

TJ Bands Essentials

TJ Bands Boosters

Fall 2023

Welcome to TJ Bands! Visit www.tjbands.org for more information.

Welcome to TJ BANDS

Our TJ Bands community is dedicated to support our students' musical education while keeping our school traditions vibrant!

Many aspects of our practice and performing schedules are somewhat firm at this time.

But do stay tuned for updates as the year takes shape. We're so happy to have you with us in this school year 2023-2024!

What groups do TJ Bands 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 Band Club (8th period club)
- TJ Marching Colonials (TJMC)
- Winter/Indoor Drum Line (TJDL)
- Winter/Indoor Color Guard (TJWG)

Who are the TJ Bands Boosters?

We are a group of parent/guardian volunteers who support all aspects of the TJ Bands 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.

2023-2024 **TJ Bands Boosters Board**

Co-Presidents:

Claire Chua and Jonathan Kerr
president@tjbands.org

VP Ways and Means:

Dawn Heisey-Grove vpwaysmeans@tjbands.org

VP of Communications:

Mirtha Arce vpcommunications@tjbands.org

Receipts Treasurer:

Tracy Pierson rcpt_treasurer@tjbands.org

Disbursements Treasurer:

Neelam Janardhan disb_treasurer@tjbands.org

Secretary:

Chloe Duan secretary@tjbands.org

Fundraising...

Our way to keep TJ Bands Strong and Successful

We fundraise to support all aspects of our bands program. This year, we need to raise **\$36,000 for all bands and guard programs to cover key expenses.**

Year-round fundraisers:

- **Spirit wear** – Show your TJ Bands pride! Shirts, hoodies, pants, magnets and more! Purchase items [here](#)
- **License plate frames** – Customizable! Show your TJ pride

Seasonal fundraisers:

- **Marching band jewelry** – designed to match the TJMC theme. September to December
- **Online merchandise sale** – includes unique TJ Bands spirit wear you can only purchase online
- **Annual student fundraiser** - mechanism for raising most of the money the Bands need for the year, usually in October
- **Fruit sale** – the best fresh fruit from Florida, November sale delivered by mid-December
- **Mattress sale** - Mattress and bedding sale with Mattress Warehouse, held in May
- **Optional spring fundraiser** – if we haven't met our fundraising goal, or have an unplanned expense

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

2023-2024 Activity Leads/Coordinators

We have leadership positions **OPEN** for many activities. You can lead, co-lead or shadow. Contact president@tjbands.com for more information.

- Truck Coordinator
- Pre-concert Meals
- Curricular Uniforms
- SRO Coordinator
- Spring Band-quet Coordinator
- Senior Flowers Coordinator
- Parent Webmaster
- Student Webmasters **OPEN**
- TJMC Coordinators:
 - Uniforms
 - Emergency Forms/Medication
- Color Guard Parent Liaison
- Drumline Parent Liaison
- Jazz Ensemble Parent Liaison
- Fundraising
 - TJ Bands Merchandise
 - License Plate Frames
 - Hand-crafted Jewelry
 - Fruit Sales (Fall)
 - Concessions Stand **OPEN**
 - Large-scale Campaign Assistant (Fall/Winter) **OPEN**
 - Mattress Warehouse Sales (Spring) **OPEN**
 - Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator **OPEN**

Curious about volunteering?

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

- Contact president@tjbands.com
- Keep an eye out for a SUG coming your way soon. *What's a SUG?* It's short for Sign Up Genius, the online tool we use to organize our volunteers.
- Check your inbox for additional opportunities as they arise.

Why volunteering at TJ Bands is so great and important:

- It is an opportunity to create community, and get to know other parents.
 - It is a way to support your son or daughter's interest in band and learn why they love it so much.
 - It is a chance to show your appreciation to the teachers and instructors for their dedication to musical education.
 - It is a path for personal satisfaction, giving back to the school while showcasing your strengths and talents.
- Contact president@tjbands.org for more info about Volunteering with TJ Bands.

You are vital to the success of the TJ Bands Program!

There are many ways to get involved:


- Support a fundraiser
- Chaperone a trip
- Drive a carpool
- Volunteer at an event
- Donate snacks
- 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 Bands 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 TJ Bands program?

- Our website – www.tjbands.org
- Occasional newsletters or join us  TJHSST Band Boosters
- Emails from Mr. Ballard, Director of TJ Bands.
- Emails from TJ Bands 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.

TJ Bands Boosters

2023-2024

Meeting Schedule

TJ Band Boosters meetings are every third Tuesday of the school year. Sessions are held in person at the Band Room or the Principal's Conference Room, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. For online participation, look for emails with links to connect.

Tuesday, September 19

Tuesday, October 17

Tuesday, November 28

Tuesday, January 16

Tuesday, February 20

Tuesday, March 19

Tuesday, April 16

Tuesday, May 21

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, split between one to two periods depending on enrollment, 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 Ensemble – 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 Band Club – Meets during one of the weekly 8th 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, with the subject line “Employer Matching.”