

Hello Fort Atkinson Band Parents!

We are so glad your child is a member of the Band Program in our district. We feel we have an incredibly well-supported music program in the Fort Atkinson community, and the talent of our band students is truly outstanding. Thank you for supporting your child as they participate in the band experience!

We wanted to take a moment to go over the fundraising opportunities that exist in the band program and hope you find this information useful and informative.

Each year, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of fundraising events, and we wanted to explain what these fundraised dollars are used for and how they are distributed to the students.

Band students in Fort Atkinson have the opportunity to participate in several big fundraisers:

- 1.) **Band Rummage Sale** (Takes place on one of the first Saturdays in September)
 - a. Band families donate their unwanted goods for the sale. Parent and student volunteers sort through these donations on the Friday eve of the sale, and then run the sale itself the following Saturday morning. Members of the High School Jazz band perform at one point in the morning, and there are food sales in addition to the rummage items. All proceeds go to the general band boosters fund.
- 2.) **High School Marching Band Fall Show** (Takes place on a Sunday in October)
 - a. The High School Marching Band hosts a big Marching Invitational at the Fort Atkinson High School for local bands to come and compete in the Fort Atkinson Jones Dairy Farm Stadium. Admission fees are charged for all attendees, participating bands pay entry fees, and many concessions are sold. All proceeds go to the general band boosters fund.
- 3.) **POPS Concert** (Takes place on a Sunday later in February)
 - a. All band students in grades 5-12 perform in the High School Gymnasium. All attendees pay a small admission fee. A huge basket raffle takes place (baskets donated by parents and community members), and a large refreshment sales table also brings in a large amount of fundraised dollars. All proceeds go to the general band boosters fund.
- 4.) **Band Candy Sale** (Orders collected in February; Actual Sale takes place in March)
 - a. Students turn in order forms indicating how much candy they would like to sell. The candy is made at the VandeWalle Candy company, located in Appleton, WI. All proceeds go to the general band boosters fund.
- 5.) **Mr. Z's, Sports Cups Sale, and More** (exclusive to High School Students)
 - a. High School band students have the opportunity to participate in additional fundraising opportunities (most notably Mr. Z's frozen foods sale). All sale profits from these sales go into individual accounts set up for each student that is documented and maintained on a database at the high school. None of these sales go to the general band boosters fund.
 - b. To check your child's individual account balance, please contact Mr. Kading at kadinga@fortschools.org.

All fundraised dollars that go to the band boosters general fund go directly back to the students. These funds are used to defray:

- 1.) Many of the band **field trip** expenses are defrayed (*as an example, the fifth grade band takes a trip to see the UW Marching Band each year – the tickets to see the UW Band are paid for 100% by the boosters. Students are only responsible for paying for their lunch*).
- 2.) **Guest Artists** and Clinicians (*as an example, the High School Band students have a Guest Clinician come and work with them for an entire day each year – an expense that is largely sponsored by the boosters*).
- 3.) **8th Grade Kalahari Trip** – this annual trip is sponsored by the Band Boosters each year.
- 4.) The cost of **piano accompanists** performing with students at the Performing Arts Festival each year are paid through the Band Boosters account.
- 5.) For all students that attend any music camp, the Band Boosters awards a **\$100 Automatic Scholarship** annually. As an example – many students attend the UW-Whitewater Band Camp each summer. All participants automatically receive \$100 from the boosters after they complete a form indicating they will be participating.
- 6.) Each band student has the opportunity to travel with the Music Department once in their high school career for the **Spring Break Trip**. (*This trip happens once every four years – the next trip will be to Disney over Spring Break of 2017*). The band boosters believe in giving as much to the participating students as they can, as a reward for participating in band for so many years and for their contribution to all the aforementioned fundraisers. For the last trip (in 2013), the Boosters were able to give a collective amount of over \$30,000 which was divided out amongst those students participating to help defray the cost of the trip. The amount given each trip year varies and depends on how much money has been raised in the band boosters general fund over the years prior.

As you can see, the Band Fundraisers that take place every year are very important and truly benefit every student in band. We discuss fundraisers and fundraised dollars at each of our Band Boosters Meetings. We would love to see you at those meetings and value your opinions. You are all invited!

If you have any immediate questions regarding this information, please contact your child's band director:

Mrs. Gary (garyj@fortschools.org) – 5th Grade Band
Mr. Fettig (fettigs@fortschools.org) – Middle School Band
Mr. Kading (kadinga@fortschools.org) – High School Band

We hope you found this information to be informative.

Sincerely,

The Band Boosters Board Members