



Trabuco Hills High School Instrumental Music

Freshman and Rookie Student / Parent Handbook

**School Year
2009 – 2010**

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Trabuco Hills High School Instrumental Music

Freshman Student/Parent Handbook

Introduction

The Instrumental Music Program at Trabuco Hills offers Marching Band, Color Guard, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds and Pep Band. This reference guide is designed to answer your questions about the program and make the student's experience more enjoyable.

Parents fund this program by paying Fair Share Costs that cover the operational costs of the program for their child's participation. Every parent is a Music Booster, and is asked to volunteer as much as possible. Music Boosters provide logistical, emotional and additional financial support to the students. The Music Boosters are responsible for raising the funds to pay all of the coaches' stipends. The amount required in fundraising is significant and in addition to the Fair Share costs. Please be assured that costs are kept as low as possible and yet still provide an enriching experience for students. Your student will have a great time and establish a social basis of friends quickly.

Each student will have an account established for him or her to help defray costs. The Boosters offer a variety of fundraisers throughout the year in which students can participate through 50 / 50 sharing (50% to the program's general fund and 50% directly to the student's account) to build up their accounts. These opportunities will be presented throughout the school year at monthly Music Booster meetings. **All parents are requested and encouraged to attend the meetings.** Attendance at these meetings provides parents with important information to keep them abreast of current events.

The students are involved in many on and off campus activities. This requires logistical support from the Music Boosters. Your involvement is necessary. There is something that each and every parent can do. We encourage you to get started today by contacting one of our board members (a listing can be found in the back of this booklet). Booster Meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month, excluding July. The first booster meeting for the 2009-2010 school year will be held on August 10, 2009.

Marching Band

Marching Band is conducted during the first semester of the school year. The "Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit" is comprised of both Marching Band and Color Guard competing as one unit. This has been an extremely successful group. They were the Western Band Association Class A/AA State Champions in 2000 / 2001, and the Class AAAA State Champions in 2005. This unit will learn an intricate show of music and marching. Our students compete in Field Show Competitions against other schools. The field shows are generally every Saturday beginning early-October and continue until the weekend before Thanksgiving. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.** Due to the intricacy of this show, if even one student is absent, it is quite evident on the field and the group's success will suffer.

“Band Camp” is usually held the last 2 - 3 weeks before school begins. Freshmen and new members report a few days before the returning students to learn marching basics, etc. Band Camp is held Monday - Friday from 9:00 am until 5 p.m., here at Trabuco Hills. **This year, incoming freshmen, new members, color guard and all battery should report on Monday, August 17th and Tuesday, August 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for Rookie Band Camp.** All Marching Band and Color Guard students will report on Wednesday, August 19th at 9:00 a.m. for regular band camp. **DAILY ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. ALL STUDENT PAPERWORK MUST BE TURNED IN ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF CAMP, WHETHER IT’S ROOKIE CAMP OR REGULAR BAND CAMP.** Please make dentist, doctor and other appointments for another time that does not conflict with rehearsal times. It is also highly recommended that your child is physically active a few weeks prior to band camp so they will more easily be able to participate. After school begins, rehearsals are on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons/evenings after school for marching. Various instrumental sections may have additional rehearsals from time to time or additional rehearsals may be called at the Director’s discretion. Once again, all rehearsals are mandatory.

The “Thundering Mustang Marching Unit” attends all home football games and away league football games to help promote school spirit. Pep songs are played from the stands. Half-time performances are at the discretion of the Director and are also mandatory.

Uniforms are assigned during one week of Band Camp. **UNIFORMS DO NOT GO HOME.** All uniforms stay on campus. Each student will be assigned two pairs of white uniform pants. One pair is for competitions only; the other pair is called “football pants” and are worn at football games only.

Our uniforms were brand new in 2006 and the Boosters are very lucky to have a group of parents that make sure that the uniforms are taken care of (this includes the dry cleaning of all pants after a competition and/or football game). These uniforms were purchased at great expense to the school district and must last for at least 10 years. Each student is taught how to hang his or her uniform and will **not be excused** after a performance until it is done correctly.

Another task of the Boosters is to help with pit equipment (percussion instruments, sound system, etc.) for performances. The pit crew or “Pit Bulls” must quickly move the pit equipment on and off the field in a limited time. It takes many hands to do this effectively. Parent help is always needed and welcome. The Vice Presidents of Band, Drumline and Color Guard coordinate these efforts.

Each marching student must purchase uniform shoes. During Band Camp, students will be fit for their uniform and marching shoes. **ONE** order will be made by the Uniform Coordinator to purchase shoes. Parents may want to purchase shoes that are one size too large and double up on socks so the shoes can perhaps last for more than one year. Students who fail to turn in forms on time will be responsible for purchasing their own shoes from Peacock’s Marching World in Phoenix, AZ. **All students are required to purchase two white polo shirts with the Instrumental Music logo on it.** We suggest purchasing three. When the students travel, they must wear these at all times when they are in public and they do get dirty.

