



Dear Marching Student Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Band Boosters. As the parent/guardian of a band student you are automatically a part of the booster program at your home school. The booster programs will remain separate for each school with booster leadership and parents working together to fulfill the needs of the combined marching band. The role of the booster program is to support the director's vision for the band through **funding** and **volunteering**.

Let's talk **funding** first. Booster funds pay for everything from music, drill (marching and guard choreography), bus transportation, truck rentals (for props, equipment, if needed), props, costumes, uniforms and competition fees, to support staff, awards, food, swag and more. We will be about a 150 member competitive marching band this season so the costs will be significant. The booster officers and directors of both programs have already met and set a fair budget. The directors do a great job of utilizing what we have and getting what we need for a fair price. There are several ways that the boosters help to fund the marching season budget.

1. **Fees.** Each band student is expected to pay an annual fee over the course of several installments. **This year the fee for marching band will be \$600, due in five payments. The first payment of \$150 will be due June 1st, followed by a 2nd payment of \$150 on July 1st and each of the remaining 3 payments of \$100 will be due on the first of each month August-October.** While this fee amount is one of the smallest in our state for similar size marching bands, we understand that \$600 per student is a significant amount and could be a hardship. For this reason, we offer multiple fundraisers throughout the season that go directly into student accounts to pay for fees. We feel that the amount and variety of fundraisers offered provide enough opportunity for each student to raise their entire \$600 fee, if they so choose. If you need to make an alternate fee payment schedule or have extenuating circumstances in which you cannot pay the fee even with the fundraising offered, please reach out to the president and/or director of your home booster program. **It is imperative that every family attempt in good faith to pay the fee in order for us to provide the competitive marching experience to your student.** Fee payment directly affects what we can do during the season. Please see the **Fundraising Section** for more information.
2. **General fundraisers.** While we strive to keep costs down, we also strive to keep fees down so as to not unduly burden our families. In all actuality, for our fees to cover our entire costs for the upcoming season, we would need to charge upwards of \$1200 per student. We choose not to do that, and instead, use other ways to pay for the remaining amount needed. For example, monthly Dine to Donate Nights will benefit the combined general marching band fund. Our first one for this season will be held at IHOP on Monday, May 19th, from 4:00pm-10:00pm. Additionally, some fundraisers may be split between student and general funds. Each booster program will determine what is best for the current situation of their program, and it may not always be the same for each school. Each program also reserves the right to hold additional general fundraisers to benefit only their program and not the combined marching program.

3. **Sponsorship and Donations.** We are always looking for local business sponsorship and donations. We provide advertising perks for different levels of sponsorship. Sponsorship dollars can also be used to work toward bigger items like equipment, uniforms or scholarships. Please let your booster president know if you or your company would be willing to sponsor an event or student. Donations are appreciated and tax deductible.

East: Open Position

North: Open Position & Erika Meyer emeyer021618@gmail.com

Most are not aware of the cost of putting together a successful marching season, and it can seem quite daunting. We want to provide an awesome and fun experience for our students while also supporting the directors in their vision for the season. To do this, we need everyone's help.

The second main way that the boosters support the band program is by **volunteering**. Band parents are AMAZING and AWESOME, and we are so grateful for all of you. We expect all band families to volunteer throughout the season. There will be times in which we need food donations (because we feed them A LOT) and there will be times in which we need your time. Be watching for communications as to current needs. We understand everyone is busy with work and other activities so we don't expect everyone to be on hand for every event. Like the saying goes, many hands make light work so if everyone participates when able, we will accomplish our goals plus it's FUN! You will never regret one minute given in support of these great students. They are gracious and thankful for our time spent. You will also meet other great parents and have a great time together. There are many different areas of volunteering opportunities, and I know we can find something to interest everyone. Please see the attached **Volunteering Info Sheet** for more details.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

COMMUNICATION

Website: soundandspiritofcolumbus.band. This is the HUB for everything marching band including forms, schedule and links to home band pages where you can contact booster leaders, make **electronic payments (North only at this time on the website) (East has electronic payments, for the first time, available to be made on your emailed statement)** or find addresses to mail physical payments plus additional information for your home school band.

