

# TJ Band Essentials

TJ Band Boosters

Fall 2020

Welcome to TJ Bands! Visit [www.tjbands.org](http://www.tjbands.org) for more information.

## Navigating 2020:

Many aspects of our practice and performing schedules are still being determined—but our TJ Bands community is dedicated to keeping our traditions vibrant, and supporting our students' musical education! We'll still have fundraisers. Stay tuned for updates as the year takes shape. We're so happy to have you with us!

## What groups do the TJ Band Boosters support?

4 curricular groups that meet as scheduled classes during the school day:

- Symphonic Band (SB)
- Symphonic Wind Ensemble (SWE)
- Symphonic Percussion Ensemble (also performs with SB)
- Percussion Ensemble (also performs with SWE)

5 optional groups:

- Jazz Ensemble (auditioned after-school group)
- Jazz II (8<sup>th</sup> period club, Jazz I not req'd)
- TJ Marching Colonials (TJMC)
- Winter/Indoor Drum Line (TJDL)
- Winter/Indoor Color Guard (TJWG)

## Who are the TJ Band Boosters?

We are the group of parent/guardian volunteers who support all aspects of the TJ Band Program. Do you have a student in one of the 9 TJ Band/Guard ensembles? Then **you** are a member of the TJ Band Boosters. No membership forms or dues. It's that easy!

In addition to fundraising, our leadership team organizes parent/guardian volunteers for many activities throughout the year. Support our students by being involved in our wonderful music program.

## 2020-2021 Band Boosters Board

President:

Val Kreider

VP Ways and Means:

Lisa Barker

Co-VPs of Communications:

Katharine Hansen (website and graphics)  
and Susan Essman (signups, newsletter)

Receipts Treasurer:

Qiqi Lu

Disbursements Treasurer:

Jennifer Zhuang

Secretary:

Karen Walters

## Fundraising...it's not a dirty word

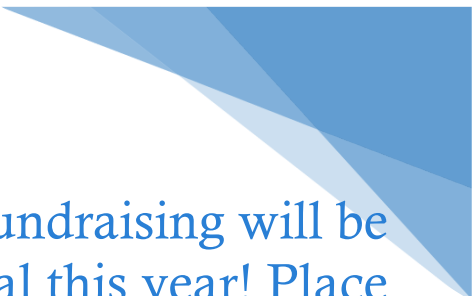
Our fundraising activities are essential to supporting all aspects of the program. The TJ Band Boosters need to raise **over \$28,000** for the band program this coming year to cover essential expenses.

Year-round fundraisers:

- Gift/shopping cards – Shop at your usual stores while earning rebates for the band program.
- Amazon Smile – Click on [this link](#) to earn rebates on your purchases.
- Spirit wear – Show your TJ Bands pride!
- License plate frames – These are very popular, and customizable too.
- Cookbook sale – *Cooking with Colonials* is still available. Be sure to get your copy before they're gone!

Seasonal fundraisers:

- Direct donation drive in autumn
- Fruit sales – one in time for Thanksgiving, another in spring
- Coffee/tea sales
- Mattress and bedding sales – winter and spring



All fundraising will be virtual this year! Place orders online, and ship to your home. Want to save on shipping? Combine orders with a neighbor!

## Our parent volunteers are essential to the success of ALL our student ensembles!

### **2020-2021 Activity Coordinators**

Curricular Uniforms: Val Kreider and Susan Essman

Pre-Concert Meals (for students): Karen Walters & Ely Chen

Concert Receptions: Amy Yamashiro

SRO (Senior Regional Orchestra) Auditions: Yeongji Kim

TJMC Coordinators:

Group 1: Stephanie Werhane (uniforms, camp, t-shirts)

Group 2: Susan Essman (Sign-up Genius, props, trucks)

Group 3: Lisa Barker (safety, food, chaperones)

