



# **Student & Parent Handbook**

## **2020 – 2021**

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**Director of Instrumental Music**

**<http://thhsmusic.com>**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Trabuco Hills High School Instrumental Music Program. ***Your student joins one of the premier organizations on campus, known for its significant percentage of “scholar athletes” with a 3.5 GPA or higher!*** In fact, our program has the highest GPA of any group at THHS. A significant portion of our students are high achievers and are in Advanced Placement (AP) classes. With a dual focus on academics and enrichment, your student will have a great time, and establish a social basis of friends quickly.

The Instrumental Music Program at Trabuco Hills offers:

- Marching Unit
- Percussion Ensemble
- Color Guard
- Jazz Ensembles
- Pep Band
- Adv/Int Orchestra
- Symphony Orchestra
- Wind Ensemble
- Symphonic Band

This handbook will help make your student’s experience more enjoyable. Please refer to this handbook if you have any questions about the program or contact our Director of Instrumental Music, Brad Pollock, any of our THHS Instrumental Music Boosters Board Members or staff.

Every parent of a music program student is automatically a member of THHS Music Boosters.

## About THHS Music Boosters

The THHS Music Boosters main goal is to make the THHS Music program successful and rewarding for the students. Music Boosters provides financial support for our programs, as well as logistical and emotional support to the students. We are an active group of parents, family, alumni parents and alumni. We ask all parents to volunteer as much as possible.

Music Boosters chaperone students at all events, as well as organizes fundraising activities to financially support and sustain the music program. **At competitions the most important function of the Boosters is to move all the necessary performance equipment, and assist with uniforms.** We also feed the students at competitions.

Parent participation is critical to make the THHS Music program work. We are looking for volunteers to help out in whatever capacity they can, and even chair a committee. Experience is not necessary. We enjoy meeting parents and getting everyone involved. Visit our web site at <http://thsmusic.com> for more information.

## Keep Informed

Communication is key to the success of your student in the THHS Instrumental Music Program. The THHS Music Boosters have several ways for you to stay informed and up-to-date on our events and activities.

**We rely on electronic communications —to update everyone as quickly as possible —and to save costs.** (It is expensive to mail materials to every family in our program.) We rely on you to stay up-to-date with the latest information, and to check your email:

- <http://thsmusic.com> – The calendar for all our ensembles is updated regularly on our website. Please note our mantra that **“No schedule is sacred and subject to change.”** Itineraries for competitions, as well as directions are posted as soon as they are available.
- **Parent Meetings** – Attending the monthly meeting is the best way to hear all the details about upcoming events, and to ask questions.

- **Constant Contact** – The music program uses a third-party application to send periodic message to the students and parents in the music program to highlight important events for the entire program.
- **Email** – The staff and board members also use email to communicate to the students and parent tailored to specific ensembles within the program.
- **Social Media** – The music program has social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We encourage all students and parents to join and/or follow these platforms that pertain to the entire music program. There are also some private Facebook groups for the students in specific ensembles within the program.

## **Parent Donations & Fundraising**

The only cost of the music program that the school district pays for is the salary of the Director of Instrumental Music. To provide additional specialized instructional lessons for each student, the Music Boosters pays stipends to have staff for each ensemble. ***It is important to note that we rely heavily on parents to provide voluntary donations to cover the staff stipends as well as the operational costs of the music program.*** Please be assured that costs are kept as low as possible, while still providing an academic and enriching environment. You will receive separate information regarding requested donations per ensemble that your student participates in.

Music Boosters offer a variety of fundraisers throughout the year, and discuss it at our monthly Music Booster meetings. We encourage all parents to participate in raising donations. All funds raised and donations go into the general fund of the Music Boosters, which **benefits all the students** in Instrumental Music Program.

### **Bingo Info**

Bingo is our most important fundraiser and is held every Thursday night in the THHS Multi-Purpose Room, with only a few exceptions for holidays and other school events. Bingo is run exclusively by the Music Boosters. **Each booster family is expected to volunteer at Bingo, a minimum of one Thursday night, per month.** Volunteering (or playing) is a great way to help the program, meet other boosters, and have a lot of fun. See the music website at <http://thhsmusic.com> for links to the online Bingo sign-up page.

