

FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL BAND
NATION FORD HIGH SCHOOL BAND

BAND INFORMATION

(EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO
KNOW ABOUT BAND!!!)

2010-2011 EDITION

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FORT MILL DISTRICT BAND BOOSTER CLUB, INC.
P. O. BOX 611
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OBJECTIVES & MEMBERSHIP

The objectives of the Fort Mill District Band Booster Club (FMDBBC) shall be to support the Fort Mill School district band programs in a manner so as:

1. to create a closer relationship between parents, students, and the band director(s);
2. to help foster a deeper interest in music within the students, parents, and community;
3. to create a working relationship with the bands, parents, and community as a whole;
4. to associate itself with and assist in the financial betterment of the bands;
5. to uphold the administration in all matters and things pertinent to the bands to be and to remain within the jurisdiction of the school system and the band director(s).
6. to be organized exclusively for educational purposes.

The membership shall consist of parents of high school and middle school band members, interested patrons (members of the community who actively support the band program), the band director(s), and school principal(s).

COMMITTEES

Please contact any board member for information on chairing or helping a committee. Below is a list of the available committees. The most current list of committee chairpersons and board members are located on the band's website. Thanks for your ongoing support.

Non-Fundraising Committees (accountable to President)

Chaperones
Band Camp
Color Guard Liaison (Uniforms, Accessories & Flags)
8th Grade Football Night
End of Season Marching Party
Hospitality
Newsletter
Percussion Liaison
Pit Crew
Region Band
Seniors
Solo/Ensemble
Uniforms (including Accessories)
Website

Fundraising Committees (accountable to Vice President)

Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre Events
Charlotte Knights
Carolina Panthers/Bank of America Stadium
Time Warner Cable Arena (formerly Charlotte Bobcats Arena) Events
Marching Band Exhibitions/Competitions
Fruit Sale
Guard CIPA/WGI Event
Spring Fundraiser (Oyster Roast, BBQ, Silent Auction, etc.) Note – Event defined/agreed upon by the band boards.
SpringFest/Strawberry Festival
Summer Fundraiser Note – Event defined/agreed upon by the band boards.
Fall Fundraiser Note – Event defined/agreed upon by the band boards.
Golf Tournament
Programs
Band Store

Other Committees (accountable to Executive Secretary)

Fort Mill Middle School Liaison
Gold Hill Middle School Liaison
Springfield Middle School Liaison
Banks Trail Middle School Liaison (coming 2011-2012 school year)

COMMUNICATION

NEWSLETTER (BAND NOTES): This is our monthly newsletter distributed by the club to inform each parent and student of all upcoming events, accomplishments and other information. Also enclosed with the newsletter will be your monthly student account statement.

MONTHLY BOOSTER MEETING: This is a monthly meeting for each high school that occurs on the last Monday of the month at 7:30 PM (no meeting in December) that is open to all parents and members of the community. This forum is a face to face avenue for parents and the community to keep informed about upcoming events, accomplishments and other information. Updates are provided by the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Committee Chairpersons and Band Director.

WEBSITE: This is a club operated website used to keep parents, students and the community in touch with committee chairpersons, upcoming events and with all band activities. The band's websites are www.fortmillband.com, www.fortmillbands.com and www.nationfordband.com – all pointing to the same information.

EMAIL BLAST: The club will send out (every week/other week depending on what is scheduled) email blasts to inform each family of all upcoming events and other information.

PHONE: Activated by the President, Vice-President, committee chairpersons or Band Director at certain times (volunteer requests, special events, etc.) to pass on pertinent information concerning any band function and/or information.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION SHEETS: During the school year, the band directors will place information sheets for the students and families on the table just outside the band director's office. These items will contain information such as trip itineraries (usually placed out 3-5 days before the trip), region band information, solo/ensemble information, etc. Please encourage your student to check the table regularly especially a few days before events.

