



BOOSTER GUIDE BOOK
2013 – 2014
MCHS RAM BAND BOOSTERS, INC.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the MCHS Ram Band Boosters! This guide book is intended to describe the activities of MCHS Ram Band Boosters, Inc.. We hope that it will answer many of your questions. This guide only covers information related to booster membership; student information can be found in the Student Handbook distributed by the Band Directors. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a member of the Executive Board; their contact information can be found on page 3.

Mayde Creek High School Ram Band Boosters, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3), non-profit organization whose mission is to support the Mayde Creek High School Ram Band program and to assist the Band Directors by facilitating non-classroom activities throughout the school year. Parents/guardians of band members are invited to become active members of the MCHS Ram Band Boosters' organization. There is no charge for membership.

The organization's primary purpose is to provide financial assistance to the Ram Band in areas no longer funded by the KISD budget. The Band Boosters raise the funds that are used to provide this financial support and enable the band to participate in the many activities that occur throughout each school year. The amount of money the booster organization raises each year varies with the Band Program needs. Each summer the Band Booster's Executive Board develops the budget for the coming school year based on input from the directors. The budget is then presented to the general membership for approval at the first band booster meeting of the school year. The budget is the organization's plan for the coming year; actual expenditures are based on the availability of funds. We can only spend what we have earned. Therefore, every Booster Member's commitment and support is crucial to our success.

Where does the money go? The funds that are raised pay for many things throughout the school year. A partial list of the events and activities which the MCHS Ram Band Boosters fund are listed below:

- Marching Shows (Purchase of music and choreography)
- Supplemental Instruction
- Technician & Clinician Fees
- Contest Entry Fees (Marching Shows, Region Auditions, UIL, etc.)
- Equipment Needs (Sound systems, projectors, cameras, electronics, musical instruments etc.)
- Transportation
- Leadership Programs
- Banquet
- Scholarship Programs (Private Lessons, & Seniors)
- Uniforms

There is no secret or magic formula for the boosters and band's success. The Band Boosters is an organization that runs entirely on volunteer power for the benefit of all students in the band program. With all members working together, we can achieve success and ensure that the years in band will be some of the best and most memorable years for our students.

Staying Informed

Communication is vital to the success of our organization. In addition to talking to your student, here are some excellent ways to stay informed:

- 1. ATTEND BAND BOOSTER MEETINGS.** The Band Booster meeting dates and times are posted on Charms. The meetings are a great way to stay up-to-date on upcoming band activities and fundraising events.
- 2. CHECK THE MCHS RAM BAND WEBSITE.** Check the band website at www.mchsrband.org regularly. Schedule changes, announcements and other info is posted there to keep you informed. The CHARMS calendar link will provide the most current info regarding the Band's schedule.
- 3. REGULAR EMAILS.** The Band Director, Booster President or Membership Officer will send email announcements from time to time. Please be sure to provide us your email address so that you can receive these communications and add our domain, "@mchsrband.org" to your safe senders list. Please contact us immediately if you change your mailing or email address.
- 4. INFORMACION EN ESPANOL.** Para obtener información que pertenece hacia las actividades, finanzas, oportunidades para ofrecerse como voluntario o algo mas hacia este programa, favor de llamar a Sonya Lenihan, Vice Presidente de Miembros. Para su referencia, el numero de telefono y direccion de email estan notadas en la pagina que sigue.