### **Tournament In The Hills (TITH) Info**

THHS Music Program hosts the annual Tournament in the Hills (TITH) field show competition at Trabuco Hills High School – which is on Saturday, November 14, 2020 this school year. TITH is one of the most well-respected and renowned competitions in Southern California. It is also the largest, single-day fundraiser for the music program.

Our Music Booster parents run the ticket booth, snack bar, hospitality room, first aid, coordinate the bus parking, in addition to all the event logistics. We need a minimum of 200 parents to execute our THHS fundraiser! **ALL PARENTS FROM EVERY ENSEMBLE ARE REQUIRED TO VOLUNTEER AND HELP WITH THIS EVENT!** Proceeds go into the general fund of the Boosters and **benefits all the students** in the Music Program.

## **Monthly Parent Meetings**

The first Parent Meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020. **Parent Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month (with some exceptions) in the MPR, next to the Admin Office.** All parents should attend the monthly Parent Meetings. Attendance at these meetings provides parents with important information, about upcoming competitions, rehearsals, trips and announcements. It is also an excellent way to get your questions answered. Students are welcome to attend these meetings.

## **Chaperones & Helping Out**

Since the students are involved in many activities both on and off campus, Music Boosters provides the chaperones and logistical support. Your involvement is welcomed – but also critical. There are so many things that need to get done, that we are confident we can find something that matches your skill set, and interest. We encourage you to get started today by contacting one of our Board Members (listed on the last page and on the website).

## **Philosophy and Goals of the Program**

**Integrity and participation are the keys to one's success in the THHS Instrumental Music Program. A student's integrity is seen as a display of their character.**

What's expected from each student:

- participation
- responsibility
- support of each other
- honesty
- respect for oneself
- maturity
- courage
- humility

Participation is just that, doing what the student needs to do so they and the program can succeed. Each student is expected to fully participate, which includes not only at performance, but punctual and complete attendance at all rehearsals, assisting with any and all equipment as required, and working together with other students, instructional staff, the Director of instrumental Music and THHS Music Boosters.

### **Our Philosophy**

**Through participation in the THHS Instrumental Music Program, each student will acquire a greater sense of self- confidence, selflessness, organization, industry, artistic skill and maturity.**

### **Student Expectations**

You will represent our school and THHS in public forums many times over the course of a school year and, because of this, your behavior and performance is closely watched and evaluated. More is expected of you than is expected of most other students. Whether you are in rehearsal, performance, or traveling on a school-sponsored activity, your first obligation is to conduct yourself in a manner that brings credit to you, the ensemble, and Trabuco Hills High School Instrumental Music Program. Failure to do this will have an adverse effect on your grade and, if the infraction is serious enough, you'll be suspended from further musical participation for the term.

### **Rehearsal Etiquette**

- All students are required to be at ALL rehearsals and performances ON TIME and ready to perform.
- Students are expected to be quiet and attentive during all rehearsals. (It is time to learn and work, not a social gathering.)
- Mutual respect for one another is expected.
- No food or beverages allowed inside the music room.
- No practicing during rehearsal.

### **Approved Outerwear**

The standard dress attire for any member of the Trabuco Hills High School Instrumental Music Program when the student is not in his/her uniform or concert attire is jeans and blue polos. When the temperature drops and the weather gets colder, the students are encouraged to wear additional layers to stay warm. These are the only articles of clothing that are approved outerwear for the members in the program: THHS Music Booster Spiritwear, TITH Spiritwear, Guard Warm-Ups, Drumline Jacket and THHS Letterman Jacket.

