

BVSW Band Boosters Q&A
2020-2021 School year

What is band going to look like since we're not marching in the fall?

Mr. Lesando and Laura can answer that best, but this is what I know as a parent. Band is a class that has a curriculum. Our students are instructed during the entire school year not only by our Directors, but clinicians who specialize in your student's instrument. With a curriculum comes testing and performance – the measure of what they learn. Our students will practice together and perform together, whether in person or virtual. Families may not be packing into the PAC, but the hope is that students and staff are onsite to livestream, or we go virtual (I'll stop guessing here and our Directors can finish this question at the meeting.)

Why are we paying for marching clinicians if there is no marching band this fall? Marching Clinicians were repurposed as Summer Symposium Clinicians and Fall Clinicians for 1st Semester. Clinicians run instrument-specific sectionals with students. Our original Budget in May for this year was \$32K; it has been reduced to \$19K. (I think of clinicians like special teams in football. Mr. Lesando is an awesome director, but my trumpet player has learned a lot from clinicians the past four years.)

Does Band receive any of the Learning Resource or Activities Fees families pay for school registration?

Learning Resource Fees do go to each individual school. Funds are used for anything and everything related to student instruction: textbooks, online software, school supplies, instruments, etc. Any grade level teacher, gifted, sped, and elective teacher can ask us to purchase what they need with Learning resource money. Band Boosters note in our Budget when we receive funds from the school or PTO Grants that we request.

Activity Fees do not go to the individual schools. That money stays with the district office and they use that money to help support all sports, activities, clubs, and other supplemental contract items that require us to pay qualified district staff for extra-duty supervision, etc.

Why are we paying for music that we are not using this year?

Marching music was already written in May before competitions started canceling and virus numbers rose again. We are contractually obligated to pay this since the arranger had already completed his work and we plan to reuse it next year in order to avoid a loss.

The 10th Anniversary Commission piece is being finalized and will be played by Wind Ensemble at KMEA if we get the opportunity or at the first possible concert if that doesn't happen. Again, we are contractually obligated to pay folks for work they have already done despite the pandemic changing/pushing back our planned performance dates

Why are Marching Band Fees so high if we're not marching?

There is no marching band fee, only a band fee. Band is a full-year program, not a 3-month seasonal program like school sports and other activities. Fees fund students' year-round experiences in band toward both curricular and co-curricular activities. We continue to repurpose and reduce known expenses as we receive direction from the district and school. We also updated the Fee Payment Form to reflect these changes, removing marching uniforms and trips. That form is still under revision until after the Board of Education provides guidelines for our school year.

Who sets the budget and fees?

Each spring, our Treasurer and Director meet to review the previous year's Operating Budget (known income and expenses). They set the next year's budget and present it to all Boosters in April. Boosters who are present may vote. Boosters did not meet in April this year, our activities and budget changed several times, so we are meeting on August 26 to review and vote.

Fees are determined by the number of students in our program.

$\$Budget / \#Students = \$Fee \text{ per Student}$

As students choose virtual instruction or last minute drop out, the financial burden is distributed evenly over the remaining students. Our directors still do not have virtual enrollment rosters from the school, but they estimate that we have 83 students (including color guard) signed up for the three ensemble classes.

Can't we fundraise more to lower our fees?

The past couple years we've done this as we attended BOA and our opportunity for a higher level of performance increased. However, since Band Boosters was founded in 2010, our goal has been to follow best practice of funding our operating budget with fees (known income). That's something I failed to point out this year.

Fundraising is really meant to fund our Capital Budget (special projects like electronics, trailers, sometimes travel). We can't earmark these funds, but can save between school years, and all Boosters vote to approve spending the funds on a project. Because fundraising brings variable funds (unknown income), Boosters cannot responsibly fund our Operating Budget with fundraising. However, we do use our first fundraising dollars to fund any Operating Budget that is not funded (due to unpaid fees, changing number of students, emergencies).

Can my family do individual fundraising to offset the cost of our student's fees?

SCRIP is the only avenue boosters may facilitate individual fundraising, because the rebates are technically the funds of those families. Parents must let our Assistant Treasurer Pam Dorsch (Pameladorsch@aol.com) know when they want those funds to be used for their fees.

State of Kansas: The Kansas High School Athletics Association (KSHSAA) states that booster clubs are seen as synonymous as the school, and therefore cannot track individual fundraising.

<http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/General/BoosterClubs.cfm>

Federal: The IRS considers individual fundraising as employment. If KSHSAA rules change, then BVSW Band Boosters can decide if they want a volunteer to track individual student fundraising, so that students can then pay federal income tax.

Boosters encourage our families to participate in any fundraising they can. The Board suggested "everyone raise \$100 per student" as a way to ease the \$500/student need we have to fund the operating budget. But we cannot and do not track individual fundraising.

What about the extra cash we have in our account?

We want to keep our Capital Budget in mind: we bought a trailer from the football team, so how long will the other one last; will we need more clinicians if we have to go virtual during the school year? (I can say that my senior will neer see those funds, but he benefited from capital when he was a freshman. We planned on paying four years of fees into the program for the benefit of him and the future.)

Can we get a refund if things get canceled?

Our Directors and Board consider 2020-2021 to be an emergency situation, and Boosters can decide to refund any fees that are unused. We're keeping the Operating Budget items in the spreadsheet so no one forgets what our program usually budges for.

Will Fees be lower next year?

At this time, we cannot guarantee that fees will be lower next year, due to unknown variables (where will we be competing next fall, transportation/hotel costs, how many students are participating, etc.). However, given that we have already paid for music and significant prop work, we anticipate not having to work about a few of those kinds of line items.

Do virtual ed students pay the same fees as in-person?

Great question, because our by-laws state that all students pay the same fees. This is a good year for Boosters to review our by-laws and amend for flexibility that a pandemic requires. As president I think we can and should account for the summer symposium to allow for a reduced fee for virtual students. Will they come back 2nd semester? Who knows what will happen with the virus? Band Boosters will include all BVSW students in all activities that we can, including senior activities and recognition. \

What is our goal and responsibility of Boosters?

Ok I made this one up as an excuse to remind you to look at the by-laws if you never have (Members tab of website, password: Twolves.) It's all in there. We are a registered non-profit. Along with other parent groups in the BVSD, a couple year ago we added an Assistant Treasurer to handle cash and payment, and to have some oversight. Our Treasurer manages the budget, and the Board works with our Director to carry out the goals of the program.

So what if we don't get a majority vote to approve the budget?

If Boosters don't approve the budget, then we ask our Directors (again) what else they think they can reduce. We've whittled it down a lot already. We moved our first payment from May to September 15 to allow time to navigate changes, and let Boosters vote.

If Boosters approve the budget, we do the things in the budget. If things get canceled due to the virus, Boosters can decide to refund parents and/or keep some funds toward capital. We're setting regular meeting dates so parents know well in advance when we meet (usually first or second Tuesday of the month, 7pm).