Contact Information for the Band Directors

Head Director	James Dolnik	281-237-3596	jamesadolnik@katyisd.org
Assistant Director	Mark Keene	281-237-3503	markkeene@katyisd.org
Assistant Director	Rachel Luegering	281-237-3853	rachelluegering@katyisd.org

Band Booster Board Contacts

President	Sarah Castillo	713-647-1512	president@mchsramband.org
Vice President	Jon Sharp	832-419-5696	vicepresident@mchsramband.org
Fundraising Officer I	Andy Amstutz Wendy Amstutz	313-213-5312 832-744-7798	fundraising1@mchsramband.org
Fundraising Officer II	Vicki Schnee	281-244-4272	fundraising2@mchsramband.org
Events Officer I			events1@mchsramband.org
Events Officer II	Jennifer Scarano	281-455-8846	membership@mchsramband.org
Membership Officer	Sonya Lenihan	281-398-6278	membership@mchsramband.org
Lead Treasurer	Lynne Williams	832-795-2333	treasurer1@mchsramband.org
Assistant Treasurer	Shari Williams	713-4711690	treasurer2@mchsramband.org
Secretary	Maren Wade	281-804-6321	secretary@mchsramband.org

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE BOOSTERS

Volunteer Opportunities – Join the Band Wagon!

This section highlights the activities and events that require support from volunteers. This list may change during the year as the schedule or needs of the program changes.

Band Chaperones, Bus Drivers & Pit Crew Assistants (Marching Season Football Games & Events)

Chaperones are responsible for assisting the directors and ensuring the safety of the band students. The chaperones are responsible for monitoring students, water coolers, uniforms, plumes, and performing other duties as needed. Chaperones ride buses with the students and ensure student headcount on assigned buses. Chaperone designations and duty assignments are coordinated by the Head Chaperones.

Truck Drivers are also needed on a voluntary basis to assist with transportation to/from events and football games. The Pit Crew is responsible for activities associated with the sideline percussion area for performances as well as loading and coordinating the transportation of percussion and larger band instruments, equipment, and props. Chaperones volunteering to assist with pit crew are not required to have a Percussion/Drum line student. The Pit Crew is coordinated by the Pit Crew Lead.

All adult Chaperones and Pit Crew Assistants must wear a visible identification badge at all times and must enter the stadium with and sit with the band during the event.

Events and Committees

Lock-In: The band lock-in is an all-night activity for all band students held on a Friday, Aug. 9th this year from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Although this event is not mandatory, all students are encouraged to attend and participate. This overnight event includes a variety of teambuilding and fun-filled activities such as relay races, blowup games, video games, movies, dodge ball, and more! Snacks such as drinks, cookies, chips, etc., are provided by the students according to their sections. Volunteers are also needed to chaperone this event.

KISD Invitational Marching Contest (Katy Marching Festival): This contest which is hosted by KISD is held at Rhodes Stadium in October of each year. The duties and responsibilities are shared by all high schools in the Katy Independent School District and their associated band booster organizations. While one KISD school takes on the responsibility as host for all contest participants, another school operates the concession stands and another oversees the parking and gate admissions. The proceeds from the Katy Marching Festival are divided equally between the six KISD Band Booster Organizations after all expenses have been paid. No students and/or children are allowed to volunteer due to liability issues.

UIL Marching Contest: Other designated KISD schools will then host and run the associated UIL Marching Contest which also takes place in October. The proceeds from the concession stands and gate receipts from UIL are equally divided between the six KISD Band Booster Organizations after all expenses have been paid.

Uniform / Hat Committee: The Uniform Committee assists with uniform fitting and sizing adjustments at the beginning of the Marching and Concerts Seasons in addition to coordinating the dry cleaning and maintenance of uniforms. The Uniform Committee Chairperson needs assistance to hem marching uniform pants before marching season and to hem concert uniform pants and dresses prior to concert season. Volunteers also assist in issuing/collecting uniforms and hats throughout the year (marching, contest performances, cleaning etc...) and assist with any needed repairs.

Other Events/Committees

Band Banquet
Game Day Meals
Hospitality
Other Marching Contests

Color Guard Assistance
Showcase Social
Photographer
Other Events

Equipment Repair
Spirit Committee
Video Operator
Other Fundraisers

Fundraisers

Because the Mayde Creek Ram Band Boosters, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, it relies heavily on fundraisers, individual donations and corporate contributions to generate its operating funds. The organization is run and manned by volunteers; it does not have paid staff. Our success is dependent upon the combined efforts of our many volunteers. We have a variety of fundraising programs and hope that every parent/guardian can find one in which to volunteer. The following sections describe our major projects.