### **Required Materials**

All students are required to have the following items ready for immediate use at the beginning of rehearsal:

1. Your instrument (for Guard members this is your equipment) in good repair, and all accompanying accessories. For woodwind players this includes 2 reeds; for brass players this includes valve oil, spray bottle, mutes (when needed); for percussionists this includes appropriate sticks and mallets.
2. Your music and folder, one set for each music student. If you share a stand with another student and that student is absent, you are responsible for having your own music available. Each student will be issued a numbered music folio for use during rehearsal and performance; if your music folio must be replaced, you will be charged for it. All folios are to be stored in the appropriate music cabinet.
3. At least one No. 2 pencil with eraser for marking music. No music will be marked in pen; if this occurs, you will pay for the replacement of the part.

Failure to have any of these three required items ready to go when rehearsal begins will have a negative impact on your grade (see Grading Policy section).

### **Recommended Materials**

While not required, each music student should have their own tuner and metronome. The Director of Instrumental Music can acquire these items at a reduced cost if necessary.

### **Attendance Policy**

During the school day, once the tardy bell sounds music students have three additional minutes to get everything together that they need and be ready to rehearse. If a student violates this time limit, he/she will be considered tardy and their grade will be affected. After three such tardies, the school will require the student to do detention work. For further information, please see the THHS Student Handbook.

On-time attendance at all functions for the student's ensemble (rehearsals and performances) is mandatory. Doctor's appointments, work, other activities, and family vacations are not an excuse for being late or missing or being late to rehearsals and performances.

- Doing so will result in lowering the performance grade.
- If there is a schedule conflict the parent or student must contact the Director of instrumental Music or other instructional staff immediately.

### **Call Time**

A "call-time" for a performance or rehearsal is the time at which students are expected to be ready to start. That means students must be on the field or inside the classroom and ready to rehearse, with everything he/she needs. (A student is late when a parent drops off a student at the curb at "call-time.") Arriving late will count as a tardy, and the student's grade will be affected.

### **Early Dismissal Policy**

We are strongly opposed to any student leaving early or arriving late to any performance. However, we have adopted the following which correspond with THHS and SVUSD policy:

- Anyone wishing to leave a performance (e.g. competition or football game) prior to the group dismissal must submit the completed TRANSPORTATION EXEMPTION FORM from the website / Administration Office to the Director of Instrumental Music
- The Director of instrumental Music must receive it at least one week prior to the event.
- Please write an explanation for the early dismissal request.
- The student will be dismissed only to his/her parent or guardian or an adult (21 years or older), authorized in writing by his/her parents. (The student will NOT be dismissed to an unauthorized adult, unauthorized sibling or boy/girlfriend.)

Anyone becoming ill during a performance should tell a staff member or chaperone, who will attend to the student's needs and then call a parent if necessary. The parent must check-out with a staff member or the Director of instrumental Music to take their student home early.

**THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY! NO STUDENT WILL DRIVE HIM OR HERSELF TO AN ORGANIZED PERFORMANCE — NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **Grading Policy**

Trabuco Hills High School uses a traditional grading scale for its quarter and semester grades. My interpretation of the letter grades is as follows:

- A. The highest grade you can earn. It means your attendance has been perfect, your conduct, effort, and respect for others during rehearsals and performances have been outstanding, you have practiced, learned and performed your individual part with distinction and have made steady and evident improvement as a performer during the year .
- B. This reflects good work but one or a combination of deficiencies exists including attendance, conduct, practice, preparation, part performance or lack of improvement.
- C. This means your work, attendance, and practice habits are much less than they need to be. Deficiencies exist similar to those for a grade of "B" but are of a more serious or prolonged nature.
- D. Very serious problems exist in most or all areas of your participation. This may reflect lack of practice, consistent tardiness, excessive absences, and/or poor conduct.
- F . Failing to do what is required of you as a member of the ensemble. Lack of marked improvement in pulling up an F during the following term means you should elect another class.

Your grade consists of essentially two components:

1. Performance assessment includes written tests, playing tests, concert reviews, ensemble performances, scale tests, and other assessments that require the student to perform on some level.
2. Daily participation includes punctual attendance at all rehearsals and performances, class conduct, respect for others, and performance decorum.