Home band pages: **North:** soundofnorth.band; **East:** cebands.org

Facebook: If you are not already in your home band's Facebook group, please consider joining. We suggest joining the North page and following the East page, so that you don't miss any info. North's is a private group and will have more specific info for the band, whereas East's is a public page that is used more for promotional and advertising.

North: (ask to join & answer questions) We are the Sound of North page; East: Columbus East Band

Remind: Reminders and updates will be sent directly to your phone. We will send notices of meetings and estimated times coming back from competitions, so you will want to join.

Sound and Spirit 2025 Remind Text @sasband25 to 81010

FORMS

There are **registration forms** online at soundandspiritofcolumbus.band that need to be filled out by **June 1st**. This will give us all the information we need for the season including medical information and permission to treat your student. Our preferred method for forms to be filled out is online, but if this does not work for you, please see your home band's director or booster president for a hard copy of the form.

We also need a **background check form** completed for everyone that plans to volunteer throughout the season (so that's everyone, right?). This cannot be filled out online. Please fill out the hard copy form. If another form is needed, there is

a link to print the form on the website. Scan and email completed forms to walkerr@bcsc.k12.in.us (preferred) or return to the home school band's director or Booster President.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Each student will automatically have an account set up to track their fundraising earnings and fee payments. Fundraising money can also be used to pay for band trips once all fees are paid. Remaining balances are not wiped at the end of the season and will carry over. The same goes for credits. If you fundraise \$650 this season then you would carry a \$50 credit into next season. For questions about this process and to get information, please contact:

East: info@cebands.org Statements mailed periodically.

North: North uses Cut Time to maintain student accounts, and you can view your account at any time. Email studentaccounts@soundofnorth.band to find out how.

Note: new student accounts will not be added until the new season starts June 1st and registration forms have been completed.

BAND CAMP

Band camp is scheduled at **North** for the last two weeks in July going into August. There will be three rehearsals the week prior to prep for band camp.

July 16-18 is three days, Wednesday-Friday, of rehearsal from 5:30-9:00 pm.

July 21-25 is the short week in which practice is 8-5 daily. Students will be on their own for lunch this week and can go off campus or bring their own lunch. (Subway, Dominoes and Greeks Pizza are all close or parents can bring lunches in)

July 28-Aug 1 is the long week in which practice is 9-9 Monday-Thursday and 9-1 on Friday. We will be feeding them both lunch and dinner this week (Monday - Thursday). We will have Sno-cones after camp on Friday.

Prior to the first week, we will put out a sign-up for items needed for the season including items needed for both band camp weeks. Nonperishable items will be dropped off the first week and perishable items will be dropped off throughout the second week. The boosters typically provide the main meal item with parent donations providing the remainder. We will also need volunteers to help with both lunch and dinner prep, serving and cleanup. Watch for information to come out regarding band camp around the end of June.

If this is your student's first band camp, a **survival bag** is a necessity and should include a gallon jug of water (REQUIRED), cooling towel, sunscreen, bug spray, extra socks, hat, sunglasses, deodorant (and more deodorant!). We will have medical parent volunteers onsite to deal with any issues. **Registration forms and Medical forms must be submitted prior to band camp so we know how to care for your child.**

COMPETITION DAYS (LUNCHES)

These can be long days. Depending on actual competition and travel time, the band typically practices in the morning then eats lunch before loading up and going to the competition. Once performance is over, they will usually have time to load and change before enjoying remaining band performances (and concessions, so send money). Sections often organize treat bags for the students via sign ups. Once awards are over then the band travels back home and must unload. It is not unheard of for these days to begin at 8am and end at midnight. Competition day lunches work a bit differently. Each section chooses the theme for their food (i.e. breakfast or favorite food, etc.) and parents of those students supply all of the food for that section. The section sits and eats together first then everyone visits other sections to eat from their supply. Parents and students typically have fun with this, and some sections go all out with table decorations and such. It is a bonding and section team building experience for the kids.

SIGN UP POLLS

When we need items donated or specific volunteer time slots filled, we will publish a sign-up poll. This is an easy way for us to track what we have and what we still need. It is also an easy way for you to know exactly how you can help. You will sign up and it will automatically provide a reminder as the time draws near. The first big sign-up poll for marching season will be for band camp and should be expected to come out at the end of June or beginning of July.