Katy Ram Challenge Bike Ride: This event will be held in April. The Katy Ram Challenge is a recommended training ride for the BP MS150 Houston to Austin Ride. This event is a fully supported bike ride. Volunteers are needed to plan and organize starting early in the fall of the previous year. A few days before the ride, volunteers will be needed to assist with additional tasks associated with putting ride packets together and registering riders. On the day of the actual ride, we anticipate needing 100-150 volunteers to man registration, several stations and rest stops throughout the various routes available to riders. This is our biggest fundraiser in terms of effort and financial benefit.

Friends of the Band Campaign: The purpose of the Friends of the Band Campaign is to obtain additional financial support of the Mayde Creek High School Ram Band Boosters through financial contributions from businesses, individuals and families.

A campaign letter for donation requests is available for all parents/guardians to send out. It can be personalized with pictures of your band student. The boosters will mail it for you or you can mail it yourself. Feel free to make as many copies as needed to distribute to family members, employers, co-workers, your

hair dresser and anyone else you can think of to ask for donations. All donors will receive a thank you letter and recognition for their contribution. Contributions are never too small; it all adds up. Membership in MCHS Ram Band Boosters is automatic and there is no membership fee. However, we do encourage all parents/guardians to become "contributing" Friends of the Band.

Grocery Card Rebates: Grocery Card Rebates are a year-round program which helps the MCHSBB raise funds while you do your grocery shopping at Randall's. Participation in the program costs absolutely nothing. Information is available at all booster meetings or by visiting a Randall's courtesy booth and requesting to have the Mayde Creek High School Ram Band Boosters code assigned to your Customer/Shopper card.

Spirit Items: The Booster organization offers a variety of "spirit items" for sale. By purchasing spirit items, supporters are able to "show their support" at games and every band event throughout the year. The profit from these spirit items sales goes into the organization's operating funds.

Car Wash: A car wash is being planned for August 18th this year at two locations: Fry Road at Saums and Hwy. 6 in the Bear Creek area. Students will bring home specific details.

Holiday Gift Wrapping at Katy Mills Mall (December) - Get into the spirit of the Holidays and help us wrap presents. We work for donations, spread good will and earn great money for our programs.

Silent Auction (at the Holiday Concert) - Do part of your Holiday shopping with the Band Boosters. A variety of themed baskets, services, memorabilia, and products will be available for bidding. Most items are donated to the boosters therefore this is a very profitable fundraiser for the organization.

Firework Stand (Winter Break/New Year's Eve) - This is a new fundraiser for the band. Adults man the cash registers while students pull items and man the door checking receipts as people leave. We provide services for two weeks prior to New Year's Eve and each day is broken down into shifts. This event is expected to be very profitable for the band. If it work well this year we will add it to the schedule in the future.

As a member of the Mayde Creek Mighty Ram Band Booster organization, we need your help to ensure all fundraisers are successful. Please join our volunteer pool today!

Volunteer Hours – How Your Time Adds Up!

Recording volunteer hours is important as they are reported to MCHS for inclusion in the Katy ISD VIPS (Volunteer In Public Schools) program. All KISD schools are required to track, monitor, and report this information for a variety of government reports, grants, etc. Volunteer Hours are earned when students and parents donate time and energy to support either a fundraising activity or an event in support of the overall program.