### **Academic Eligibility**

In order to rehearse, perform, and be a part of any ensemble outside the normal school day, a student must remain academically eligible. A student becomes academically ineligible if:

- Grade point average (GPA) falls below 2.0
- Receive two or more marks of "U" (unsatisfactory)
- Two or more grades of "F" in any grading period

While a student must attend all classes, a student may not participate in anything associated with the ensemble outside the regular school day. There are two remedies for this situation:

1. The student raises grades up to a 2 .0 and citizenship reports up to an "S" (satisfactory);
2. Apply for a one-time-only probationary exemption under SVUSD Administrative Regulation 6145 .1 . The student needs to see his/her Guidance Tech or the Director of instrumental Music for more details.

## **Marching Unit**

The "Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit" features members in the following sections: woodwinds, brass, percussion and color guard competing as one unit. The Marching Unit starts in the summer and goes through the first semester of the school year. Students receive PE credit for the fall semester.

Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit is an extremely successful group. We are pleased that our award-winning students excel at the Western Band Association (WBA). Below are just a few of their noteworthy accomplishments:

- WBA Class AAAA Undefeated Season in 2018 (championships cancelled due to wildfires)
- WBA Class A/AA/AAA Grand Champions & Class AAA Champions in 2017
- WBA Class A/AA/AAA Grand Champions in 2016
- WBA Class A/AA/AAA Grand Champions & Class AAA Champions in 2014
- WBA Class A/AA/AAA Grand Champions & Class AAA Champions in 2012
- WBA Class AAAA Champions in 2009
- WBA Class AAAA Champions in 2005
- WBA Class A/AA Champions in 2000
- MBASC Class AA Champions in 1995
- MBASC Class A Champions in 1994
- MBASC Class A Champions in 1993

This unit will learn an intricate field show of music and marching. Our students compete in field show competitions against other schools, traditionally held in football stadiums. The field shows are generally most Saturdays beginning in early October and continue until the weekend before Thanksgiving.

**ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY. Due to the complexity of this show, if even one student is absent, it is quite evident on the field and the group's success will suffer.**

### **Band Camp Info**

- **BAND CAMP DAILY ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!**
- Band Camp is held in the month of July & August for 2-3 weeks before school begins.
- This year incoming freshmen members, new members from any grade level, all color guard members and all battery members should report on Monday, July 27, 2020 & Tuesday, July 28, 2020 from 9:00am until 1:00pm for Rookie Band Camp.
- Every member of the Marching Unit should report on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 8:00am for Band Camp.
- Band Camp is held 8:00am until 5:00pm each weekday at Trabuco Hills High School.
- **All student paperwork and donations must be turned in on their first day of band camp, whether it is rookie band camp or band camp.**
  - **If a signed emergency card is not turned in the first day, your student can't participate.**
- Dentist, doctor and other appointments should not conflict with rehearsal times.
- It is also highly recommended that your child is physically active a few weeks prior to band camp, so they will more easily be able to participate.



### Sectionals Info

Sectionals are additional practices held for that particular group or section. Sectionals begin in July to help get incoming freshman and new students up to speed with our music or Color Guard routines. For example, the Woodwinds and Brass section will have sectionals in the afternoons on Mondays & Tuesdays during July. Drumline will have rehearsals and camps throughout June & July. Color Guard will have rehearsals and camps throughout June, July and August. Section leaders, captains or the staff may schedule additional sectionals on an ad hoc basis. Our calendar often changes, so we encourage you to check it regularly for updates.

