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

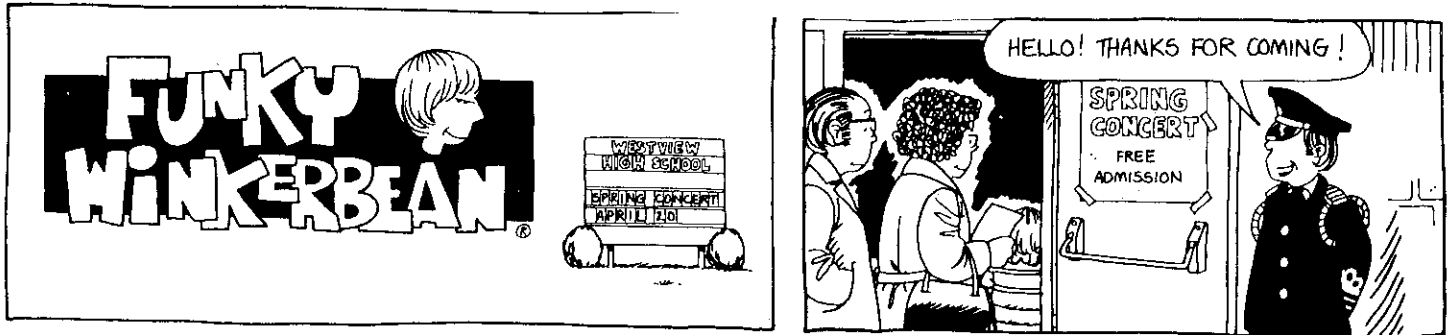


**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

<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 an automatic member by having a student in the instrumental music programs. Board Members are elected each May by the membership for the upcoming school year. The Boosters hold monthly meetings in the music room 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 within the Instrumental Music Department?**

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

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

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** does NOT have a class time and is a second-semester ensemble. All practices are after school. Band students audition for Drumline in December or early January.

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

The costs for each program are determined by the Music Booster Board which creates a budget for the upcoming school year based on projected and historical costs for all of the programs. Then, the budgeted costs for each program are divided among the number of projected students for each program. You pay for each program your student is in.

The budget has not yet been set for the 2006/2007 school year; therefore, the exact participation costs are not yet available. However, shown below are the costs as they were for the 2005/2006 school year.

|                                |          |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Marching Band:                 | \$340.00 | First semester cost  |
| Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Winds: | \$ 45.00 | Second semester cost |
| Total Band:                    | \$385.00 |                      |
| Color Guard:                   | \$320.00 | First semester cost  |
| Winter Guard:                  | \$220.00 | Second semester cost |
| Total Color Guard:             | \$595.00 |                      |
| Orchestra:                     | \$200.00 | Cost for the year    |
| Drumline:                      | \$320.00 | Second semester cost |
| Jazz Band:                     | \$135.00 | Cost for the year    |

The participation costs for all programs can be paid during the course of the school year. One-third deposit for first semester costs for Marching Band and Color Guard are due in August with the other two-thirds payable over the fall, and second semester costs can be divided into two payments in winter/spring. For Orchestra, one-half deposit of the annual costs is due in August with the second half due in winter/spring. For Jazz Band, one-half deposit of the annual costs are due at the first billing. The total costs for all music programs are due by June 1. You will receive statements from the Treasurer on a regular basis.

Winter Guard and Drumline fees will first be billed in January. For Color Guard, Winter Guard, Drumline and Jazz Band, there are additional uniform and/or flag costs. Students are also required to purchase concert attire for Wind Ensemble and Orchestra. Marching Band uniforms are provided by the school. All accounts must be current in order for seniors to receive their graduation cap and gown, and for anyone to attend the End of Year Awards Banquet.

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

ABSOLUTELY. Fundraising is a way of life for the Music Boosters and several of the fundraisers are aimed at providing families the opportunity to defray their 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% going to your student's individual fundraising account. The more items sold, the more earned toward your student's fundraising account. These funds are automatically credited to your account as you earn them.