Field show competitions are events where units compete against other schools. There may be as few as 18 or as many as 60 schools at competitions. At most competitions schools are classified by the size of performing unit. These are fun and exciting events that parents should plan to attend. Students will be given a "call time" to report to school. Details for each competition are usually given to students the week preceding the event. They are transported by bus to the event and back. All students are **required** to ride the bus. If it is a regional competition or if the unit competes in the finals of the event, students will not return until late in the evening. Each student needs warm clothes and food money of approximately \$10 to \$15 at tournaments. Meals are provided by the Boosters / Parents. (Exact meal cost will be announced as marching season begins). We have one overnight trip planned during the first semester for our Marching Band and Color Guard. Details about this out-of-town competition will be given out at the first Booster Meeting of the year. Costs of this trip are in addition to regular activities and will be added to your participation costs for the semester they occur in. The costs of this trip are kept as low as possible. **Remember that fundraisers can help to defray costs of trips and reduce your student cost balances!**

Chaperones are needed for all football games, competitions and out of town trips. First, you should know that WE TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS. Students are treated by the chaperones as their own. The chaperones truly have as much fun (or more) than the students. They too make new friends by participating. We strongly urge parents to consider signing up to chaperone at an event or out of town trip. You will make lifelong friends in the process and have as much fun, if not more, than the students.

Color Guard

Students in Color Guard perform to music using dance, flags, sabers and rifles. During the first semester of the school year they perform with the Marching Band as the "Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit". The choreography of the dance, flags, sabers and rifles adds pageantry to the field show. Students attend and perform at home football games and competitions as one unit.

Rehearsals are generally held after school until about 5:30 p.m and in the evenings until about 8:30 p.m. Saturday rehearsals are also mandatory. Due to the intricacy of the routine, much practice is necessary for the desired effect. A positive attitude and commitment to excellence is essential.

Color Guard uniforms are designed and made during late summer. Performance shoes must also be purchased. The costs for the uniforms and shoes are kept as low as possible. The uniforms generally run approximately \$125-\$150.00 for each season. Shoes and tights run an additional \$35 to \$50 each season.

Please refer to the Marching Band portion of this handbook for information on summer band camp, field season, football games, field show competitions, performances, tournaments, away trips and chaperoning.

During the second semester, the Color Guard is called Winter Guard and they will perform a different routine with recorded music. The Marching Band is not involved. Rehearsals continue as necessary and competitions are held usually on Saturdays beginning in February through the middle of April. These are indoor events.

Different uniforms are designed and different flags are used for Winter Guard. Whenever possible, the uniform designers will make an effort to use “recycled” parts of other uniforms as they can to save on costs. Some other items that may be needed for Winter Guard would be half soles (a dance shoe) and gloves (for those working with weaponry).

Wind Ensemble / Symphonic Winds

Wind Ensemble / Symphonic Winds are held during the second semester. These ensembles are essentially “concert bands”. Wind Ensemble is a “by audition” ensemble and Symphonic Winds is the remainder of all wind players. Usually there are no after school rehearsals. This group will participate in festivals and perform at concerts during the spring semester.

Students are required to have “concert dress” for performances. Girls’ concert dress entails a white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black Eton-style tuxedo jacket, solid black skirt and solid black shoes. Boys must have a white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie and cummerbund, black tuxedo slacks, black Eton-style tuxedo jacket, solid black socks and uniform black dress shoes (no athletic shoes). Details regarding the purchase of these items will come later in the school year. The cost of the complete tuxedo, including shoes, is around \$150 to \$155. We may have some used attire that can be purchased at a reduced rate.

A limited number of wind ensemble and/or symphonic winds students will be given an opportunity to participate in Symphonic Orchestra. This is strictly voluntary. The Symphonic Orchestra consists of the String Orchestra and a few chosen wind instruments. There is no school period for this group. Rehearsals are held during lunch and some afternoons and evenings.

Percussion Ensemble

During the winter and spring seasons, the Percussion Ensemble (also called Drumline) is a select group of percussionists that competes during the winter and early spring months, approximately December through April. A performance is designed using music and choreography. Marching Band uniforms are not worn. Drumline includes percussion and pit instruments. To make this group successful, all parents of Drumline students are required to accompany the students to competitions as chaperones, to load and unload equipment and assist with props before and after performances. Try-outs are held in the winter and membership is strictly voluntary. Different uniforms are designed and used for the Percussion Ensemble, and these costs are additional, generally from \$125 to \$150.00 per season. These performances are held indoors.

