

**TRABUCO HILLS HIGH SCHOOL ~  
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAMS  
and MUSIC BOOSTERS**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

<http://thhsmusic.com>

***1. What is the Music Boosters organization and what is its purpose?***

The Music Boosters is an organization consisting of all the families of the students in all of the music programs. A parent is a Booster member by having a student in the instrumental music program. Booster Board Members are elected each May by the membership for the upcoming school year. The Boosters hold monthly meetings to keep members informed. The primary purpose of the Music Boosters is to fund the music programs at THHS as the school district contributes very little as far as actual funding.

***2. What choices does my student have in regards to the different programs (ensembles) within the Instrumental Music Department? For which ensembles does my student have to audition?***

Marching Band, Wind Ensemble\*/Symphonic Winds (second semester band), Jazz Band\*, Orchestra, Color Guard\*, Winter Guard (second semester) and Drumline\* (second semester).

*\*Ensembles that require auditions.*

***3. Can my student be in more than one of these ensembles?***

Yes, but most of the groups have designated class time and count as an elective, such as:

**Band:** Marching band is during first semester; Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Winds are during second semester. **Color Guard:** Color Guard marches with the band during first semester; Winter Guard is during second semester. **Orchestra:** First and second semesters. **Jazz Band:** First and second semesters. Auditions for Jazz Band are in September. **Drumline:** Second semester ensemble. Auditions are in December or early January.

4. *What would our costs be for these ensembles, and if my student is in more than one, do we have to pay for each ensemble?*

The participation costs, called Fair Share Costs, are determined by the Music Booster Board each June by preparing a budget for the upcoming school year based on projected and historical operating costs of each ensemble. These budgeted costs are then divided among the number of projected students for each ensemble. You pay for each ensemble your student is in.

The budget has not yet been set for the 2011/2012 school year; therefore, the exact amount of the Fair Share Costs is not yet available. However, for informational purposes only, below are the annual costs per ensemble as they were for the 2010/2011 school year.

Marching Band: \$425.00 First semester cost  
Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Winds: \$105.00 Second semester cost  
Total Band: \$525.00

Color Guard: \$390.00 First semester cost  
Winter Guard: \$400.00 Second semester cost  
Total Color Guard: \$790.00

Orchestra: \$360.00 Cost for the year  
Drumline: \$400.00 Second semester cost  
Jazz Band: \$300.00 Cost for the year

We understand that it can be difficult to pay the Fair Share Costs in one lump sum, particularly at the beginning of the school year. Therefore, we offer the option of the Fair Share Costs being paid over the course of the school year as described below.

One-third of the first semester costs for Marching Band and Color Guard are due on the first day of Band Camp in August with the other two-thirds payable over the fall. Second semester costs can be divided into two payments in winter/spring.

For Orchestra, one-third of the annual costs is due on the first night of Orchestra Camp in August, the second one-third is due in the fall, and the final one-third is due in February.

For Jazz Band, one-half of the annual costs is due in the fall with the second half due in February.

A payment schedule with payment due dates for all of the ensembles will be provided at the August booster meeting. You will receive statements from the Treasurer on a regular basis showing all activity in your student's account.

The Fair Share costs for Winter Guard, Drumline, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Winds are billed in late January because they are second semester groups. For Color Guard, Winter Guard, Drumline and Jazz Band, there are additional uniform and/or flag costs. Students are required to purchase concert attire for Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds and Orchestra. Detailed information about concert attire will be available at the September booster meeting. Marching Band uniforms are provided by the school district.

All accounts must be current by June 1 in order for seniors to receive their graduation cap and gown, and for anyone to attend the End-of-Year Music Awards Banquet held at the beginning of June.

5. *Is there a way for families to defray some of these costs?*

ABSOLUTELY! Raising fundraising dollars is as equally important to the music programs as the collection of the Fair Share Costs because we are essentially self-funded. Several of the fundraisers are aimed at providing families the opportunity to defray their Fair Share Costs by participating in 50/50 fundraisers. These fundraisers are generally the type associated with selling individual items. The total profit earned by your selling these items is split 50/50, with 50% of the profit (not the selling price) going to the Boosters' general account and 50% being credited to your student's individual booster account. The more items sold, the more earned toward your student's account. These funds are automatically credited to your student's account as they are earned.

6. *What do our Fair Share Costs pay for?*

It is extremely expensive to run an instrumental music program such as that at THHS, which has an excellent reputation for the quality of its performances and players. These costs include, but are not limited to: Band truck maintenance, gasoline, storage, toll charges and insurance; additional truck rental; liability and bonding insurance; band uniforms dry-cleaning (after each competition); uniform fittings; postage; supplies; bank fees; newsletter printing; purchase of music; music copyright fees; website maintenance fees; Marching Band field show design and arrangement; color guard flags; Winter Guard show design and arrangement; Drumline show design and arrangement; choreography; instrument purchases and repairs; purchase of instrument cases; all show, festival and competition entry fees; equipment purchases; props; awards; senior dinner; band camp picnic; etc. etc. etc.

7. *Aside from the Fair Share Costs, are there any additional costs to the Booster families?*

Yes. The Boosters provide hot meals to the students at competitions and festivals if the students will be performing away from school over meal times. For the 2010/2012 school year, the cost to each student was \$10.00 per meal.

Parents are also responsible for all trip costs which include charter bus rentals, hotel accommodations, meals (except Friday sack lunch), and entertainment (usually bowling). Students need to plan on attending *every* trip. You will receive adequate notice of any away trips planned including dates, cost, option of payment plans, etc.

Be assured that the Music Boosters organization makes every effort to keep the costs for these trips as low as possible. Costs for each trip are collected prior to the departure date.