STUDENT CREDIT ACCOUNTS

The Student Credit Account system was established to provide individual members and parents some financial relief with regard to band fees and charges. A percentage of the profits earned through some fundraiser events are allocated to the individual student for his/her use to assist with paying certain band fees through the established point system.

For on-going fundraising activities (Verizon, Knights Stadium, etc.), each hour of volunteer service will generate one (1) student credit point. When an entire hour is not worked, ¼ point will be earned for each 15 minutes worked. Fractions will be rounded to the nearest 15 minutes (20 minutes rounds to 15, 25 minutes rounds to 30, etc.).

For one-time fundraising activities (fruit sale, BBQ, golf tournament etc.), each box of fruit, ticket or sponsor sold will generate student credit points. The number of points earned per item sold will be determined and announced prior to the event by the Committee Chairperson or Vice-President.

Earned points will be deposited into Student Credit Accounts. Band students may request withdrawal of points to pay for required band fees. Points may **not** be used to purchase goods from the band store, vendors outside the Band Club or items for personal use (uniform accessories, fall guard accessories, etc.). Student credit points may **not** be used by anyone other than a band student. Account status reports are mailed to students each month as part of their statements. Any questions about a student's account should be directed to the Executive Secretary.

Student credit points may be carried over year-to-year by the same student. If a student is graduating or leaving the band program, his/her account will remain active if a sibling is in the band program. Student credit points may be transferred to another student at any time by notifying the Executive Secretary (email, letter, etc.). Seniors must request point transfers no later than one month prior to graduation. If a student graduating or leaving the band program has not requested a transfer of points, all points remaining in her/his account will automatically be transferred to the Hardship Account.

Note: One student credit point equals a value of \$2.00.

FEES

It does take money to run the band program and keep it at the level the students, parents, school district and community expect. Fundraising activities do provide a large portion of the funds for the band program – between 50%-60% of all income brought into the band club or \$500-\$1000 per student per school year. The most current fee schedule can be found at the band's website – click on "Forms/Info".

Students must pay required band fees (band camp, uniform fees, accessories, instrument fees, BOA, etc.) before points or money will be accepted for non-mandatory/optional band trips. Students not paying required band fees by established deadlines may be ineligible to participate in any non-mandatory trips or events.

If you find yourself in a difficult financial situation, please do not hesitate to contact the band director. A payment schedule may be worked out that works not only for you but the booster club as well that will enable your student to participate in the band program(s).

FALL MARCHING & COLOR GUARD: A yearly fee that covers the following expenses -

BAND CAMP: Expenses to get the marching season up and running including the cost of feeding the students during band camp and at any all day practices.

MARCHING BAND SHOW: Covers expenses to purchase music, have custom arrangements written, publishing rights, marching drill, specialty instruction, medical supplies and other expenses incurred to put the marching band on the field (props, flags, etc.).

MARCHING COMPETITIONS: Covers the costs for band competitions (local events and Bands of America Events) that includes but is not limited to transportation, food, entry fees, accommodations, medals, etc.

MARCHING & COLOR GUARD UNIFORM: Covers the maintenance and cleaning of the marching/guard uniforms including the purchase of the guard uniform for the marching season. The uniforms are owned by the school district.

FALL MARCHING ACCESSORIES: A fee that covers the costs for any marching band accessories (gloves, scrubs, shoes (aka dinkles), etc.) purchased by the student. Accessories may be used over the years and are generally ordered during band camp. Gloves will be also available for purchase throughout the year. Points are not allowed to be used to purchase items for personal use.

FALL GUARD ACCESSORIES: A fee for fall color guard students that covers the cost of items like equipment bags, wind suits, hoodies, etc. that are required by the color guard instructor to participate in the Fall program. These items should not be purchased until directed by the color guard instructor or color guard liaison. Points are not allowed to be used to purchase items for personal use.

INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE: A yearly fee per student is due if the student is using a school owned and maintained instrument including percussion equipment. This fee is not per instrument but rather per student regardless how many school instruments the student leverages throughout the year.

