

## Welcome New DHS Bandmember!

We are so excited to have you as part of our family. Let me welcome you on behalf of the Band Booster Board. It is my job to inform you of all the costs associated with the program and provide you with the means to pay these fees in a manner that works for both of us.

Starting with the fall of 2011, each band member will be required to purchase their very own pair of bibbers. These are the pants that are worn with the uniform jacket anytime you see the band in a marching performance. The idea behind this is very simple: we have had so much trouble year to year fitting the kids, adjusting for growth each year and upkeep, that it became apparent to us that if each child started out with a pair that was made 'just for them' it would help us all out. If your student takes care of these bibbers, they will last your entire tenure with DHS band and you will not incur this cost again. When your child graduates, you can sell them to an incoming freshman or to another child who has outgrown them. If your child grows a foot over the summer, you will be required to purchase another pair. TAKE CARE OF YOUR UNIFORM!

Our football team will play 10 regular season games, five of which are away. Generally we also make playoffs and will not know till the week of the game if this is a travel game or not. The kids are not allowed to leave the school when we have an away game. We will also participate in 4 competitions and these also require us to travel. In our experience, too many times we have some of our band kids who are unable to leave to get something to eat before the game, or parents are unable to leave work to bring something to eat, or any number of things can happen. So, in light of this, we have started feeding the kids before the away games and on competition days. This was truly a blessing last year! The part of the fee that says 'travel meals' is referring to this service we provide.

Band Camp fees cover the instructors we have on sight those 2 weeks to help our kids learn to march well and also to help Mr. Stout teach the kids the show. We are very proud to have 3 members of our staff to have performed at the DCI level. They bring a lot of experience and knowledge to our camp. This fee also pays for a ticket and transportation to the DCI show we go watch every year. This show will give your child some idea of the level of intensity we strive for.

The general fees cover all the other stuff! There is just no way to completely itemize all the things that are paid for on behalf of the students. We are so very proud of the accomplishments our band has had and will continue to have. It requires a lot of effort on behalf of the student and the parents.

Your child will need a pair of black bandos, which can be purchased at Emiron Music in downtown Decatur and a red compression shirt that we will take sizes

and orders for during band camp. These have to be ordered all at the same time to ensure that they are all the same red.

Finally, if your child uses a school instrument, we have a rental fee to help cover repairs and general use. The fee is \$25 and if your student returns the instrument to us at the end of the year in the same condition it started in, then \$10 of the fee is refundable.

If you have any questions, you can ask any Booster board member and any of us will do our best to answer you or find the right person to get the answer. If there is ever an issue with money or problems with our program, please contact one of us so we can work out something. We very much want your student to be happy and be with us for the entire 4 years.

Go DHS!

Kathryn Silvestri  
Booster Treasurer