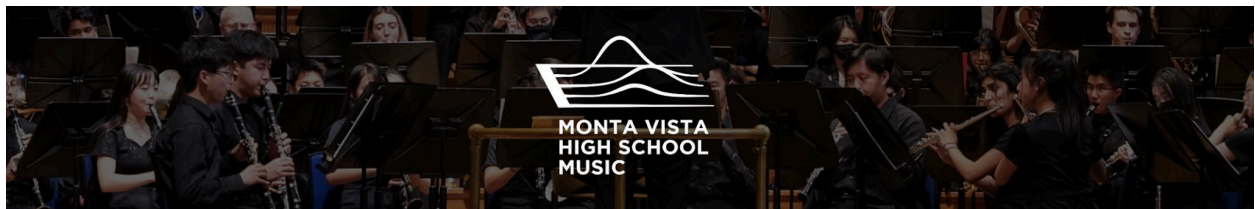


Monta Vista High School

Music Booster Newsletter

October 31, 2024



[MVHS music website](#)



[MVHS music channel](#)

Music Director Updates

Choir (Lofn Young)



The Fall Concert was a resounding success, with many friends and families in attendance. The event received positive feedback from parents, reflecting the high quality of the performances. Looking ahead, the choir has a series of exciting events. The spring musical, scheduled from February 5 to 7, has already seen its first rehearsal, featuring the much-anticipated production of "Mean Girls." Additionally, the winter concert is set

for Friday, December 13. In preparation for the New York trip, rehearsals of several incredible pieces will start by the end of the semester, ensuring that all participants are ready for this remarkable experience.

Orchestra & Bands (John Gilchrist)



The recent Fall Concert, held October 18, was a testament to the dedication and talent of our students. The event was well-attended and showcased exceptional performances by all groups. Notably, this year marks the largest entry-level groups in the history of our Concert Band and Symphonic Orchestra. The orchestra exchange at Lynbrook High School provided valuable insights for the groups to improve for our Fall Concert. Impressively, 31 instrumental students auditioned for the California All-State Orchestra, taking on very challenging music pieces.

Exciting events are on the horizon! The Chamber Orchestra has been selected to perform at the CMEA Bay Section Reading Orchestra, where they will preview new music repertoire. The winter concerts are scheduled for December 5 and 6, and the County Honor Band auditions are also approaching.

Extra-Curricular Programs (John Gilchrist and Jubilee Hardwick)

Our extra-curricular programs have been bustling with activity. The marching band delivered an electrifying performance at the FUHSD Expo on October 9 with a fire and ice theme. Additionally, they won third place at the WBA Independence Competition on October 19. Upcoming events for the marching band include the last football game on October 24 and a feeder tour on November 22, where they will visit local schools to inspire young kids with music.



The Winter Guard Program has auditions planned for November for both JV and Varsity teams. Looking ahead, they will compete in the California Color Guard Circuit (CCGC) and the Winter Guard International Circuit. The Winter Percussion Program is also holding auditions in November. This year Winter Percussion will compete in NCPA/WGI Circuits.

Spring Trip Updates

Band: Disneyland: Anaheim: Apr 10-13, Costs and payment schedule are TBD

Choir: Carnegie Hall, NYC: Apr 9-13, Total cost TBD, next payment due 11/15: \$400

Color Guard: (Varsity Team only) WGI West Power Regional, Palm Desert: Mar 21-23

Exact trip dates and fees are TBD

Music Facilities Update

On June 7, 2022, the voters of the Fremont Union High School District approved Measure G, a \$275 million school bond to continue the renovation and modernization of all district high schools. All of our FUHSD high schools were built more than 50 years ago, placing them at the prime age for safety updates and modernization. The FUHSD Bond Program has funded the modernization of Monta Vista High School's music facilities. Recently, the Choir Room underwent renovations, and the district is now in the process of designing upgrades for the Music Room, as shown in the rendering below.



We expect construction of the new Music Room to start at the end of the Fall semester, aiming for a move-in date by August 2025. Currently, we're busy packing equipment in preparation for the move, with over 100 boxes already filled with sheet music and books! During the second semester, classes will mainly take place in the auditorium, and we'll be using the choir room for orchestra sessions.

