



Brecksville-Broadview Heights Band Boosters

Happy Summer Fellow Band Parents!

My name is Lauren Jirousek and I have the privilege of being the BBHHS Band Boosters president for the upcoming school year. And, I get to give you the good news - you too are a Band Booster! By virtue your child's membership in band, you automatically are a member of the Boosters and have gained access to all our member benefits. It is hard to believe that we are only a couple months away from our first marching band night - sometimes known in other circles as a football game! Yes, we let the football teams use the field before and after our halftime performances!

We have over 300 members in our band this year. WOW. It'll be really cool to see them perform but it also means a lot of work behind the scenes to make it happen. Why? Let me give you some insight as to just what the Boosters do.

The Boosters work in partnership with the BBH City School District and, specifically, the band program at the high school. Some of the Boosters activities in the past included:

- Raising the funds to replace the marching band uniforms - a project amounting to over \$100,000 of expense.
- Providing chaperones to BOTH home and away events. For home and away games, Booster parents are badly needed to help move equipment to and from the marching (football!) field. Parents are assigned to ride buses for all away games.
- Raising funds to purchase a significant amount of the band instruments including percussion and large brass instruments. We also help to purchase the music that is performed.
- Maintaining all uniforms for both marching and indoor concert season - a MAJOR undertaking! We need hemmers for pants and general volunteers for uniform fitting nights.
- Hosting special events for visiting musical VIP's such as the Ohio State concert band.
- Sharing in the cost of purchasing the pit cover for the auditorium stage, providing more flexibility for performances.
- AND, last but not least, chaperoning the students during the Disney trip at Spring Break.

The more we can do, the better Mr. Nowlin and his staff are able to keep fees down and the quality of the band program high.

Our budget for the upcoming 2009/2010 school year is over \$70,000. This includes a prudent investment for future marching band uniforms so that we will be prepared when the current uniforms are ready to be retired. About 1/3 of this budget amount comes from student fees.

So, where to you as a Booster member fit in? Well, we need your time. We need your time with fundraising and we need your time to coordinate and chaperone events. With so many parents as Booster members, the burden on any one person is minimal.

Fundraising is done through several methods. For instance, we hold our annual fall citrus sale. Students sell fresh-shipped Florida citrus in the fall. Half of the profits go to the Boosters for the activities I've already described. The other half of the profits are held by the Boosters and a student account for each student who participates. The amount in the student account can be applied toward student costs such as band fees or Disney trip costs. NOTE: student account money can never be paid out as cash, only applied to band expenses. Another fundraiser is the sale of ads in our Fall Sports Program and the sale of the program itself. Anyone with marketing experience is welcome to help! Finally, we are possibly going to hold a pancake breakfast. Details forthcoming!

Chaperoning is our other big need. The enclosed sheet lists several immediate needs for chaperones - primarily the fall football games. With over 300 students, we will likely need almost 20 parents per game to help. Chaperones get a FREE ride to away games on a lovely yellow bus and FREE admission! You are busy just around halftime and have a great on-the-field view of the game if you like! We even provide these awesome raincoats if you need to borrow one! Please choose a game and send it back in!

In the spring, we are also looking for parents to join us for the Disney trip. Each parent is responsible for a small group of students during the trip. Most of the time, these students are on their own in the parks and the parents are free to have fun themselves! The sight of the BBH Marching Bees coming down Main Street U.S.A. at Disney's Magic Kingdom is breathtaking. Those are OUR kids sounding soooo good! We have many parents who have chaperoned this trip over and over. Our band students have NEVER let us down and we are invited back time and again. And, chaperones don't have to share a bed!

OK - enough of the Booster business stuff. I want to reiterate a point I made to the new parents at the 8th grade orientation meeting a few weeks ago. If a student lets it, the band can become their second family. My son graduated this year. He will always find a place to come back to in the band room. A place of friendship. A place that is safe. He is leaving school with a large but close group of friends who never bother to knock when they come in anymore. The band made his high school experience more than his dad and I had ever hoped it would be. I pray that you find the same thing for your child.

Finally, I have found the band staff to be the most caring group of individuals. They recognize that our children face many demands on them as they get older. Many of our children work hard to lead a balanced life of music, academics, and sports. I am personally amazed at how accommodating the band staff is in helping our students to achieve this. I think the students recognize this and give back in return.

Welcome to the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Band Boosters. I hope I have answered some questions you had (or maybe didn't know you had!). I encourage you to attend Booster meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the band room (or somewhere close by). You learn so much during the meetings. I promise to try to keep them short and I will have a prize raffle each month!

Please feel free to contact me at 440-526-8432 or LJJIROUSEK@ROADRUNNER.COM. I want to make sure that you have an enjoyable band experience as I am sure your child will!

Lauren Jirousek
BBHHS Band Booster President