1. Participation/Volunteer Hours are required in order for parents/guardians to qualify to serve on the Executive Board of the booster organization. (See#6 below.)
2. Each band student/family is encouraged to accumulate a minimum of 75 Hours each school year.
3. Participation/Volunteer Hours have NO DOLLAR VALUE.
4. Participation/Volunteer Hours will be accounted for by each Event Team Coordinator or Committee Chair and turned over to the VIPS Coordinator at the conclusion of each event for posting.
5. Participation/Volunteer Hours may be earned by a student and/or designated representative.
6. A minimum of 75 Participation/Volunteer Hours, 25 of which must be earned by the student, are required for eligibility for the band booster organization board positions.
7. Participation/Volunteer Hours accumulate for each school year which is defined as May 1st – April 30th. Hours may not be carried over to the next school year.
8. All Participation/Volunteer Hours earned by parents are given to each band member in the same family on an equal basis. Participation/Volunteer Hours earned by students are accumulated on an individual basis.
9. The following Volunteer Positions earn an extra 10 hours per year: Band Booster Executive Board Members, Booster Committee Chairpersons, VIPS Coordinator and Webmaster.

Band Students should see the student handbook or a director for information regarding Volunteer & Participation points earned and reported by students.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Scholarships will be granted on a funds available basis at the end of the school year. The financial health of the Boosters and availability of scholarships is dependent upon successful fundraisers and volunteer support. In order to participate in any scholarship, students must be a member in good standing with the Boosters and the school. All fees for the current year must be paid in full and the student must be UIL eligible.

Private Lesson Scholarships

Private Lesson Scholarships will be granted on a funds available basis.

Qualifications:

1. Band member must be on the directors' list of students who take private lessons.
2. Band member must be in good standing (fees paid, equipment and uniforms returned, etc.).
3. Payment of up to \$16 per ½ hr lesson for no more than 4 private lessons will be awarded at the end of the academic year. Maximum amount of the award is \$64.00.

Senior Scholarships

Senior Scholarships will be granted on a funds available basis at the end of the school year. The Booster Executive Board determines the maximum dollar amount available during the budget process. The number and the dollar amount of Senior scholarships will be determined in late March. Applications will be given directly to the eligible seniors.

Qualifications:

1. Band member must be a graduating senior.
2. Band member must have participated in a High School Band Program for four years or a total of eight semesters.
3. Band member must complete and submit the scholarship application by the specified deadline. No extensions will be granted. All applications must be mailed to:
MCHS Ram Band Boosters, Inc.
P.O. Box 5505
Katy, TX 77491
4. Band member must be in good standing (fees paid, equipment and uniforms returned, etc.).
5. A committee will evaluate the applications and determine recipients. Members of this committee will be selected from the KISD community and will not have any relationships to the applicants.

OTHER INFORMATION

Contest Attendance - Almost from day one of summer band, preparation is under way for the UIL Marching Contest. A lot of hard work goes into putting the show together and as competition time draws near, we'll show our support of the Band by attending the contests. Everyone is encouraged to show their spirit at these events. Banners and posters are great visual reminders of our pride in our students. The Boosters will provide water and refreshments for the Band. We need parents, siblings, grandparents, neighbors, etc., at these events.

Proper Etiquette At Contests And Performances - Please note that there are certain etiquette standards for band contests and concert performances. It is appropriate to applaud when a group is introduced and at the end of each selection. It is also appropriate to acknowledge when high points of a marching show are performed by clapping. However, there should be **NO TALKING or NOISE** during the overall performance. During the week of contest, please show your support by letting the band members know what a tremendous job they are doing. It is important that we all show how proud we are of them for all the hard work they do.

QUESTIONS ?

Please be sure to ask questions; this guide book provides a lot of information but it may not cover everything you need to know. Contact a member of the executive board if you have a "Booster" organization question. Band program and student requirement questions should be directed to one of the Band Directors. Color Guard program questions should be directed to the Color Guard Instructor.

