



BAND BOOSTERS 101

A GUIDE FOR NEW BAND PARENTS



Welcome to the MNHHS Band Boosters!

This is a small guide to help you understand what the Boosters do. Our kids have the best years when we join together to fully support them. Our organization has many ways for parents, grandparents, guardians, etc. to be involved and to keep everyone informed of important information throughout the year.

OUR MISSION

To support the Madisonville North Hopkins High School Instrumental Music and its extended Programs, of its endeavors, which shall include, but is not limited to the following:

- *Financial*
- *Safety*
- *Morale*
- *Program Support*
- *Providing Chaperones and Uniforms*

Band Boosters usually meet the first Tuesday of each month of the year (except for June and July) in the band room. Everyone that has a child involved with the North Hopkins Band is invited. This includes middle school parents whose children march with the Marching Maroons. These meetings are always full of pertinent information that you will not want to miss. They also include opportunities to sign up for various things such as chaperoning or other ways to contribute.

Although the meetings are the best way to stay informed, we also have a Facebook page and a Remind group that you can request to be in. On these forms of media, we receive reminders and a link to a website called signup.com to volunteer our time for various things.

Directors will update the calendar on marchingmaroons.com with a schedule of practices and competitions. Copies of this and other important documents such as itineraries for competitions can usually be found in the pockets on his office door. Near this door, there is a gray metal box mounted on the wall. Payments for things like fundraisers can be deposited there. Please put your payment in an envelope with a brief explanation of the contents on the outside.

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BAND FEES

Band fees are very important. Please make sure that these fees are paid on time and in full. Band fees help pay for supplemental staff, supplies, fees, transportation cost, equipment and costumes, and instrument purchase and repair.

BAND CAMP

Band camp is hard work. The kids concentrate on learning the music, marching sets, and so forth. Please make sure your child(ren) is prepared. Make sure your child eats a good meal before they arrive. The kids are given several breaks during practice. Boosters are asked to donate snacks and powdered gatorade. Due to the number of students we usually have, we sometimes have to limit how many snacks they grab at each break. Your student is welcome to bring their own snacks if they would like. **They also need sunscreen, hats, cooling towels or anything else necessary to stay cool.**

Attendance is **extremely important** as the kids learn so much at each practice. Parents, grandparents, etc. are welcome at all practices. You are welcome to bring a chair and watch but we also need your help. Boosters are needed to handle the snacks and Gatorade/water station, work on props, be on hand for first aid, etc.

The last day of band camp will end with a preview show. This is a fundraising event for the boosters. We will have show merchandise and concessions. The band will perform what they have learned. It is a lot of fun to see everything they have accomplished. Make sure to invite your friends and family that want to support the students.

Right after band camp, after school practice begins. Middle school students may opt to ride the “athletic bus” to MNHHS. We will try to continue to provide snacks at these practices, but some students may also want to bring food from home, especially if they have an early lunch break during the school day.

FOOTBALL GAMES

The kids will practice after school on Friday until game time. The Boosters will provide a meal, but parents will be asked to donate items such as soda or desserts.

The Band Boosters run the concession stand during home football games. This is a large contribution to our budget. It takes several volunteers to be successful. We have several “jobs” involved that include grilling, making popcorn, and taking/filling orders. After each game, we are responsible for picking up trash from

the home and visitor stands. Please pick up gloves and trashbags from the concession stand. This task can be handled very quickly if several people help.

COMPETITIONS

Exact location/times of competitions will be announced at the Booster meetings. Itineraries will be available on Director's door and usually on our Facebook page. The kids usually practice before departing for competitions. Plan for the entire day. The boosters usually provide a meal to students the day of competition. Check the itinerary to ensure your child does not need to bring a packed lunch.

STATE

All the hard work has paid off and it's time to finish the season!

Traditionally during the week of State, parents make posters to line the band hall at MNHHS. A date will be announced to do this. We also request help in surprising the kids when they get to their hotel rooms. We ask for personal letters or cards and donations for goodie bags. The letters can be from anyone, the more the better! It would be great if you could also write a few to "Marching Maroon" for the kids that may not otherwise get one. The Boosters collect the letters/cards and make treat bags to leave for each child in the hotel rooms. The kids love them!

Going to semi-finals and finals is traditionally a one or two night trip depending on where they will be held. We tend to depart on Friday night (may perform at a football game first), stay in a hotel, compete in semi-finals Saturday morning and advance to finals that evening. There is a chance of staying in the hotel until Sunday.

The Boosters pay for the meals and the hotel for the kids. Chaperones may eat with the kids, but are responsible for paying for their hotel room. Kids may bring money for extra food (concessions), t-shirts, etc.



VOLUNTEER

There are many ways to be involved and we need your help.

In addition to working in the concession stand, there are a few roles that need to be filled each year.

Chaperones are needed for every competition. We usually have two per bus, totalling six. Chaperones stay with the kids and escort them to dressing rooms and on and off the field. We also may help with uniforms. Chaperones get in competitions for free and are welcome to eat the meals with the kids that the boosters provide.

Pit Crew needs several members to help with lifting and loading the instruments, equipment, props, etc. on and off the semi-trailer. We also go on the field with the kids and are responsible for getting the pit instruments and props on and off the field.

Uniform parents are a few people in charge of the uniforms. They start during band camp by measuring the kids. Slight alterations may be needed. These boosters also ensure that all uniforms, hats, etc. make it to and from the competitions.

Meal parents are a few Boosters that can help for every meal we provide. This involves planning, organizing, ordering, transporting, serving, and cleaning. We usually feed our kids at least one meal and snacks for each competition and football games.

SNACKS/WATER

Throughout the marching season, Boosters will be asked to donate snacks and bottles of water. The snacks can be things like individually wrapped gummies, goldfish crackers, chips, Little Debbie's, etc. cakes. Items must be able to withstand the heat so don't send things that could melt. The bottles of water are used for competitions and meals before football games. Volunteers are needed for every day of band camp and at every practice to keep the coolers of water and Gatorade full and cups available. Snacks are brought out once before lunch and once after lunch.

FUNDRAISING

The Boosters usually have monthly fundraisers. We also sell items such as "M" decals for vehicles and show shirts. Information is provided at the Booster meetings.

We host an annual competition called the **Maroon Classic**. It is usually held in early September at MNHHS. It can be a large way to raise funds but it is a lot of work. We need as much help as possible. There will be information given at a Booster meeting and plenty of jobs to sign up for to make the day a huge success. It is an all-day event, but it is broken down into several small time slots for volunteers. Of course,

we can always use as much help as possible for set-up and clean-up as well. Senior Recognition is usually held at the Classic. Someone will have to organize pictures, senior memories and wills (for the Classic program), and the recognition on the field.

Our **Calendar Fundraiser** launches with the beginning of band camp. This is a massive fundraiser for our organization. Each student receives a calendar and you get a donation for each day on the calendar to match that date. For example, your grandfather chooses the 28th and pays \$28. When you fill the calendar you have \$496. If each student fills their calendar, then we could raise \$60,000.

AFTER STATE

We still have lots to do!! There will be parades, concerts, solo and ensemble competitions, All-District auditions and performances, and more! We still have monthly meetings so please plan to attend to stay up to date.

Being a Band Booster can be hard work, but it is a lot of fun and worth every second.

Who ya with?
MADVILLE!!!

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