



East Pennsboro Marching Band Band Boosters

2009-2010 season

Welcome to the 2009 Marching Band Season!

The attached packet contains information from the band boosters about our schedule and what you can expect this season.

E-mail is our primary form of communication outside of announcements made during band. Parents and band members are highly encouraged to subscribe to the band newsgroup to receive booster information and messages from the band staff. Practice changes, general announcements, directions to games and competitions, and instructions are sent out via e-mail. If you are in 8th grade, it is especially helpful to your parents to receive email from the band because some announcements are made during the school day when you are at the middle school. Visit the newsgroup website to sign up: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/EPBand>.

Please be sure to bookmark the band website: www.eastpennband.org. The website is regularly updated and is a valuable resource for our band. You can find our schedule, competition results, photos, videos, and much more!

About the Band Boosters organization

The Band Boosters consists of current band parents and band alumni. Our mission is to support the East Pennsboro Band and Color Guard through:

- Volunteering
- Financial support
- School spirit

You are a band booster when your student becomes a band member. Boosters typically meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the band or chorus room. Parents are *strongly* encouraged to participate in the band boosters to have input on decisions, be informed of upcoming events and share in the opportunity to help their band member have a successful experience.

Parental involvement is key to the success of the band. Please help make your child's band season spectacular by helping as a chaperone, working in the concession stand, moving equipment on and off the field, providing food, sewing flags, transporting equipment, attending events, fundraising, cheering in the stands and being part of the booster organization. Contact us when you are ready to pitch in!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the individuals listed below:

Andy Williams, Band Director	732-0723 or awilliams@epasd.org
Nathan Raupach, President	732-7799 or nraupach@gmail.com
Dawn Bechtel, Vice President	728-0564 or dawn.bechtel@yahoo.com
Karen Myer, Treasurer	728-3242 or mambagirl@verizon.net
Shari Eagle, Secretary	433-1892 or mamaeagle4@yahoo.com
Beth Pettit, Scrip Program	728-3969 or bap68pa@comcast.net

Nathan Raupach
President

Dawn Bechtel
Vice President

Karen Myer
Treasurer

Shari Eagle
Secretary

Marching band is an extra-curricular musical ensemble that portrays its musical selections through the use of motion and visual concepts, like drill and colorguard. It combines music, athleticism, and choreography to create entertainment.

Marching band will push your body and mind physically and musically, but you will be a better musician and person after you have finished the season. Marching band teaches organization, team work, time management, and discipline. Our band members tend to become a family of friends and challenge each other to perform at higher levels. Some of our band members have gone on to perform with college bands and drum corps.

Marching band is open to concert band participants in eighth through twelfth grade. Many musicians find that marching band helps further develop their training, and the rewards of their hard work pay off far after the competitive season is over. Musicians are not the only part of the marching band - Colorguard is an integral part of the visual side of marching band. Many colorguard members are also musicians who dance or spin and toss equipment.

Time Commitments

Marching band has a significant time commitment, but is not more time-consuming than other extracurricular activities, such as sports. The band begins rehearsals early in the summer to give students a chance to get conditioned so they can play well during the competitive season. Informal summer rehearsals usually start off with a mini-camp (several evening rehearsals in a row during one week) followed by rehearsals once a week until Band Camp begins in August. Students are allowed to miss rehearsals for vacation. The first two full weeks of August are devoted to band camp. Once school starts, we will rehearse twice per week for 3 hours (usually 6-9 PM) and on Saturdays.

Performances include Friday night football games, occasional parades, and Saturday band competitions.

Football games

The band plays at all varsity football games. At home games, the band performs their field show and plays the national anthem prior to the start of the game. At away games, the field show is typically presented at halftime

Competitions

East Pennsboro competes in the Tournament of Bands circuit, which has membership across the eastern seaboard including New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina. Bands are evaluated by panels of judges on music (60%) and visual (40%), seeking the perfect score of 100. (See www.tob.org for more information.) Typically East Penn competes in six band competitions per season, including chapters and championships. Most of our competitions are local except championships. The Band Boosters will provide lunch prior to competitions which gives our kids an opportunity to have a healthy meal before competing

Tip: Parents, family and friends wanting to attend the competition can pre-purchase admission tickets from the band (watch for announcements regarding times tickets will be available). There is a flat fee per ticket and our marching band keeps the proceeds. Paying at the gate for a competition will give the proceeds to the hosting band and the cost to get in is higher than the cost of a pre-purchased ticket.

Tip: Candygrams are a great way to encourage our band members and fundraise at the same time! Find more information about candygrams below.

Band camp, in-season rehearsals, parades, competitions and football games are mandatory. If you are missing, both our score and your neighboring band members can be affected, so please schedule work, activities and vacations accordingly.