WIND SYMPHONY TRIP (if scheduled): A fee that covers the costs for the wind symphony and/or concert band trips (if scheduled) that includes but is not limited to transportation, food, entry fees, accommodations, etc.

REGION BAND & SOLO/ENSEMBLE: A fee set by the SCBDA (South Carolina Band Directors Association) that covers the costs to participate in the region band tryouts and solo/ensemble competition. Points are not allowed to be used to purchase items for personal use.

WINTER GUARD: A fee to participate in the winter guard program that covers the costs that includes but is not limited to transportation, music, program, instruction, uniform, entry fees, accommodations, etc. (food not included).

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE: A fee to participate in the percussion ensemble program (Winter) that covers the costs that includes but is not limited to transportation, music, program, instruction, uniform, entry fees, accommodations, etc. (food not included).

All fees can be mailed to:

Fort Mill District Band Booster Club, Inc. (FMDBBC)
PO Box 611
Fort Mill, SC 29716

or placed in the mailbox just inside the band director's office.

Please remember when making payments, write your child's name, school and what the payment is for on the check and/or envelop since the finances for the 2 high school and 3 middle school band programs are handled by the booster club. Payments should **ONLY** be placed in the US mail or in the mailbox in each of the director's office.

Do not give payments to anyone else!!!

Any questions about a student's account should be directed to the Executive Secretary.

FUNDRAISERS

A full list of committees and activities can be found towards the front of this document. Fundraising events change from year to year and the booster clubs may choose to not participate in any of the following fundraisers in any given year.

***VERIZON WIRELESS AMPHITHEATRE:** The band club provides concessions to concert attendees at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre located in the University area of Charlotte. This arena offers headline entertainment throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall with approximately 30 yearly events requiring 20-40 people at each event and raises between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year for the entire band program.

***KNIGHTS CASTLE/STADIUM:** The band club provides concessions to event attendees at Knights Castle/Stadium located in Fort Mill. This arena offers baseball events throughout the Spring and Summer requiring 10-20 people at each event the band has chosen to work at.

***CAROLINA PANTHERS/BANK OF AMERICA STADIUM:** The band club provides concessions to event attendees at Bank of America Stadium located in Charlotte. This stadium offers football events (and other special events) generally from August thru January requiring approximately 30 people at each event.

***GOLF TOURNAMENT:** The band club hosts a golf tournament each summer (usually in July) at the Regent Park Golf Club. All proceeds from this golf tournament go directly to the purchase of instruments and other designated purposes for our band program and helps assist the band's scholarship program for graduating seniors and the band's hardship account for current band members. Activities include the event organization and the solicitation for players and sponsorships.

YORK COUNTY MARCHING BAND EXHIBITION: A friendly exhibition hosted by us, inviting area bands to participate and is usually held in late September or early October during the evening. This takes approximately 3-4 months of planning and approximately 80 people to work the day of the event.

BOA (Bands of America) Fall Preview: A friendly exhibition hosted by Bands of America supported by the band booster club, inviting bands from across the southeast to participate and is held in late September. This takes approximately 3-4 months of planning and approximately 120 people to work the day of this all day event.

***FRUIT SALE:** The fruit sale is an annual event. Each band student is asked to take orders for citrus fruit and apples from a supplier the Board has chosen. Orders are taking at the beginning in late-October or early-November and the fruit is shipped to us in early to mid-December when each student picks up and disperses his/her own fruit orders. This fundraiser is completed across all the band programs in the middle and high schools.

***FALL/SPRING FUNDRAISER (Oyster Roast/BBQ/Silent Auction/Yard Sale/SpringFest/Etc.):** These events are held once or twice a year in the fall and spring usually at the Greenway Field Trial Barn or somewhere else in the Fort Mill area. It generally requires approximately 30-40 people across the weekend depending on the event. This activity includes the solicitation and donation of items for the silent auction as well as event organization.

