

There have been recent questions and concerns about the use of funds from our Band-a-thon fundraiser that was held at the beginning of the school year. In order to help communication and ease some of those concerns, this statement has been written to explain how those funds are used.

1. Instruments - Managing instruments for a large program takes a good chunk of our budget. Schools and band programs often depend on bond issues for purchasing of new instruments and equipment. However, if those bond issues do not pass, then it is up to the schools and programs to undertake this financial responsibility. Due to this uncertainty, we have to have a cushion in our budget to allow us to meet the needs of our students in this way.
2. Instrument repair- Since we cannot always purchase new equipment, there are often times that we must make do with what we currently have. With student use and normal wear and tear, this can add up for a program. We have to allow a certain amount of money to go towards this in order for us to have working equipment as quickly as possible.
3. Music- We have some music in our library, but in order to keep current with requirements and changing styles of music, new sheet music has to be purchased. This helps provide the best music education that we can for your student.
4. Contest and other entry fees- Band is an unusual elective in the fact that it is a performing group. In order to enhance a student's experience, contests and other performances are part of the deal. While the band pays for most of the events that are required and essential to maintaining the status of the program, there are times when this part of the budget might need some additional help because of the impact of the previously mentioned items.
5. Band Booster Organization- In order to help support our students, the band booster organization also uses a portion of our funds. This goes towards supplies, gifts, and other essentials that help keep our organization running in a positive way.

Of course, there are other logistical items that might arise from time to time that need to be taken care of from our budget. These are things that will be approved by the administration of our school and evaluated on an as-needed basis. However, we want to assure you that any money that is raised for our program goes strictly to our program. Our program also graciously receives a site budget from the school that continues to help in any way it can. We thank our principals, Linda Wilkes, Kathy Blackwell, and Jody McElhaney and our administration for supporting us in that way.

Thank you for your support, interest, and concerns for our program. Concerns and questions show how much you care about the direction of this program and your students. We are thankful to be a part of this group and please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

-The Mustang Middle School Band Staff