### Rehearsals Info

When school is in session, rehearsals are after school on Tuesdays afternoons, Thursdays evenings, Friday afternoons and Saturdays in September through November for the Marching Unit. Various instrumental sections may have additional rehearsals from time to time or additional rehearsals may be called at the Director's discretion. **Once again, all rehearsals are mandatory.**

### Alternate Info

Every student in the Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit is a vital and intricate member that allows for the group to achieve success. As such, participation at all rehearsals and camps is required and makes a big difference for the benefit of the unit. To illustrate that point, read the following paragraph with the letter "e" not functioning on the keyboard:

You arx a kxy pxrson

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works vxry wxll xxxcpt for onx kxy. You would think that with all thx othxr kxys functioning propxrlly , only onx kxy not working would hardly bx noticxd; but just onx kxy out of whack sxrms to ruin thx wholx xffort. You may say to yoursxlf, "wxll I'm only onx pxrson. No onx will noticx if I don't do my bxst." But it doxs makx a diffxrxncx bxcausx to bx xffctivx an organization nxxds activx participation by vxvry onx to thx bxst of his or hxr abilitixs. So thx ntxt timx you think you arx not important, rxmxmbxr my old typxwritxr. You arx a kxy pxrson!!!!!!

Imagine the frustration of trying to rehearse or perform with one or two members missing. The absence of one person creates a bigger impact than can be imagined. As such, the Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit does use an 'Alternate System' within some sections of the unit. Attendance and achievement at sectionals, rehearsals and camps during the summer will determine where your contributions will be during the fall.

Alternates are determined during band camp. The alternate's role is to share a spot with another alternate and "alternate" during performances and rehearsals; ensuring equitable distribution of events performed. An alternate's status can change by either challenging a regular member or to be placed in a regular spot by a staff member. An alternate must be able to execute the work in the regular spot to hold it. In a challenge situation, the challenger must better the person they are challenging. An alternate is expected to attend all sectionals, rehearsals and performances and be ready to perform at any given time.

### Uniforms Info

Color Guard will be measured for their uniform during the summer. Marching Band Uniform Fittings are during Band Camp. **Although Marching Band uniforms are assigned to each student, uniforms do NOT go home.** Each Marching Band student will be assigned two pairs of white uniform pants. One pair is for competitions only; the other pair is "football pants" and is worn only at football games.

This year will be the second year of our NEW UNIFORMS! The Boosters have a dedicated group of parents that take care of the uniforms — including dry cleaning all pants after competitions and football games. Each student is taught how to hang his or her uniform, and where it should be hung on the uniform racks.

Each marching student should purchase his/her own marching shoes, practice gloves and performance gloves. During Band Camp, students will be fitted for their uniform and marching shoes. The Uniform Coordinator places ONE group order to purchase uniform marching shoes.

- **Students who fail to turn in forms and donations on time will be responsible for buying their own uniform marching shoes from Peacock's Marching World in Phoenix, AZ.**
- Parents may want to purchase shoes that are one size too large and double up on socks so the shoes can perhaps last for more than one year.

*(Regarding Color Guard uniforms, please see the Color Guard Uniform and Equipment Info below.)*

Marching Band students are REQUIRED to wear a solid dark t-shirt with sleeves and solid dark shorts (tank tops are not allowed) under the uniform. It is recommended that the students wear slim fitting athletic / compression shorts, as the blacks must be worn underneath jeans and polo shirts. This attire is required for the following reasons:

1. The t-shirt and shorts protect your uniform, which must survive at least 10 years.
2. The t-shirt and shorts are NECESSARY to cover your body while changing in parking lots. Because we are a large group, we are unable to change in bathrooms or private dressing rooms.

Color Guard members must have their body tights on before we leave for a competition. Color Guard changes on the bus, and is REQUIRED to bring a blanket or towel to hang in the windows. They must sit while changing. Marching Band students must wait outside the bus until the entire Color Guard ensemble has finished changing. The parent chaperones will monitor the dressing-out process.

### **Polo Shirts Info**

At competitions, football games, when students are not in uniform, it is mandatory for them to wear the Instrumental Music Program blue polo shirt. All students are encouraged to purchase at least one Instrumental Music blue polo shirt. However, we strongly suggest purchasing two. When the students travel, they must wear these at all times while in public, and the shirts get dirty after only one or two days. This also aids in quick turnarounds of Friday football games and Saturday competitions."