Please refer to the Marching Band portion of this handbook for information on summer band camp, field season, football games, field show competitions, performances, tournaments, away trips and chaperoning.

Orchestra

Orchestra consists of string instruments. During the first semester, students will rehearse many pieces of music in preparation for "Festivals". The orchestra will attend festivals and play before judges during the second semester of the school year. They are judged and scored and awarded a level of rating from "Good" to "Superior".

"Concert Dress" is required. Students are required to have "concert dress" for performances. Girls' concert dress entails a white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black Eton-style tuxedo jacket, solid black skirt and solid black shoes. Boys must have a white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie and cummerbund, black tuxedo slacks, black Eton-style tuxedo jacket, solid black socks and uniform black dress shoes (no athletic shoes).

Students must purchase the required concert attire. Details regarding this purchase will come later in the school year. The cost of the complete tuxedo, including shoes, is around \$150 to \$155. We may have some used attire that can be purchased at a reduced rate.

Symphonic Orchestra

The Symphonic Orchestra is made up of the string instruments and some advanced wind and percussion players (usually from the Wind Ensemble). This group also will compete in festivals

There is no school period for this group. The director chooses members and participation is strictly voluntary. Wind / Percussion players are offered independent study credit.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble is an audition only, yearlong class. Audition information will be made available near the beginning of the school year. The jazz ensemble performs at home basketball games, assemblies, and school concerts and in the spring, at jazz festivals held throughout southern California. The jazz ensemble also has concert attire, details of which will be made available at the beginning of the school year. There may be an overnight trip to a jazz festival in the spring. Detailed information will be distributed to the jazz families approximately two months prior to the tentative trip.

About the Music Boosters...

The Trabuco Hills Instrumental Music Program offers many groups in which students can be involved. These programs are challenging and enriching as well as fun and provide students with many lasting memories.

The Instrumental Music Boosters are an active group of parents, grandparents, alumni parents and others that provide many things to the students. **All Parents automatically become Music Boosters upon their child's participation in any one of these groups!** The Boosters' main goal is to work toward making this program as successful and rewarding as possible for the students. They organize and conduct fundraising activities and facilitate supervision for students at all events. Members of the Boosters also travel to events with performing groups to chaperone and assist with uniforms and equipment.

Participation in the Trabuco Hills Instrumental Music Program is a life-enriching experience for students. Parents are necessary to make it work, and parents who give their time never regret it. The Trabuco Hills Music Boosters are extremely proud of each one of these programs. As with any program that is volunteer-based, parent volunteers are required to get involved to make it a success. We have many upcoming activities that we need chaired. Don't think that just because you are new to the group you don't have any experience. **Experience is not necessary.**

For more information regarding THHS Instrumental Music and the Music Boosters, visit our web site: <http://thhsmusic.com>.

Hopefully, this handbook has answered many of your questions. For any additional questions that you may have throughout the school year, feel free to contact any of the following Booster Board Members.

PRESIDENT	Linda Escobar	589-3581	email: Linda.Escobar@gemb.com
TREASURER	Kay Jacques	581-8196	email: jacques4@cox.net
SECRETARY	Laura Schneider	460-9369	email: laurams8@yahoo.com
VP, WAYS & MEANS	Laura Nygaard	858-1421	email: blbknyg@cox.net
Co-VP, BAND	Mike Fink	589-2509	email: mikenfkn@gmail.com
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Co-VP, JAZZ ENSEMBLE	Bessie Nakashima	525-0538	email: bessierick@hotmail.com
VP, ALUMNUS	Roxanne Card	916-7217	email: 3cards@cox.net

Important Notice!

On Saturday, November 14, 2009, the Trabuco Hills High School Instrumental Music Program will be hosting the “17th Annual Tournament in the Hills” field show competition. This event is **THE MAJOR FUNDRAISER** of the school year for the Boosters. There will be approximately 30 schools here to compete. The Boosters will run the ticket booth, help with buses, snack bar, provide chaperones for each visiting school, etc. As you can imagine, many, many hands will be needed to make this event a success. **ALL PARENTS FROM ALL ENSEMBLES ARE REQUIRED TO HELP!** Proceeds go into the general fund of the Boosters and benefit all students in the Instrumental Music Program.

In the Spring of 2010, the Trabuco Hills High School Instrumental Music Program will be hosting the “6th Annual Jazz In The Hills” jazz festival. This is another fundraiser for the Instrumental Music Boosters. There will be approximately 20 high school and middle school jazz ensembles from around Southern California participating in this festival. This event takes a large number of volunteers from everyone in the Booster organization and help is needed in areas such as the Snack Bar, Stage Administration, Band Assistance, Check-in, etc. Proceeds go into the general fund of the Boosters and benefit all students in the Instrumental Music Program.