COMMUNITY NIGHT

The very first showcase of the 2024 Marching Show for parents, friends, and the community will be at **East** on Thursday, August 22nd, at 7:30 pm. This is a fun evening for the whole family to come early, starting at 5:30, and enjoy an evening to raise money for the band and purchase food from food trucks, dunk the directors in the dunk tank, enjoy a Sno-cone, and purchase a show shirt for the season!

PARENT PREVIEWS

After our first parent preview on Community Night, Thursday, August 28th, each Thursday Night at 8:15pm you can come to watch the end of practice. This is a great way to see the show's progress and cheer on our incredible kids! This is also a great time to take care of any booster business as most leaders are on site during this time. **DO NOT** post video or pictures on any social media sites until authorized by the directors.

BOOSTER MEETINGS

All parents are welcome to attend booster meetings. These will be held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00pm for each individual Booster Association, followed by the combined Sound and Spirit Booster Meeting at 7:00pm, prior to parent preview. Come provide input, ask questions and keep up with what is going on in the band.

We know this is a lot of information to digest. If you have any questions, please contact us and we will do our best to answer your questions or direct you to who can. We look forward to an exciting marching season ahead!

Denise Sharpe
Columbus North Band Booster President
president@soundofnorth.band

Dara Bidwell
Columbus East Band Booster President
daraolsen@gmail.com

MARCHING SEASON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CHAPERONES

The BEST way to get to know our great band kids! The Chaperone Crew forms at the beginning of marching season and serves as parent chaperones for events like football games and competition days. Job duties include riding buses, setting up and tearing down water stations, and basically anything else that the band needs when they are performing, including helping in other areas, if we are short-handed. Signing up does not mean you will have to serve at every event. Please review the current schedule and let the coordinator(s) know availability to assist with scheduling.

East Chaperone Coordinator: Open Position

North Chaperone Coordinators: Rachael Branham branhamrb19@yahoo.com 765-404-0481

MEDICAL

You must be certified in First Aid to volunteer for this group. Volunteers will work four hour shifts during band camp as well as usually serve as an extra chaperone for football games/competitions, in order to have trained first aid personnel with students when they are performing. Tasks include rendering first aid, dispensing medicine (with parent approval) and documenting any aid rendered. You may also be asked to help with other items at football games and competitions

if we are short-handed. Signing up DOES NOT mean you will have to serve at every event. Please review the current schedule and let the coordinator(s) know availability to assist with scheduling. A rotation will be implemented based on availability and needs.

East Medical Coordinator: Alicia Tembo alicia0718@yahoo.com

North Medical Coordinator: Jennifer Weller jeniwils@outlook.com

PROP CREW

Joining this team is a great way to put your creative skills to use and be an integral part of the show! This group has two parts, building/maintaining and field placement of props used during performances. Initial prop building takes place in July and August and maintenance takes place throughout the season, as needed. Construction and engineering skills are useful but not a requirement for this group. We also need a rather large prop crew to load/unload props and get them to/from the field for performances. We ask for STRONG bodies as this job pushes props sometimes up and down hills. "The Prop Crew" tends to have the same people volunteering so they form a rhythm and can work quickly as a team to get the props on and off the field in our time allotment. You get to watch the show from the field for FREE!

East Prop Coordinator: Open Position

North Prop Coordinator: Ben Coy coyb@bcsc.k12.in.us ; Chris Smith brad06@hotmail.com ;
Jason Weller Jawell21@yahoo.com

TRANSPORT & PIT CREW

Volunteers in this group help the pit musicians load/unload the pit equipment for travel and transport it to/from the field, including timed set up and tear down on the field. There is A LOT of equipment so we need several people helping. "The Pit Crew" also tends to have the same people volunteering because they need to work quickly as a team to get on and off the field in our time allotment. This job has HEAVY instruments, so you must be able to lift 50lbs. to join this crew. You get to watch the show from the field for FREE!

Additionally, if you are willing to haul a trailer, please note that as well.