6. *What do our dues (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; 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 dues (costs), are there any additional costs to the Booster families?*

Yes. Parents are responsible for all trip costs which will include charter bus rentals, hotel accommodations, meals (except Friday sack lunch), and entertainment (usually bowling). Students need to plan on attending *every* trip.

Final arrangements for away trips for the 2006/2007 school year are not set at this time. The first Music Boosters Newsletter for the 2006/2007 school year will detail trip plans for the year such as dates, locations and costs. This newsletter should arrive at your homes prior to Band Camp in August.

Please 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. The budgeted cost for coaches last year was \$65,000. Therefore, you can see the importance of fundraising to this organization. If we do not raise enough money through fundraising to pay coaches' salaries, we will be forced to raise the operating costs paid by each family.

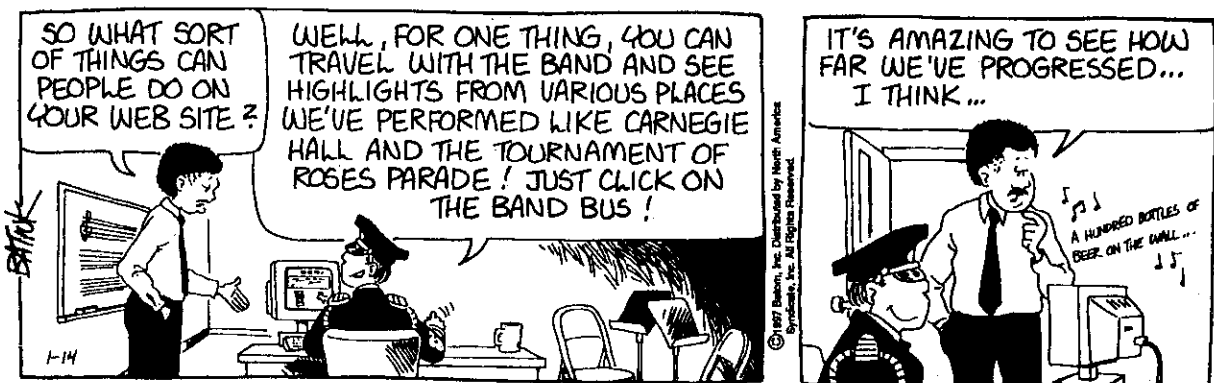


9. *How do I get involved and keep informed of upcoming events and fundraisers?*

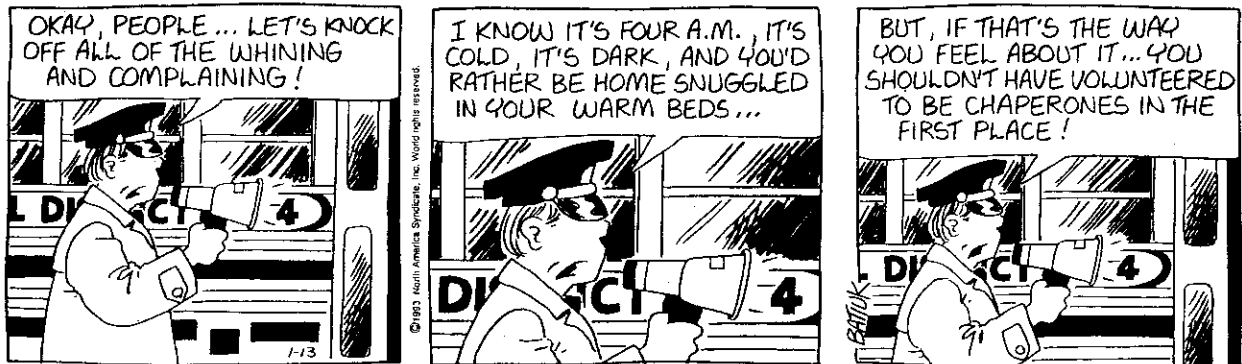
The best way to stay informed and involved is to attend the Music Booster meetings held the second Monday of each month in the high school's multi-purpose room at 7:00 p.m. You will receive information pertaining to upcoming events and fundraisers; have the opportunity to sign up for chaperoning; get any questions answered; meet other parents; sign up for committees, etc.



