Rockhurst game night, etc.
- District/State entrance and transportation costs for students
- Uniform Costs, jackets, and t-shirts (cleaning, replacements, etc.)
- Clinicians (band camp, during the school year, and for marching/concert/jazz bands)
- Equipment, Instrument (repairs and/or purchases) & Music costs
- Marching Show costs (music, choreography, props)
- Student development (drum major, section leaders, etc.)

While many of these projected expenses did not happen this year, I wanted to include them so you can see how much financial support the Boosters provide in a typical year.

In addition to financial support, the Boosters crowd source a LOT of volunteer time to support the band. Honoring district requirements for bus chaperones, folks to haul equipment in a rented truck to various events, volunteers to supervise the concession stand at basketball games, helpers to serve and coordinate meals, website/communications maintenance, fundraising coordinators, etc.. As you might surmise, the list of needs and wants is VERY long, so we really rely on parents to help Mr. Toepfer and Ms. Babcock so they can teach the kids and worry less about logistics.

In short, Alex and Emily do a phenomenal job of promoting a safe, welcoming, educational and creative place for the kids during class time and outside of class too. We exist to help them make the band the best experience it can be for the kids.

So that's a general overview, but (insert screeching tire sound) Covid has really thrown a wrench in everything this year. As we all kind of held on to our hats and watched the year begin and unfold, the Boosters elected to hold off on reaching out regarding dues and planning until we had a better feel. Below are a few updates by topic.

Merchandise

Our apparel partner, Blue Chip Athletic, has prepared our 2020 online Band Store. This is an annual opportunity to purchase some general band apparel for students and family members. The Boosters facilitate the operation, but there is no markup on pricing and no obligation to place an order. All orders and payments are made directly with Blue Chip Athletic. They will then print all the orders at once (which allows for some discounted pricing) and deliver them in individually marked bags to the school for distribution. This is your chance to buy additional 2020 Come Together Show Shirts or Hoodies or General Band Merchandise. **You will not have another opportunity to purchase the 2020 Show Shirts again and the general band merchandise will not be available for order again this school year.** Here's the URL: <https://smeband2020.itemorder.com/sale>.

The deadline for orders is Thursday, November 12 and we hope to have orders received by December 1.

Dues

In many ways, the financial support the band program will need this year is far less than in years past with limited events, transportation, food, and marching show costs. That said, we are also extremely limited with regard to fundraising – likely no car wash, no mattress sale, no raffles at games, limited concessions, etc. *With dwindling fundraising opportunities, we are more reliant than ever on student dues.*

So far this year, the Boosters have provided financial support in the following ways:

- 2020 Show Shirts for the Marching Bands
- General Band T-shirts for new members
- Music purchases for Marching and Jazz bands
- Equipment for Mr. Toepfer and Ms. Babcock beyond what the district funded
- Masks, sanitizer, and disinfectant for Student rehearsals
- Clinician costs for Marching, Concert and Jazz bands
- Uniform cleaning costs
- Student leadership development for Drum Majors

We anticipate ongoing support in the following ways this year:

- Clinicians
- Equipment & Supplies
- Sheet Music for Concert and Jazz bands
- Instrument Purchases/Repairs
- Senior Recognition & Scholarships
- Other incidental expenses including PPE for students as needed

The largest line items on the budget are for Clinicians, Equipment, Supplies, T-shirts, and Music, totaling more than **\$15,000** this year.

The standard band fees are between \$100-275 depending on the level of student participation, as below:

SME Band Fee Chart		
Participation Level	Description	Fee
General Band Fees	Marching Band + Spring Ensemble	\$200
Partial Band Fees	Cadet Band + Spring Ensemble OR 1 Ensemble only	\$100
Percussion Fees	Any Percussion Student (these are in addition to general or partial band fees)	\$75

We are mindful that this year, in particular, fee payment may be difficult for some families. We are hopeful that as a community, we will Come Together on this front for the benefit of all the students, regardless of each family's ability to pay.

Band fee payment can be made in several ways:

- By PayPal through the SME Lancer Bands website

Go to smelancerbands.com and select "Band Fees" under the "Band Support" tab. The PayPal option is at the bottom of that page.

- By sending a check to

SME Band Boosters
7500 Mission Road
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

- By check or cash in person at band activities

Support

At this time, our volunteer needs are fairly sparse, but as opportunities come up, the Boosters will coordinate volunteers as requested by the directors.

The best way to get involved today is to attend a monthly Boosters meeting, which is generally on the first Tuesday of the month. During the meeting, we gather feedback, talk about ideas, and plan for short- and long-term initiatives to support the band. All parents and family members are encouraged to join the Zoom meeting. Please consider joining us for a meeting or two to share your ideas or feedback. The meeting link will be included in Alex Toepfer's weekly announcements.

If you made it this far, I'd like to thank you for bearing with this long-winded email and, more than anything, for your support. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any thoughts or concerns.

Rachel Gast

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