East Transportation Coordinator: Tim Brookshire brookshiret@bcsc.k12.in.us

North Transportation Coordinator: Jeff Dieter jeffdieter555@gmail.com

Pit & Podium Crew Coordinators: Tim Brookshire brookshiret@bcsc.k12.in.us ; Dara Bidwell daraolsen@gmail.com

UNIFORMS

We need you to help our marchers look great. During band camp, uniform volunteers will assist in sizing all marchers for uniforms and accessories, as well as, organizing uniform rooms and prepping for the marching season. During the season, volunteers will help students before and after performances with anything uniform related and will help launder and organize the uniforms throughout the season. Signing up does not mean you will be required to be at every performance. Review the schedule and let the coordinator(s) know your availability for scheduling purposes.

East Uniform Coordinator: Open Position

North Uniform Coordinator: Open Position

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

These are the ones currently planned. These may be added to or removed as boosters reassess needs as we move through the season. Each program may have other independent fundraisers throughout the year to solely benefit their band.

LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA KITS APRIL 28th-MAY 16th HAPPENING NOW

Students earn \$6/item sold for their account. Order form in this packet. Delivery will be at **East** the week of June 2nd.

KIWANIS BOOTH AT FAIR JUNE 20-28

Students sign up to work shifts at the Kiwanis booth at the fair doing a wide range of jobs over multiple days and hours. Kiwanis writes a check for total hours worked and the money is divided between student accounts according to hours worked. The link to sign up to work: <https://signup.com/go/aaAoEET>

JULY-TO BE DECIDED

MCDONALD'S DRINK CARDS AUGUST-NO FIRM END DATE FOR SELLING

Cards sell for \$20 each and purchasers get 40 large McDonald's drinks. Cards become active at the end of September. You can get multiple drinks at one time and can own multiple cards. Due to printing and other fees, students earn \$6/card sold for their account.

OTIS SPUNKMEYER COOKIES SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER (Sep 18th - Oct 6th)

Earn 40% of sales for their student account. There are more than just cookies sold and ordering can be done online with free delivery elsewhere. Delivery will be at **North**.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT SALE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Students will earn \$8/item.

BAND DISCOUNT DINING CARDS DECEMBER-NO FIRM END DATE FOR SELLING

These cards are good for a whole year and have discounts to local businesses. They are not peelers, they are reusable until Jan 1st the following year. The discount cards cost \$10 and students earn \$5 per card sold.

RaiseRight (Formerly Scrip) ONGOING

Turn everyday shopping into earnings towards your student account. Purchase gift cards (physical or electronic) to places you shop all the time or for gifts. Each card has a percentage attached to it that you earn. It may seem like a small percentage, but it adds up. We have families earn hundreds of dollars by getting friends and family involved. Go to raiserright.com to enroll. Remember to enter your student's name. Don't forget to download the RaiseRight app to enjoy the ease of fundraising through gift cards. It's so Easy!

East: Laura Voll eastboostervp@gmail.com East enrollment code F9FB8F2585L6

North: Amanda Devine asdevine@yahoo.com North enrollment code: 2F8B7FC81676L

KROGER REWARDS ONGOING

Make your Kroger Plus card work for us. Link it to your home band's booster program and earn a percentage of what you spend for band. Under "My Account" go to "Community Rewards" and sign up with your program's organization number. Get friends and family involved for higher rewards.

East Kroger Rewards Coordinator: Tamar Everard info@cebands East's number is LJ656. For East, Kroger funds go to East's general band fund.

North Kroger Rewards Coordinator: Amanda Devine asdevine@yahoo.com North's number is MS458. For North, at the end of each quarter, look at the amount earned and send a screenshot to the coordinator to have that amount added to your account. Example: First quarter earnings (Jan-Mar) will be visible April 15th, so send in the screenshot by the end of April. If you don't send the screenshot then that amount will go into North's general band fund.

DINE TO DONATE NIGHTS ONGOING

Earn money for the combined general fund simply by eating out at local restaurants on nights that will be announced in advance. Some locations may require some volunteers. **Next up: IHOP on Monday, May 19th, from 4:00pm - 10:00pm.**

INVITATIONAL



SEPTEMBER 6TH 2024

Save the date! It will be ALL hands on deck as we host a band competition complete with sponsors, programs, concessions, hospitality room, judges, prizes and upwards of 20 marching bands. Since a portion of the proceeds will benefit the general combined band marching fund, each family will be expected to work at least one shift and donate at least two requested items. This will be our biggest fundraiser of the season!