***GUARD CIPA/WGI EVENT:** A winter guard/percussion ensemble competition hosted by us, inviting area color guard and percussion groups to participate and is usually held in February/March. This takes approximately 1-2 months of planning and approximately 30 people to work the day of the event.

BAND STORE: A support service provided by the club for the purpose of purchasing Fort Mill High School and Nation Ford High School band paraphernalia. Items are generally available at all booster meetings, band events and practices prior to competitions.

PROGRAMS: A support service that provides programs for event attendees for purchase at certain events hosted by the booster clubs – York County Exhibition, CIPA event, etc. This activity includes the selling and/or purchasing of advertisements for the program.

DONATIONS: Cash donations - unrestricted or designated to the hardship account - to the booster club are always appreciated.

Certain fund-raisers have age restrictions due to the liability which necessitate adult (parent) workers.

**Student credit points can be earned at these events.*

BUDGET

The budget of the Fort Mill School District Band Booster Club is earned by the fundraisers described in this document and any fees that must be collected because fundraising efforts and school money does not cover all expenses of the band programs. Fees would increase if we did not have everyone's assistance with these fundraising efforts which is why we are **so proud and appreciative of your ongoing support**. Without everyone's assistance, the show, the competitions, and the trips...the music would not happen.

SCHEDULE/EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

BAND CAMP: Band Camp is held each summer at the respective high school prior to the first day of school. Pre-camp rehearsals/practices will be held on various days for each section throughout the summer. **Band camp is mandatory** to be a member of the marching band. Assistance (chaperones, food, etc.) is always needed so please see our list of committee chairs for contact information.

BAND CONTESTS: The band performs in several marching band contests (local exhibitions & competitions, Bands of America events, SC state contests) each year during the Fall and several concert festivals and competitions in the Winter/Spring. Participation in these events benefits the band in many ways. It provides extra motivation to strive for excellence. It raises standards of quality of performance. It offers an opportunity to gauge the band's progress and to gain recognition. Finally, it provides a pleasant experience as a reward for hard work.

REGION BAND: Open to all band students through auditions held in early January. The best auditions in the region are selected for two bands (9th & 10th and 11th & 12th grade). These groups will rehearse and perform one weekend in early February. When the Region Band is hosted by the booster club at one of our facilities, we run concessions and perform other duties as deemed necessary by the band directors. Each student is responsible for their own audition fee.

ALL-STATE BAND: Open to the top auditioning scores at the All Region Band auditions. The best Region Band auditions are invited to audition for All-State Band the weekend after region band auditions in mid-January. This group will rehearse and perform one weekend in March at Furman University.

STATE CONCERT FESTIVAL: Held usually in late March or early April. It is required of all Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band members to participate. The band is evaluated by a panel of adjudicators who gauge the band's ability to perform good concert literature and to perform sight reading.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE: Open to all band members who wish to complete a solo, duet or small ensemble for evaluation by an adjudicator and is usually held in April. When Solo/Ensemble is hosted by the booster club at one of our facilities, we run concessions and perform other duties as deemed necessary by the band directors. Students secure accompaniment and are required to pay their own registration fee.

FOOTBALL GAMES: The band will play at all home football games and selected away games (decided by band director and school) and generally occur on Friday nights. Schedule, attire and performance requirements will be announced to the students prior to the game.

CONCERTS: Several concerts are held during the school year – usually at least one in December (Holiday Concert) and one in May (Spring Concert). Recognition and awards are presented at the Spring Concert.

GRADUATION: The band will play at graduation and is mandatory for all students (part of grade) unless a family member is graduating AND prior notice/approval is granted by the Band Director.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/PARADES: The band performs at several community events and parades – Christmas parade in early December, SpringFest/Strawberry Festival in May, Tega Cay July 4th Parade, etc. Not all schools or sections of the band participate in all of these events but some of these events are mandatory unless excused (prior notice and approval) by the band director.

