

Dear Marching Band and Color Guard families,

Welcome to the 2018 Santa Teresa Marching Band and Color Guard season. You are now a member of the Santa Teresa Music and Arts Association because your student has joined the marching band or color guard. The Santa Teresa Music & Arts Association (“STMAA”) is a non-profit public benefit corporation created by parents to promote, develop, and support participation in music education and other performing arts in the Santa Teresa High School community. We work in partnership with the school to create opportunities for our students to perform in band and choral festivals, marching band and color guard competitions, and other venues.

Marching Band and Color Guard are a competitive musical and visual sport providing a performance venue for students at competitions which are held throughout California. Our competition appearances place our students in the public spotlight, where they serve as musical ambassadors for our school and district. Working together as a team, not only will the students perform in multiple competitions, they will also perform at home football games, giving non-band families a chance to experience our competition program at home.

Your student will be bringing home a packet today, we wanted to let you know why we ask for financial contributions, fundraising, and volunteers.

Sadly, Marching Band and Color Guard are only given about \$100 and the cost of the music director’s salary by the ESUHSD. All the other expenses of the program are paid for through both our family contributions and fundraising efforts. While every student has a place in the marching band and color guard program -regardless of their ability to contribute financially- we are dependent on our families for assistance in our fundraising efforts and support through your financial contributions.

Pursuant to a legal ruling by the California Supreme Court, we are authorized to charge fees for costs associated with the transportation of the marching band and color guard members, as well as the costs for uniforms and costumes. This year we are collecting \$350 per marching band student and color guard student to cover these costs.

In addition, we are asking that a voluntary contribution of \$550 per marching band student and \$600 for color guard student be made to offset additional costs associated with being a member of the STHS Marching Band or Color Guard. These additional costs include: food for the performers, fees for competitions, marching band staff salaries, equipment and supplies, and show design expenses. This year we anticipate our show to cost almost \$120,000 for our 10 week season. You will see a suggested contribution schedule in your packet today.

We recognize that finances can be very tight for many families and we wish we could scholarship everyone that cannot contribute, but it is impossible. However, families have the ability to participate in a variety of fundraising opportunities provided through our organization.

We offer a variety of **fundraising opportunities**:

- **Coupon books:** Students can help sell band coupon books by participating in the band blitz at the beginning of the marching band season and also by selling at the local grocery stores after school and on the weekends in the fall.
- **Scholarship letters:** send out to family or friends asking for a donation to help. There are many students who have funded their contributions entirely in this fashion. We have a template if you would like some direction on how to compose this letter.
- **Stadium Venues and Vanguard Bingo:** Parents or students can work shifts at local stadium venues that will provide donations directly for their contributions. Another opportunity where parents can work shifts is at the Santa Clara Vanguard Bingo Hall. Funds from those shifts can go directly towards your student's participation in the music program.
- **Merchandise Sale:** This includes the sale of ST school and band spirit apparel, DeBritos apples, See's Candy and more.

Without the financial and fundraising support of Band and Color Guard families our award winning Marching Band and Color Guard programs would disappear due to lack of funding. We have had families meet both their transportation fees and voluntary contributions through fundraising only. We know it is possible.

We need your financial support right from the very start of marching band camp. The payment for the first half of the transportation/uniform/costume cost is scheduled to be due August 1st. Marching Band and Colorguard expenses begin even before band camp starts!

The continued success of our program doesn't stop at the money. Our program could not function if we did not have the volunteer support of parents, guardians and other friends and family members of the band students. We need volunteers not just during our marching band season but during other events over the course of the school year.

Being a band volunteer promises:

- A place to build meaningful friendships with others who share a commitment to our collective students.
- A chance to be close to your student without being too close. Believe it or not, the students really do appreciate the parent volunteers. They find comfort in having the adults nearby (just not too close!)
- An opportunity to make a valuable contribution of your time. You may discover skills or abilities you didn't know you possessed or had long forgotten!

It truly takes a village to make the marching band run. A successful band program has a lot of parent and family volunteers. Success isn't only winning awards but is also in the experience the students take away with them at the end of the season. As a volunteer you'll be surprised at what you take away at the end of the season, too. One of my favorite things is to serve food to the kids after one of their competitions. It's truly like being a fly on the wall. You hear them discussing their performance, you see their relationships with their section coaches and with each other. I truly cannot recommend finding your place as a volunteer with the band enough. It is a very rewarding experience.

Volunteer opportunities are communicated through i volunteer sign ups (stmaa.ivolunteer.com), requests for assistance by email, or board membership! We have many opportunities for you to put your time and talent to good use.

I hope this brief overview helps explain the need for contributions of time, talent and money to the STHS Marching Band & Color Guard. If you have any questions our Santa Teresa Music and Arts Association (STMAA) board members are more than happy to speak with you. You

can find our email addresses both in the STHS MB & CG packet your student will receive on their first day of marching band camp and online at www.600building.com.

I look forward to both getting to know and working with you all,

Sincerely,

Bevlee Doran

2018 STMAA President