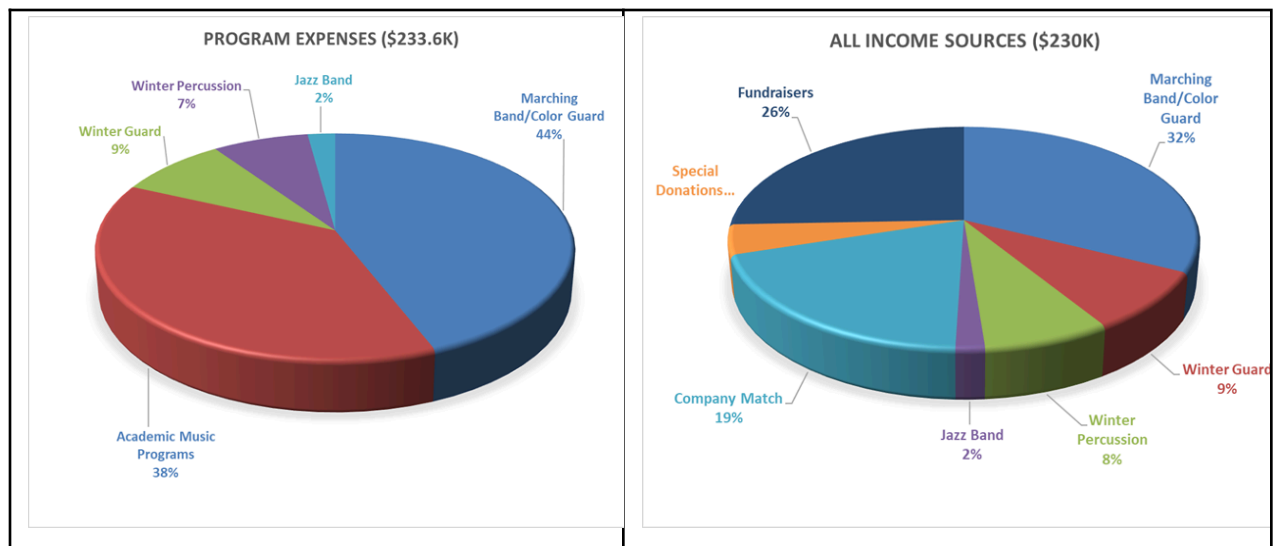
Board Membership Update

The board welcomed new members for the 2024-2025 year, including Yan Qi as Secretary and Sam Liu as Parent Representative for the Band. Looking ahead to 2025-2026, Jennifer Xie has been nominated for co-president and will shadow Phil and Ben next year, with the board set to vote on her position next year.

The board is looking to fill a new and exciting volunteer position: merchandise store manager. This position is created in view of a growing interest among our students, parents and staff in MVHS music merchandise, such as team jackets and T-shirts, which will provide support to our music programs and tours. A dedicated parent volunteer is needed to develop and manage the music merchandise store. Please contact Ben Cooper (president2.montavista.music@gmail.com) if you are interested in this position.

Music Booster Budget: 2024-2025

At the beginning of each school year, the Music Boosters and Music Directors collaborate to establish the Music Program funding plan, which includes both an expense and income strategy. This plan is then voted on during the first Music Booster Board Meeting in September. On September 23, 2024, the Music Booster Board approved an annual budget of \$233,000.

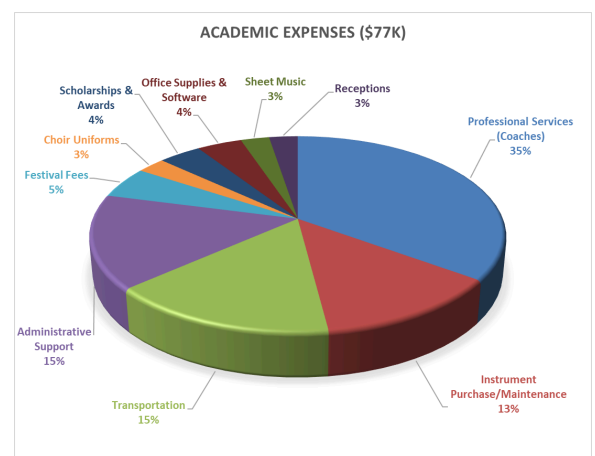


The budget supports both extracurricular programs—such as Marching Band, Winter Percussion, Winter Guard, and Jazz Band—and academic programs, which include Orchestra, Band, and Choir. Extracurricular programs are self-funded by the families of participating students, while academic programs are funded through company matching, special donations, memberships, and fundraisers.

Please note that the Music Programs at Monta Vista receive very little funding from the school and rely almost entirely on the Music Boosters to cover operational expenses, including staff salaries, instrument purchases and repairs, and transportation to various events and competitions. The generosity of the music community at Monta Vista has been instrumental in the success of our Music Programs.