### **Competitions Info**

Field show competitions are events where the Marching Unit competes against other schools. These are fun and exciting events that parents should plan to attend. There may be as few as 10 or as many as 70 schools at competitions. At most competitions schools are classified by the size of the performing unit. Students will be given a "call time" to report to school. Details for each competition are usually given to students the week preceding the event. They are transported by bus to the event and back. All students are required to ride the bus. Students will not return from a competition until late in the evening. **Students may not leave when we return to THHS – they need to stay to help put away all the equipment.** This usually takes about an hour or so after we arrive back to THHS. The Director of Instrumental Music will announce when the students are dismissed and able to go home.

During cold weather, each student needs to bring warm clothes and an approved jacket. Meals for members of the Marching Unit are provided by the Boosters. (Meal cost is included in the suggested donations per student, and will be announced when marching season begins.)

### **Parent Volunteers**

We have a slogan – "Music Boosters – It Doesn't Just Happen" – meaning that we rely heavily on the parental support to volunteer for any and all aspects to support the students. The Booster Board will manage the corp of volunteers using Signup.com, a link to which is available in the footer of the website. Please sign up!!!

### **Pushing Pit Info**

We joke around and call it “pushing pit” but it is a critical task that Boosters must do at all performances. Pit equipment includes percussion instruments, sound system, etc. The pit crew must quickly move the pit equipment on and off the field in a limited time or we get penalty points. It takes many people to do this quickly and effectively. We always need a lot of parent volunteers. We need parents from the Marching Unit to help us out. The Vice Presidents of Band coordinate these efforts.

### **Football Games Info**

The Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit attends home football games and league away games to help promote school spirit. Pep songs are played from the stands. Halftime performances are mandatory for the Marching Unit. Please note we need chaperones to assist us before, during and after a football game. Chaperones are expected to sit in the stands with the Marching Unit.

### **Overnight Trip Info**

We typically have one overnight trip planned during the first semester for the Marching Unit. For Fall 2020, the Marching Unit is scheduled to perform in the 2020 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, New York on Thursday, November 26, 2020. Details about the out-of-town trip will be discussed at a Parent Meeting. The costs for this elective field trip are in addition to regular donations and costs. As such, all participants must be current with all donations, contributions and costs in order to participate in this elective trip to New York. Please remember that fundraisers can help to defray costs of trips.

### **Chaperone Info**

Chaperones are needed at football games, competitions and overnight trips. First, it is important for you to know that we take good care of the kids. The chaperones truly have as much fun (or more) than the students. They too make new friends by participating. We strongly urge parents to consider signing up to chaperone at an event or overnight trip. Parents will make friends in the process and have as much fun, if not more, than the students.

### **Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit TV Spot**

In the Fall of 2016, Mission Viejo Television did a feature on the 2016 Trabuco Hills High School Thundering Mustangs Marching Unit. The 30-minute video features snippets from rehearsals, competitions, before-and-after shots and interviews with students, staff and parents. Check it out and enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/yOqNHBVltpk>

### **Color Guard**

Color Guards spins flags, sabers and rifles performing to music, and includes dance. Color Guard members may audition for the weapons line which includes rifles and sabers, at the Color Guard Staff’s discretion. During first semester they are considered part of Marching Unit, and add pageantry to the field show with Color Guard’s choreography and equipment. The Marching Unit performs at home football games and competitions as one unit.

Color Guard dance classes are on Thursday nights, and are listed on the calendar as movement rehearsals. During first semester, they rehearsal with the Marching Unit. Saturday rehearsals are also mandatory. Due to the intricacy of the routines, significant practice is required. Everyone in Color Guard is expected to have a commitment to excellence and a positive attitude.

### **Uniform Info**

Color Guard uniforms are decided upon by the Director of Instrumental Music and the Color Guard Staff. Parent donations for uniforms generally run approximately \$200; the same uniform may or may not be used for the Fall and Winter seasons. Parents need to purchase jazz shoes (color determined by instructional staff) and appropriate undergarments (tights, bodytights, etc.) depending on uniform choice from a local dance store. Freshman and first time members will need to purchase gear bag, flag bag, and warm-up suits (approx \$200) – ordered from the Spiritwear Order Form.

