

August 2007

To: All Percussion Parents  
From: Butch Simmons, HHS Percussion Director  
RE: Explanation of Fees

The \$200 band fee is for all marching band members. As is the shoe fee and the summer band camp fee. If the percussion students did nothing in the areas of fund raising those fees would stand.

Now add the \$250 dollar percussion fund raiser.

Nine years ago I decided that we were going to operate our percussion section a little differently from other schools. At the majority of high schools the percussion students are responsible for all of their own stick and mallet expenses. Here is a breakdown of some of the costs of some of those items:

Snare sticks:	\$8 4-5 pairs per season
Bass drum mallets:	\$25 per. 2-3 pairs per season
Keyboard mallets:	\$30 per. 4-6 pairs per season
Cymbal straps and pads:	\$35 per. 2 sets per season

#### DRUM HEADS

Snare:

Top: \$37 per. 2 per season

Bottom: \$12 per 3 per season

Tenors:

\$55 per set of 5, 3 per season

Bass Heads:

\$350 for new heads on all 5 drums, 2 sets per season

These are just some of the general maintenance type costs so you can see the financial impact for percussion is impressive.

The above list of expenses does not even touch the cost of the instruments!

It was decided that it would be a better situation for the majority if the students did fund raisers and we used the money to take care of ALL needs related to playing in the percussion section . It has proven to be very beneficial for everyone involved.

The Drum-A-Thon/Bake Sale is the biggest fund raiser that we do and we do it well. I get many questions throughout the year from other groups wanting to know our secret. I tell them that there is no secret beyond commitment and hard work from our kids and parents in all areas.

The yearly band budget, which the \$200 band fee is applied to, allows \$1500 for percussion. We are very grateful for this money because every bit helps. But, as you can see we require much more than that to operate at the level of excellence that we have for the past 11 years.

We started our Drum-A-Thon/Bake Sale to offset the cost of providing what we think is one of the best percussion programs in Tennessee (as well as the country). To make the fund raiser successful for all parties involved it was decided that a goal would be set for each student and that if the goal was reached this would provide funds for the percussion section as well as each student.

Here is how it the pledge system works:

The students are given the goal of \$250. The idea is for the students to collect pledges for every hour that they play at the drum-a-thon. (A \$1 per hour pledge would = \$10 when we are done since we play for 10 hours). We do not want the parents to just pay this money out of pocket but for the students to actually solicit pledges or donations from friends, family (in and out of town), businesses (they do not have to be local) and anyone else who might want to help support our group.

By having the students actually work towards the goal it gives them a sense of ownership in what they are doing. Some of the students who have met their goals have done work in exchange for pledge amounts- lawn mowing, baby-sitting, dog walking, moving furniture, etc. The donations to the band are tax deductible and many people give more generously when reminded of this. Also, students soliciting pledges should send a note of thanks to each donor; it will be remembered the following year when the student solicits them again.

So, if a student hits the goal of \$250, the percussion section will receive \$250. Any amount over \$250 and the below scale kicks in.

The ratio of money raised to money for personal accounts is as follows:

\$0 - \$250 all percussion

\$250-\$300, 80% perc. 20% student

\$301-\$350, 75% / 25%

\$351-\$400, 70% / 30%

\$401-\$450, 65% / 35%

\$451-\$500, 60% / 40%

\$501-\$550, 55% / 45%

\$551-\$999, 50% - 50%

**\$1000 Perc. gets \$250 student has all Fall and Winter fees covered for 07-08 year. Plus a \$50 balance in their account .**

As you can see the more money that the students raise the better off for everyone!!!!!!

The Drum-a-thon will be on Aug. 25. 8am – 6pm

The pledges will be due on Sept. 15, 2007

All money and completed pledge sheets should be put in a sealed envelope with the student's name, grade level and the amount raised printed on the outside. These envelopes are to be given directly to me.

Last year we raised \$801 in donations at the Drum-A-Thon/Bake Sale event held on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>. An additional \$4700 was raised through donations with \$1500 going into student's accounts and \$3200 going to the percussion general fund.

I hope this letter helps everyone understand why and how we do what we do. Please make every effort to attend the next Percussion Parents meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 11th at 7PM. If you have any questions or concerns before then, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks again, we are off to a terrific marching season!

Butch