Winter Drumline Liaison: Karen Walters

Color Guard Liaison: Anne Shin

Jazz Band Liaison: Susan Essman

\*Spring Band-quet: Val Kreider

Webmaster: Ram Yalla

Student Webmasters: Julian Gavino, Shreyyas Mayya, Alexandra Funk, Hita Yalla

\*Bedding Sales: Val Kreider

\*Coffee/Tea Sales: Val Kreider

\*Fall Fundraiser: Lisa Barker

Fruit Sales: Heather Boles

Gift/Shopping Card Fundraiser: Michele Hyde

License Plate Frame Sales: Geeta Thapa

TJ Merchandise Sales: Helen Miller and Ely Chen

*\*Seeking parents to shadow or co-lead these essential roles. Contact [info@tjbands.com](mailto:info@tjbands.com) for more information.*

## Curious about volunteering?

*Many band activities need parent support.  
Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!*

- Contact any of the parents listed here.
- Keep an eye out for a SUG coming your way soon. *What's a SUG?* It's short for SignUpGenius, the online tool we use to organize our volunteers.
- Check your inbox for additional opportunities as they arise.

### Help Wanted

Seeking parents to shadow or co-lead the following amazing band activities:

- Coffee/tea sales - continue our cooperative relationship with local merchants!
- Fall fundraiser - a direct-donation fundraiser, like a virtual Tag Day.
- Spring Band-quet - This one is very easy! Use existing documents to place banquet order with caterer; coordinate evening's program with Band Council; and coordinate parent volunteers for set-up, serving, and clean-up.

Contact [info@tjbands.org](mailto:info@tjbands.org) for more info.

## You are vital to the success of the TJ Band Program!

### There are many ways to get involved:

- Support a fundraiser
- Chaperone a trip
- Drive a carpool
- Volunteer at an event
- Attend a concert
- Become a coordinator
- Go to a Boosters Meeting

Did you know that most local high schools raise over \$20,000 in just a few hours during their annual *Tag Day*?

## What are Booster funds used for?

Booster funds pay for sectional coaches, leadership camps, equipment, uniforms, student scholarships, and other items that FCPS does not allow to be funded with student fees. Additionally, we sponsor fundraisers targeted for specialty instruments for use throughout the program. In past years, the TJ Band Program has been the grateful recipient of grants from the TJ Partnership Fund to replace several old instruments. Thank you, TJPF!

## How do parents know what's going on in the band program?

- Our website - [www.tjbands.org](http://www.tjbands.org)
- Occasional newsletters
- Emails from Mr. Ballard and the Band Boosters - The frequency depends on what is going on.
- *This Week @ TJ* - Look for blurbs in the weekly school newsletter.
- Your student - really. Information is given to students during their rehearsals or posted on *The Drive*. Student-led Band Council communicates through the closed (students only) Facebook page.
- Calendars specific to each ensemble.

# In a typical year... these are some of the helpers we need!

## SWE/SB/Jazz Band/ Percussion Ensemble

For an evening with our concert ensembles, these people will have been hard at work behind the scenes:

- Volunteers to measure students for concert attire at the beginning of the school year, and to help make sure everyone has the full outfit on concert night;
- Coordinators to take a meal order for students, to be eaten after school and before the concert;
- Helpers to set up and monitor a table of refreshments for a post-concert reception;
- Food and drink contributions to fill that table;
- Volunteers to help sell spirit wear and answer questions.
- Shutterbugs to take photos!!

## Marching Band

TJMC relies on volunteers for many things! When our season gets off the ground, we will need:

- Detail-oriented folks to help measure for, organize, distribute, and maintain uniforms;
- Construction experts to help design and assemble props;
- Shoppers to procure snacks, water, and other supplies;
- Chaperones to travel on buses with students and stay overnight with them at band camp, and for some of our more distant competitions;
- Rental truck drivers to transport our equipment and props;
- Safety experts to maintain the first-aid kits;
- Helpers to carry water to musicians and guard for warmups before football games;
- Assistants to help push props and large pit instruments on and off the field for performance;
- Parents comfortable behind the camera, to take photos!