WINTER GUARD: An activity which students audition to participate in during the winter months. This involves a series of color guard competitions across many locations. This program enhances the skill and performance of the color guard.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE: An activity which students audition to participate in during the winter months. This involves a series of percussion competitions across many locations. This program enhances the skill and performance of the percussion musician.

UNIFORMS

FALL MARCHING & GUARD UNIFORM/ACCESSORIES: see “Fall Marching & Guard Uniform” and “Fall Marching & Guard Accessories” under fees

WINTER GUARD UNIFORMS: see “Winter Guard” under fees

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE UNIFORMS: see “Percussion Ensemble” under fees

WIND SYMPHONY:

All **female Wind Symphony students** wear a black, polyester blend, long sleeve, scoop neck, floor length dress. The girls should wear dressy shoes with this dress. The girls are responsible for the purchase, laundering, hemming, etc. ***Do not purchase dresses until attire is decided and communicated by band director.***

All **male Wind Symphony students** wear tuxedos with black dress shoes and black socks. ***Do not purchase tuxedos until attire is decided and communicated by band director.***

SYMPHONIC BAND: Announced by instructor, but generally white or black top and black bottom owned by student with black dress shoes. ***Do not purchase until attire is decided and communicated by band director.***

NON-FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

A full list of committees and activities can be found towards the front of this document.

COLOR GUARD LIAISON: Responsible for ensuring the guard program and the guard instructor is integrated with the entire band program and organizes activities with the guard instructor (uniform sizing, flag sewing, chaperone arrangements, etc.) to support this student group.

PERCUSSION LIAISON: Responsible for ensuring the percussion ensemble program and the percussion instructor is integrated with the entire band program and organizes activities with the percussion instructor (uniform sizing, chaperone arrangements, etc.) to support this student group.

HOSPITALITY: This committee of approximately 10 band parents (some traveling with the band) takes on the function of organizing any “social” events and/or meals for the band students and/or parents. Some examples of meals: all meals served while the band is traveling to a competition, end of marching season party, Halloween party, etc. Check the committee list for your contact to volunteer.

PIT CREW: This is a group of approximately 10 band parents who are responsible for loading, unloading and setting up the instruments on the field during football game performances, some band practices and all competitions. They travel with the band. Check the committee list for your contact to volunteer.

UNIFORMS: Ensures all students are measured and fitted for uniforms and accessories and distributes the uniform accessories.

DONATIONS: Donations of goods like water, beverages, snacks, candy, medical supplies, etc – really anything – and donations of services like sewing, truck driving, equipment, mechanical support, engineering, general fix it skills, etc. are appreciated.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS/QUESTIONS

This document is not intended to answer everything about the band program. If you have questions or have concerns during any part of the year, please do not hesitate to ask someone. Other key things to remember -

- Visit the website for information, updated schedules, etc. – www.fortmillbands.com
- The booster club works hard with the band directors to communicate as soon as events are scheduled. This means the calendar is updated frequently and events do change. Please check the calendar for the latest and greatest information about the schedule.
- Get involved -
 - Attend your respective monthly band booster club meeting. It is only 1 hour a month – last Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at your respective high school band room – where you can find out the latest about the students, ask questions to the band director & staff and find out about where you can help the students achieve their goals.
 - Attend the concerts, competitions, end of marching practices...
 - Volunteer on a committee or assist at a fundraising event.
- Email a booster club board member or band director if you have a question. It might not be the right person but we will at least get your question in the right hands so it may be addressed.
- Want to donate something – goods, services, money, etc.? Please contact a band director, board member, committee chairperson about your donation.
- Communicate with your student about band, last minute schedule/event changes, when they need to be at their next practice/event, what they need to wear, etc.
- Donations (money, goods, services), mileage, etc. – NOT fees - **MAY** be tax deductible. Please check with your tax adviser as to how much, if any, of your contribution is deductible.
- Meet with your student's guidance counselor regularly.
- Have fun – Band is a great opportunity for not only your student but a complete family affair. Stay involved and come meet new people from the community.

Remember – You can make a difference!!! Get Involved!!!