

Science Hill High School Band Booster FAQ's

- 1. What is the band booster organization?** Science Hill High School Band Boosters, Inc. is incorporated as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, complete with a charter, bylaws, and board of directors. The purpose of the organization is to provide for the needs of the Science Hill High School Band Program that are not already supplied by the Johnson City School System. Many committees are in place to accomplish the extensive goals of the organization. For more information regarding the organization and committees, see the web site at www.shhsbandboosters.org.
- 2. My child is in 8th grade. Do I need to come to Band Booster meetings?** New members are strongly encouraged to attend Band Booster meetings. A lot of the information discussed there will only affect marching band members, but you also have an opportunity to hear what events are coming up and to interact with other band parents.
- 3. How often do the boosters meet?** The Friday of band camp (late July or early August) plus the first Thursday of each month from September through April. Meetings are held in the 10-12 Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- 4. How can I find out what happened at a meeting that I missed?** The website for the Band Boosters (www.shhsbandboosters.org) is a great resource for information. You can also sign up for band-booster broadcast emails to stay up-to-date. *(Go to the website and select "Subscription" from the left menu, and enter your email address.)*
- 5. Do the eighth graders only participate in concert band?** Yes, but they are invited to play with the marching band in the stands at homecoming. Each eighth grader is assigned a "buddy" from the upper classmen. This gives them a sample of what the next four years of band will be like.
- 6. How many students are in the band?** For the 2009-2010 season, we had about 275 students in band for 8 – 12, including color guard. The Wind Ensemble had about 55 players, and there were around 70 students in the eighth grade band.
- 7. Is my 8th grader required to fund raise?** 8th graders are not required to fund raise; however, any amount they earn during that year goes into their fundraising account that accumulates over their tenure in band.
- 8. How many fund raisers are there?** There are typically three – The Pledge Car Wash, Fruit Sale, and Winter Frozen Food Sale.
- 9. What other ways does the band raise funds?** Concessions at home football games (our biggest fundraiser), Bristol Speedway Races concessions, Trailer Ads, and Grants. More information on each of these can be found at the website under "Committee Descriptions."
- 10. How can I get in touch with a band director?** Phone the band room office at 232-2193, and leave a message if no answer. The directors are: Dr. Carson Vermillion (vermillionc@jcschools.org), Mark Foster (fosterm@jcschools.org), and Dan McGuire (m McGuire@jcschools.org).
- 11. What is the best way to meet other band parents?**
 - A. Come to Band Camp Parents' Night – each booster activity has current parent chairs present, and this provides a great opportunity to ask questions and find "where you fit."
 - B. Come to Band Booster Meetings
 - C. Volunteer – A multitude of opportunities exist such as helping in the Concession Stand (Every parent is expected to work at least one home varsity football game in the concession stand.), field set-up / take-down for marching band, chaperoning, and many others. A more complete list of volunteer opportunities is listed on the website at www.shhsbandboosters.org.
- 12. How many marching competitions are there and what do they entail?** Typically there are three marching competitions each fall season held on Saturdays, ranging from late September through early November. At these events, the marching band performs the full show and competes with other bands of similar size and skill. Students must attend these competitions, and must travel and remain with the band until the competition is over.

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At the band-director's discretion, students may be released after the competition to travel home with their parents. Most competitions are day trips within a 3 to 5 hour drive, sometimes returning in the wee hours of the night. Occasionally an overnight competition will be scheduled.

- 13. How many concert band competitions are there and what do they entail?** Typically one concert band festival is scheduled each spring season. Each concert band (8, 9, symphonic, and wind ensemble) performs a couple of pieces they have been preparing since early January. Bands also sight read. Judges score the bands and assign ratings for prepared pieces, sight reading, and overall. Students must attend these festivals, and may miss a portion of the school day. Occasionally the bands will remain at the site following their performance to listen to other bands perform. These competitions are usually local or within a one-hour drive.
- 14. What is the difference between marching and concert band?** Marching band is for grades 9-12, and concert bands are divided into several groups – 8th grade, 9th grade, percussion, wind ensemble, and symphonic (10-12 players that are not in wind ensemble). There are also opportunities to participate in the jazz band and pit orchestra.
- 15. How are students selected for the wind ensemble?** The wind ensemble is reserved for the top 60 players. Most are upper classmen, but if there is an opening, and if a 9th grader is good enough, they will be invited. Typically we have only four or five 9th graders in the wind ensemble, no eighth graders.
- 16. Can you give me information about color guard?** Color guard is a part of marching band, in fact they make up 15%-20% of that group. Auditions for color guard occur in the winter or spring each year. They rehearse, perform, and compete as part of the marching band. As a fund saver, the flags used by the color guard are made, instead of purchased each year. This is another great volunteer opportunity.
- 17. Can you give me information about band camp?** Band camp is required for all competitive marching band students, and is typically scheduled for the two weeks prior to the start of school. During these weeks, students learn the show that is to be featured at halftime during football games and also in the marching competitions. The camp begins on Monday and culminates Friday evening with a run through of the show for the parents and refreshments for all. Students spend all day each day from early in the morning through late in the evening learning marching fundamentals, show music, and marching drill. Typically, students must pack a lunch. A hot evening meal is provided for the students. Students return home each night. Band camp fees are assessed to cover the costs. These fees are paid to the school, not to the band boosters, and are typically in the \$100.
- 18. What is Chaperone Training and when is it offered?** Chaperone training includes bus training, which is done by Johnson City Transit, and is typically scheduled for late afternoon on the Friday of band camp. Bus training is required for any adult who will be riding on a Johnson City school bus. Only band students and bus-trained adults are allowed to ride school buses on band events. Additional information specific to band chaperoning is also provided by the chair of the chaperone committee at the same time. Bus training is not required for charter buses, but the same pool of chaperones is typically used. Chaperones for major trips are selected based upon their experience and proven chaperone abilities. Chaperones must be parents, grandparents, or guardians of current band students, or otherwise approved by the band booster board.
- 19. When the band makes a big event trip, can I as a parent travel along with the band?** On most trips, there are two different opportunities for parents to travel along – as a chaperone or as a “tag-along.” Chaperones are required to attend training at the beginning of the band year and will be responsible for supervising students on the trip. A “tag-along” travels with the band, but is only responsible for him or her self.