Academic Program Budget

The student enrollment in academic programs this year is 260 students in the Instrumental Music and Choir Classes. The school provides 2 Music Directors, John Gilchrist for Instrumental Music and Lofn Young for Choir. To support the 260 students included in the Orchestras, Bands, and Choirs, clearly 2 teachers is not enough. The Music Boosters fund 20 professional coaches for specialized instruction to assist in teaching the students in the classroom. With these professional coaches under the direction of Mr. Gilchrist and Ms. Young, the results are four outstanding Concerts performances over the course of each school year for Orchestras, Bands, and Choir.



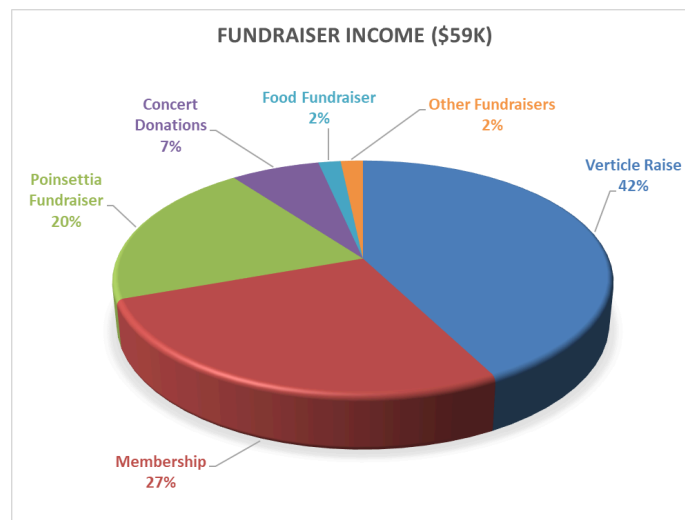
In addition to the professional coaches, the Music Boosters also provide financial resources for Instrument purchase and repair, transportation to music festivals and competitions, and office administrative assistance.

The Academic Program budget for this year is \$77k. The Academic programs are funded by Company Matching, Special Donations, Membership, and Fundraisers. The largest portions of the budget are Professional Coaches, Instrument Purchases, Transportation, and Administrative Assistance.

Fundraising Plan

Fundraising is an important component of the Music Booster budget. The plan for this year is to raise about \$59k through various Fundraisers including – Membership, Poinsettia Sales, Vertical Raise, Concert Donations, and Food (Restaurant) Fundraisers.

The Music Boosters greatly appreciate your contributions to these Fundraisers with both your financial and volunteer support.



The Poinsettia Fundraiser officially kicked off on October 21. The Monta Vista community has been informed via emails from the Principal and the music directors. Students have received packets with order forms and sales tips in class and have a month to meet the target of selling 1,000 plants. Key dates for the fundraiser include the return of envelopes on November 18, poinsettia distribution from December 6 to 7, and awards for top sellers on December 9.

The Membership Drive this year is off to a promising start with 61 members already enrolled and pledges amounting to \$13,650 (totaling \$21,000 including promised company matches). The Chamber Orchestra boasts a high number of gold memberships, while the Concert Band has the highest participation rate. The overall membership participation rate is about 25% of all Music Program families. Our Membership goal is to have a 50% music family participation rate which is 130 members.. Check out our membership posters next time at the Winter Concerts, which highlight the various membership tiers and our members' corporate donors offering matches!

Volunteer Needs

Poinsettia Fundraiser: Need Volunteers for Poinsettia Sales counting and distribution

- Volunteer signup [here](#)

Concert Receptions: Need Volunteers to provide potluck food and host receptions

- Volunteer signup: [Orchestra](#) (12/5) [Band](#) (12/6) [Choir](#) (12/13)

Marching Band and Color Guard: Need Volunteers for Transportation, Food, and Pit Crew

- Volunteer signup [here](#)

Merchandise & Store: No experience necessary as long as you would love working on the design of merchandise, as well as working with apparel vendors. You are the ideal person to spearhead this Booster startup effort. Contact president2.montavista.music@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Marching Band:

Nov 2, 2024, Saturday – Dublin Irish Guard International, Dublin HS, Dublin, CA
Nov 16, 2024, Saturday - WBA Regional Championships, Logan HS, Union City
Nov 19, 2024, Tuesday - Home Show, Monta Vista High School
Dec 3, 2024, Tuesday – Marching Band & Color Guard Banquet

Winter Concert Schedule

Dec 5, 2024, Thursday - Orchestra
Dec 6, 2024, Friday - Band
Dec 13, 2024, Friday - Choir

Music Booster Meeting Schedule

Nov 11, 2024, Monday 6:00-7:00 pm
Dec 9, 2024, Monday 6:00-7:00 pm
Jan 13, 2025, Monday 6:00-7:00 pm

We hope you found our updates informative and helpful. Stay tuned for more details in our upcoming newsletters. Thank you for your continued support! Please provide your feedback to the [editor](#).

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