**Some of these jobs are one-task signups, while others are handled by season- or year-long leads. Try helping out for one event, to see if a coordinator position might be right for you?**

# Spelling It Out

So now you speak SWE, and can step out with TJMC. But that's not the end of the acronyms! These are some of the organizations—ranging from local to international!—that coordinate events for our bands:

AIA: Atlantic Indoor Association

BOA: Bands of America (coordinates marching band competitions)

VBODA: Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' Association

VMBC: Virginia Marching Band Cooperative

VMEA: Virginia Music Educators Association

WGI: Winter Guard International

## TJDL/TJWG

**Drumline and winter guard volunteers help with many of the tasks familiar to marching band helpers:**

- Measure students for uniforms, and help alter outfits for performance.**
- Drive equipment trucks, and help unload.**
- Provide strong arms to help hustle equipment on and off the performance floor.**
- Chaperone away trips, including some overnight stays.**
- Take photos at performances!**

Band Boosters

2020-2021

### Meeting Schedule

While school is virtual, our meetings will be, too!  
Look for emails with Zoom links.  
Once in-person school resumes, meetings will take place in the Principal's Conference Room.

September 15, 2020

October 20, 2020

November 17, 2020

December 15, 2020

January 19, 2020

February 16, 2020

March 16, 2020

April 20, 2020

May 18, 2020

And this is just the beginning! SRO, Jazz Cabaret, the Spring Band-Quet, and several student-planned events will also need our help. There's something to fit every schedule, and every talent!



## A little bit more about our ensembles...

- Symphonic Band (SB) – Meets as a scheduled class during the school day, mostly underclassmen.
- Symphonic Percussion Ensemble – Meets as a scheduled class during the school day, mostly underclassmen, also performs with Symphonic Band.
- Symphonic Wind Ensemble (SWE) – Placement by audition, meets as a scheduled class during the school day.
- Percussion Ensemble – Placement by audition, meets as a scheduled class during the school day, also performs with Symphonic Wind Ensemble.
- Jazz Band – Placement by audition; meets after school; performs at school functions throughout a typical year, including band concerts, the Viennese Ball, Valentine’s Day Dance, and Jazz Cabaret.
- Jazz II – Meets during one of the weekly 8<sup>th</sup> period blocks. Open to any TJ student who would like to explore this genre of music! Performs at Jazz Cabaret in June; Jazz Band NOT a prerequisite!
- TJ Marching Colonials (TJMC) – Marching band group (winds, percussion, color guard); rehearses during the summer and after school throughout the first quarter. Performs during halftime at home football games, and participates in marching band competitions on certain weekends during the season.
- Winter/Indoor Drum Line (TJDL) – Percussion group that incorporates artistic choreography in its performances; includes marching battery and stationary pit. Rehearses late fall through early spring, and participates in drum line competitions on certain weekends during the season.
- Winter/Indoor Color Guard (TJWG) – Color guard group that showcases flag and weapons talent in its choreography. Rehearses late fall through early spring, and participates in color guard competitions on certain weekends during the season.

*Marching band and indoor drum line percussion decoded:*

*Pit – Stationary percussion instruments (e.g., marimba and keyboard), AKA “front ensemble.”*

*Battery – Marching percussion instruments (snare drums, tenors, and bass drums).*

### **Does your employer match philanthropic contributions to 501c3 organizations? File to match your contributions to TJ Band Boosters!**

*The TJ Band Boosters, as well as the TJ Partnership Fund, have been added to Benevity, a tool that disburses charitable funds for hundreds of companies. With just a few minutes of effort, your contribution may be doubled, or even tripled, per your employer’s support commitment. If you work for an organization that has a philanthropic program in place, and you need help adding the TJ Band Boosters to that tool to secure matching contributions, please reach out to us; we can help you add our organization so that you can secure matching contributions. Did you know that many organizations that have philanthropic programs in place will also match volunteer hours? Log in those TJ Band Boosters volunteer hours to secure additional TJ Band Booster funding!*

*Send questions to [info@tjbands.org](mailto:info@tjbands.org), with the subject line “Employer Matching.”*