### **Equipment Info**

The Music Boosters provides all rehearsal and performance flags, as well as all flag poles. It is the responsibility of each Color Guard member to keep them in good working condition. To make it easier to transport Color Guard equipment to/from school, each member is encouraged to buy a flag bag, and a gear bag with their names embroidered on them. Weapons line members are encouraged to buy gloves for padding and protection, and they should purchase their own rifles and sabers. Details for equipment will be provided by the Co-Vice Presidents of Color Guard.

*(Please refer to the Marching Unit portion of this handbook for information on summer band camp, sectionals, rehearsals, polo shirts, pushing pit, football games, competitions and overnight trip.)*

### **Winter Guard Info**

During the second semester Color Guard is known as Winter Guard, performing to recorded music inside a gym, with a new routine (The Marching Unit is not involved). There is an additional cost for uniforms for Winter Guard. The rehearsal schedule is similar to first semester. Competitions are on Saturdays starting in February through April. Winter Guard's finals competitions are local.

### **Percussion Ensemble**

The Percussion Ensemble (AKA Winter Drumline) is during second semester, with a select group of percussionists that includes percussion and pit instruments. Drumline competes inside a gym, using music and choreography. Marching Band uniforms are not worn. To make this group successful we need all Drumline parents to attend the competitions, to assist in loading and unloading equipment and props, before and after performances. Try-outs are held in December or January, and membership is strictly voluntary. Additionally, parents are asked to carpool students to and from competitions, as a bus is not used to transport students.

### **Uniform Info**

Drumline uniforms are decided upon by the Director of instrumental Music and the Drumline Staff. Parents' donations for uniforms and shoes is approximately \$200 per season. Details for will be provided by the Co-Vice Presidents of Drumline.

### **Chamber Strings & Intermediate Orchestra**

Orchestra consists of musicians who play string instruments. During the first semester, students will learn many pieces of music in preparation for "festivals," which are Orchestra's version of competitions. The orchestra will attend festivals and play before judges during the second semester of the school year. Orchestra is judged, scored and awarded a rating from "Good" to "Superior." Since 2007, the THHS Orchestra has always scored a "Unanimous Superior." Prior to that, Orchestra scored either "Unanimous Superior or Superior" at festivals. *(See Uniform Info below.)*

## **Symphony Orchestra**

The Symphony Orchestra competes in festivals with string musicians, as well musicians in wind and percussion who are advanced players (usually from the Wind Ensemble). There is not a separate class period for symphonic orchestra. The Director of Instrumental Music chooses members and participation is strictly voluntary. Independent study credit is offered to wind and percussion players. *(See Uniform Info below.)*

## **Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band**

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Winds are full year ensembles. These ensembles are essentially “concert bands.” Wind Ensemble is a “by audition” ensemble and Symphonic Band is the remainder of all wind players. In the event there are not enough students to have separate Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band ensembles, the group is combined into one Wind Symphony ensemble. Usually there are no after school rehearsals. These groups perform at festivals and concerts during the spring semester.

A limited number of Wind Ensemble and/or Symphonic Band students will be given an opportunity to participate in Symphony Orchestra. This is strictly voluntary. The Symphony Orchestra consists of the String Orchestra and a few chosen wind instruments. There is no school period for this group. Rehearsals are held during lunch, as well as some afternoons and evenings.

### **Uniform Info**

Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds and Wind Symphony are required to wear “Concert Attire” for all performances. Concert attire is similar to tuxedos and is not included in ensemble donations.

#### **Girls Concert Attire**

- All black dress, must be floor length
- Shoulders must be covered by the dress or a black sweater (no shawl, wrap, etc. allowed)
- bodice and skirt must be same material; no insets of lace or other material
- modest cut in front and back; no side slits
- black hosiery
- black closed-toe shoes without a lot of embellishment; flats preferred

#### **Boys Concert Attire**

- black tuxedo jacket
- black tuxedo shirt
- black tuxedo slacks
- black patent-leather dress shoes
- solid black socks

**It is the parent’s responsibility to take their son or daughter to purchase concert attire at Friar Tux in Irvine, California. Orders need to be placed no later than September 11, 2020.**

- Friar Tux has the THHS Music concert attire style on file. The cost of the concert attire including shoes is generally around \$150. Girls may purchase shoes at Friar Tux or at a regular shoe store.