*Note: The transportation costs for these trips are not included in the transportation fee you pay to the District during registration. The transportation fee paid to the District only covers the costs for school buses which are only used in the case of local trips.*

*8. What other costs are associated with Instrumental Music?*

THHS Music Boosters hires several coaches each year for each and every music program. It is our goal to pay the salaries of these coaches with fundraising dollars. If we do not raise enough money through fundraising to pay coaches' salaries, we will be forced to cut coaches, which in turn affects the quality of the program, or raise the Fair Share Costs paid by each family.

*9. How do I keep informed of upcoming events and fundraisers?*

- Come to the monthly Music Booster meetings! These meetings are currently held on the second Monday of each month (except July) in the THHS multi-purpose room at 7:00 p.m. At these meetings, you will receive important information pertaining to upcoming events and fundraisers; have the opportunity to sign up for chaperoning; get any questions answered; meet other parents; sign up for committees, etc. We encourage and recommend every Booster parent to attend these meetings!
- Go to the music website at <http://thhsmusic.com>. It is updated regularly and contains information pertaining to all upcoming events, each ensemble, and fundraisers. From the site you can download the music calendar for the entire school year with the dates of all competitions, festivals, concerts, rehearsals, trips, booster meetings, etc. The website also provides you with the contact information of the Booster Board members and fundraiser chairpersons. It also includes a photo gallery which the students love to view! We recommend that you and your student familiarize yourselves with the music website as soon as possible.
- You can contact any of the Booster Board members directly via phone or email; their contact information can be found on the website.

- You can (and should!) join the THHS Instrumental Music and .Color Guard Yahoo Group, an email group that allows you to automatically receive announcements, bulletins and reminders from the Booster President, other Booster Board members, and Committee Chairpersons. By joining, you can also post questions that generally will be answered within a few hours. This Yahoo Group is an important tool for the distribution of information to everyone, including the students. Instructions to join are on the home page of the music website.

10. *Does my student have to participate in each activity for the program in which he/she is enrolled?*

The participation in all performances and events is MANDATORY. It is nearly impossible for another student to play or perform in your student's place because each student has a specific, unique role within the performances.

11. *What is expected of parents, and how do I get involved?*

We have our own slogan, which is: "Music Boosters...It doesn't jus thappen!"

It requires hundreds of volunteer hours to run the music programs at THHS. Volunteers are needed to chaperone and feed the students at competitions, drive the truck, load the truck, coordinate trips, run meetings, collect payments, coordinate and run fundraisers, organize events, take band uniforms to the cleaners, fit the students for unifrms, order concert attire, build props, provide baked goods, collect money at concerts, etc. etc. etc. The list is too extensive to include everything in this short amount of space. These things do not get done on their own!

It also takes a lot of money to run the music programs. The school district provides no funding for the music programs beyond the salaries of our directors. The Boosters organization must pay for everything from coaches' salaries to truck expenses to uniform cleaning to buying instruments. It takes a lot of work, over the course of the entire year, to fundraise the money we need and to collect the Fair Share Costs from Booster families. We expect every family to contribute to our fundraising efforts in one form or another.

Six years ago we developed the Participation Points program, which is designed to encourage every parent to get involved. Points are earned by participating, whether it's volunteering your time, attending a booster meeting, or participating in a fundraiser. The music programs need every Booster family to contribute in one way or another. There are countless opportunities to earn points, so each family can contribute in the manner they are most comfortable.

A brief explanation of the Participation Points program is that each family is given a required amount of participation points to earn during the school year. This amount depends upon which music ensemble your student is involved (maximum 200 credits per family, or \$200). As you earn credits (or "points"), your obligation is reduced. Each point is worth \$1.00. In May, you will be billed for the balance due (the difference between the original obligation and the amount earned). Points do not roll over to the following school year. More detailed information regarding the Participation Points program is available in the Freshman and Rookie Student Parent Handbook.

*12. If I chaperone on an away trip, do I have to pay for meals and hotel accommodations?*

Yes, all chaperones have to pay for their trip expenses; however, you do not make your own travel arrangements or hotel reservations. You will be an official part of the group and the Booster President will make your hotel accommodations and meals arrangements along with the students', staffs', board members', and other chaperones'. All parents, including chaperones and board members, pay for their trip expenses including hotel accommodations and meals. We normally receive discounted hotel rates because of the size of our groups. You will have your own Booster account like that of the students, and your account will be billed for the trip expenses. As for transportation, chaperones can drive themselves or ride the busses, space permitting. We cannot guarantee chaperones that there will be room for them on the busses, but we make our best effort to accommodate as many as possible. Parents who are not chaperoning cannot ride the busses. Neither can any children/students who are not enrolled in the THHS music programs. For more information on chaperoning, go to the music website and read the Chaperone Duties in the "Boosters" section.

Chaperoning is a rewarding experience and a great way to get to know the students and other parents. In addition to away trips, chaperones are needed for local competitions, festivals and football games. Sign-up sheets will be available at all Booster meetings prior to the dates of the events, trips or football games.

**13. *What can my student, and me as a parent, expect to get out of our experience with the THHS instrumental music program?***

Like anything, you get out of it what you put into it. Your student will be part of a wonderful group of students and an impressive music program taught by dedicated staff members. He/She will grow as a person and as a musician. They will also take with them upon high school graduation memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

As a parent, you will be amazed at what your student will accomplish. Attend the various ensembles' competitions, festivals, and concerts. Get to know the other parents and the students by getting involved as a Booster volunteer. Go on the road trips. Chaperone. Chair a fundraiser. You will find the Booster organization to be full of caring, hardworking parents and you, too, will make lasting friendships. It will be a time in your lives that you and your student will never forget.