Monetary Commitments

Costs to marching band members are kept to minimum necessities. These costs typically include:

Uniform cleanings	\$40
Band t-shirt(s)	\$5 (two required)
Shoes	\$30 per pair
Gloves	\$4 per pair
Pre-competition lunches	\$20 (approx. \$4 per lunch)

Unless you grow, you should be able to purchase band shoes and gloves once. Colorguard members should expect to provide their own undergarments, make-up and hair products.

Tip: If these costs are in any way a financial hardship, or would tip the scales toward non-participation, please contact the band director. Fundraising occurs throughout band season to help you defray the costs.

Band shirts are used as 'summer' uniforms along with black shorts. Cost for shoes, shirt and gloves will not exceed \$100. Second year band members will only need a shirt unless they need new gloves or shoes. Other items, such as music holders and uniform cleanings can be paid using fundraised dollars.

Student Accounts

Each student has an account. This account is used to pay for items such as music holders as well as any trips that the band will take and uniform dry cleaning. Money will be put into the account based on the participation in fundraisers/concession stand and can be deducted as items are purchased. Mr. Williams tracks account balances – have your band member see him for their account information. If your account has a high enough balance to cover your summer expenses, you can use those funds to purchase what you need.

The profit from fundraisers is divided between the students' accounts and the booster general fund. The profit split varies by product and is made known at the time of the sale.

Fundraising

Fundraising is held year round for marching band with an emphasis on summer and fall months. Many opportunities are provided for band members to raise funds to cover their expense for trips and uniforms. Please participate to help your student and to help offset general band expenses. The school district does not cover expenses beyond some staff salaries and transportation. We are responsible for providing funds for new uniforms, flags, props, concession stand equipment and supplies, instruments replacement and repair, truck and trailer maintenance, music and other items.

Concession Stand

Our main source of fundraising is the high school stadium concession stand, which we operate year round for all events that take place in the stadium. Each band family will be responsible for working in the concession stand during one home varsity football game. A schedule will be distributed early in the season to help you plan. Please plan to work on your assigned date or contact the concessions coordinator to make a date change. On Friday nights we have two concession stands open – one by Enola Drive and the main stand by the high school. Parents that work in the concession stand beyond the required nights will receive a \$1 credit in their band members' account for each hour worked in the stand.

Tip: Parents that work frequently in the concession stands say they enjoy it and it's a great way to earn money for their child's account while supporting the marching band!

Scrip program

The Band Boosters Scrip program allows you and your family and friends to purchase gift cards for everyday expenses like food, clothing, and entertainment while earning a percentage of each dollar of scrip purchased back in revenue. Scrip is "no-selling" fundraising. There are hundreds of stores to choose from, including Giant, CVS, Kmart, Subway, and many others. You can even use them at gas stations, including Giant's gas pumps. They are very convenient for birthday and holiday presents, too! Look for information from our newsgroups about upcoming Scrip orders.

Other information

Candygrams

Candygrams are simply candy bars with an encouraging personalized message attached. The staff will distribute your candygram after each competition. The boosters sell candygrams during lunch on the days of competitions. By purchasing your 'gram from our band, we keep the proceeds and you don't have any delay at the competition waiting in the 'gram line or finding out the host band doesn't have the kind of candy your band member likes.

Uniforms

Each band student will be assigned a uniform with two pairs of pants – one white and one black. They will have to order two pairs of shoes – one white and one black. The black shoes and pants will be worn for football games and the white are traditionally used for competitions. Band members should always have black and white socks and shoes with them in the event that weather conditions cause a change of uniform. Plain white T-shirts should be worn under the uniform top – print will show through. White shorts should be worn under the pants. During the winter, a long sleeved white shirt can be worn, but not a turtleneck as the collar would show. Colorguard uniforms are different and the guard instructors will inform you as to what undergarments need purchased.

Band Trips

The band usually takes a day trip to play in special event, such as New York or Washington, DC. This trip is paid for out of the student accounts if the student has earned enough money. Details are sent home as soon as plans begin to be made for trips.

Parents, we need your help!

Parents are encouraged to help support in any way they can. Parents lend a hand by chaperoning, helping with the pit, props, sewing flags and altering uniforms, building equipment, participating in booster meetings, fundraising, helping out at the concession stand during home stadium events, etc. Any parents interested in assisting the marching band or the colorguard program should contact the band director or any of the booster officers. Mostly we ask you to encourage your student and be present when they perform! We find that our participants perform at their best when their family is involved, so we urge you to be part of the program!

Please take a few moments to complete the Volunteer Worksheet.

This year we have particular need for chaperones, concession stand helpers, and a field (pit) crew.