*Occasionally, graduating students donate their concert attire to Music Boosters, which can be purchased at a reduced rate through the Co-Vice Presidents of Orchestra. Please note that purchasing donated attire is on a first-come, first-served basis, and that sizes and availability vary.*

## **Jazz Ensembles**

The Jazz Ensembles are an audition only, second semester class. Audition information will be available at the start of the school year. The jazz ensemble performs at assemblies, school concert and other gigs. In the spring, it performs at jazz festivals held throughout southern California. The jazz ensemble has different concert attire. Details will be provided by the VP of Jazz Ensemble.

## **Instrumental Music Awards**

**These awards are handed out at the annual Awards Banquet at the end of the year:**

- Rookie of the Year
- Most Improved Musician
- Most Inspirational Musician
- Outstanding Jazz Musician
- Outstanding Woodwind Musician
- Outstanding Brass Musician
- Outstanding Color Guard Member
- Outstanding String Musician
- Outstanding Percussionist
- Most Outstanding Musician
- Director's Academic Award

**Academic Letters** — These are awarded to students who have enrolled and participated in a single ensemble for two (2) years.

**Letter Bars** — These bars, which are sewn across one's Academic Letters, are awarded to students who have enrolled and participated in a single ensemble for three (3) years.

## **In Conclusion**

We ask parents to become involved in the musical education of their child. The more involved parents are, the more value the students place on his or her participation. It also results in better communication between all of us. Also, the more positive you are about the music program and their participation in it, the greater positive experience they will have. Regularly encourage and monitor practice at home. Students have music and color guard homework every day; practice their parts in a productive and sustained manner. We would also ask that you consider private instruction for your student. We have names of teachers in the area that can provide this, please contact our Director of Instrumental Music Mr. Pollock. The importance parents place on practice will translate directly into a heightened realization on their part about the significant role it plays in their success.

### **THHS Instrumental Music Boosters Board Members**

We hope this handbook is informative. If you have any questions, please contact any of the THHS Instrumental Music Boosters Board Members.

President	Carol Cinquepalmi	bahama61499@gmail.com	(630) 650-9467
Co-Treasurer	Mark Sailer	sailerfamily@cox.net	(949) 231-8154
Co-Treasurer	TBD*	TBD*	TBD*
Secretary	Sherry Weldon	oc.rocketb@gmail.com	(949) 766-9974
Co-VP of Ways & Means	Cynthia Longacre	cynthialongacre@yahoo.com	(949) 433-5510
Co-VP of Ways & Means	Amy Vivona	amyv@mac.com	(949) 632-5968
VP of Bingo	TBD*	TBD*	TBD*
Co-VP of Marching Band	Michael Holtorf	mjholtorf@gmail.com	(714) 514-2112
Co-VP of Marching Band	Jessica Holtorf	jholtorf@gmail.com	(714) 501-2112
Co-VP of Marching Band	Erik Miller	millertime4701@gmail.com	(949) 892-8148
Co-VP of Marching Band	Kelley Miller	mrs.kelleymler@gmail.com	(949) 836-8396
VP of Color Guard	Tara Higgins	t-higgins@hotmail.com	(949) 306-7571
Co-VP of Drumline	Julie Otott	otott@sbcglobal.net	(949) 246-4054
Co-VP of Drumline	Jana Schwartz	jana.janeric@gmail.com	(949) 463-9667
Co-VP of Orchestra	Kent McFann	ksmcfann@gmail.com	(818) 640-8457
Co-VP of Orchestra	April Sayegh	adsayegh@aol.com	(714) 461-2243
VP of Jazz Ensemble	Dale Hicks	hicks.dale@att.net	(714) 745-7550