On a regular basis, you will receive in the mail a newsletter, a statement updating your balance due, and information pertaining to any upcoming fundraisers. Our website is updated regularly and has all the upcoming events on its calendar along with meeting dates, fundraising information, etc. The site name is: <http://thsmusic.com>. The Board members are also very accessible via phone or email, and you can find their contact information on the website.



An easy way to become involved is to be a chaperone for one or more events. In addition to away trips, chaperones are needed for local competitions, festivals and football games. Chaperoning is a great way to meet the other parents and to get to know the students.



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.

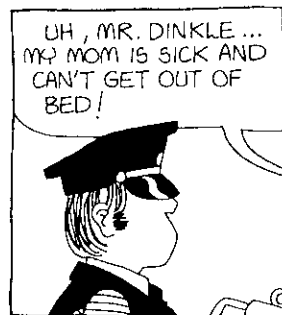
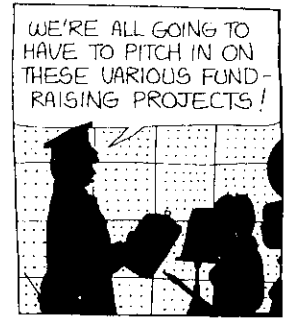
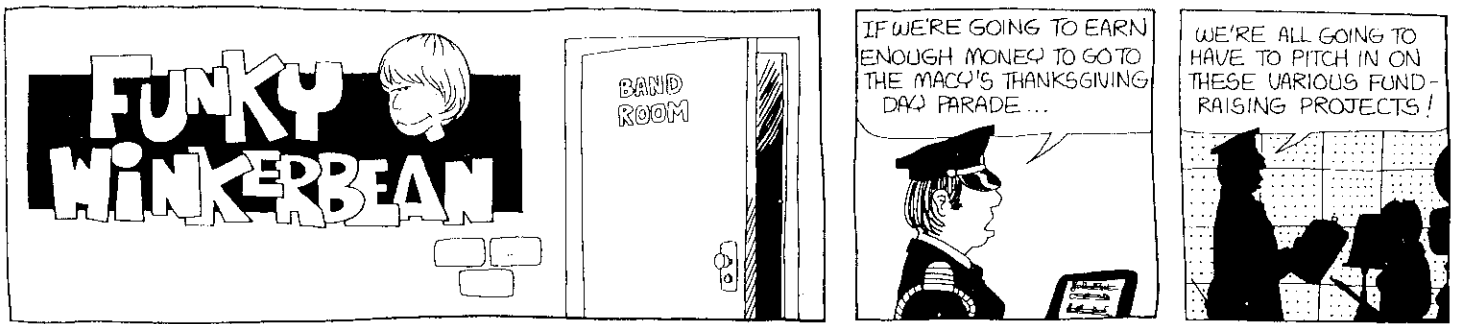
11. ***What is expected of parents?***

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 uniforms, 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. And, again, the funds do not just magically appear! It takes a lot of work, over the course of the entire year, to fundraise the money we need and to collect the operating costs from Booster families.

The Participation Credits program is to encourage *every* parent to get involved. Credits are earned for participating, whether it's volunteering your time or participating in a fundraiser. The music programs need every Booster family to contribute.

Each family is given a required amount of participation credits to be earned during the school year. This amount depends upon which music ensemble your student is involved (maximum 200 credits, or \$200). As you earn credits by volunteering or participating in fundraisers, your obligation is reduced. Each credit is worth \$1.00. In May, you will be billed for the balance due (the difference between the original obligation and the amount earned).



12. *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 field show competitions and concerts. Get to know the other parents and even the students by getting involved as a Booster volunteer. Go on the road trips. Chaperone. You will find the Booster organization to be full of caring, hard-working parents and you, too, will make lasting friendships. It will be a time in your lives that neither your student or you will ever forget.