Band Term	Definition
Band Pic Panoramic	During summer band a panoramic picture of the entire marching band in their marching uniforms is scheduled. Pictures may be ordered at the time the picture is taken. This is a group band photo only, individual pictures are taken later in the year.
Banquet	The banquet is held in May at the Pine Forest Country Club. This is a great end of the year celebration. The seniors "will" items to underclassmen, band directors submit awards, and band scholarships are presented. A nice dinner is served and a DJ provides music to unwind to after the business section of the event. There is a cost to attend and registration is mandatory.
Big Brother/Sister	Upperclassmen mentor incoming freshmen. A freshman is assigned/selected by a big brother or sister, usually in the same section. The big brother/sister helps answer questions about band and school, often gives small gifts on game days, and gives the freshman another ally to start off their high school career.
Booster Meetings	The booster club meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month unless a band event conflicts with this date. A schedule of meetings is provided on the back of the receipt you receive on money day, on the calendar mailings, on the website, and on Charms. Booster membership is free and all members are encouraged to attend.
Brick Orders	These fall under the spirit item umbrella. Students or families may purchase a brick with your students name and a sentiment that will be placed in front of the band hall.
By-Laws	These are the governing laws of the booster club.
Cage	The parking lot/practice area located in front of the bus barn at the school for marching practice.
Calendar Sync	Navigate to the CHARMS log on page for Mayde Creek HS Band. Click the "Calendar" tab, select the "Sync Calendar" tab located next to the "Exit CHARMS" tab, select you mobile device from the list of devices and follow the directions. This is a great way to have the most current schedule information literally in the palm of your hands.
Car Wash	This is the first fundraiser of the year. It usually occurs the second week of summer band. Students and adult volunteers set up car washing stations at two locations, one on Fry Road and one off of Highway 6. The students wash vehicles on a donation basis while the adults supervise. It is a fun way to raise a little money for the band.
Chaperones	The students travel by bus to each football game and marching festival. Each bus is assigned two parent chaperones. The chaperones must ride the bus and are not allowed to bring small children with them on the bus. The chaperones ensure the students safety, make sure the students are following the rules, and assist the directors as necessary. At halftime the chaperones fill water jugs, help with the plumes and flip charts. Attendance is taken for the bus prior to leaving school and prior to leaving the stadium or event venue. Upon return the chaperone makes sure the bus is free of trash and lost items.
Charms Access	You can access the CHARMS webpage two ways. You can navigate directly to the site at www.charmsoffice.com , select the "Enter/Login" tab, enter the school code (MaydeCreekHSB) under the Parents/Students/Members and select "Enter Student/Parent Area". A link to the CHARMS webpage is located on the band website as well along with the school code ~ www.mchsrband.org . The username for access is your student's school ID number. There is an option in CHARMS on the parent information page that allows you to change the log on for each parent if you choose to do so, please do not change the students log on, it should remain their student ID number for their personal access.
Clinicians	Specialists that come and supplement the instruction the students receive from the band directors.
Communication	The first stop for information is Charms, it will always have the most current information. All students and families members will be sent e-mails from the booster club membership coordinator and volunteer coordinator, and the director with updates on events, activities, and volunteer needs. The website is also a good way to find out what is happening with the band. You can access Charms through the website as well. www.mchsrband.org .
Concerts	Each student is fitted and provided concert attire. The girls are provided black dresses for the concert season. Boys are provided a jacket and pants but must purchase a shirt, cumber bund and bow tie. The shirt, cumber bund and bow tie combo may be purchased at money day or prior to the beginning of the concert season. Concert etiquette from the students and the guests is mandatory at these events. All mobile devices should be on silent and talking should be kept to a minimum while the bands are performing.
Corporate Sponsors	The band is always looking for various businesses to donate funds or in-kind donations to the band. They are recognized in the concert programs, on the band website, and on the t-shirts for the Katy Ram Challenge.
DI's – Drill Instructors Leadership Team	Each band section by instrument is assigned Drill Instructor(s)/Section Leader(s). Students must apply to be considered a Drill Instructor/ and participate in auditions. Once selected these students help teach other students in their section and maintain order during practice.
Drum Majors	Three students are selected after an application process and audition to be a Drum Major. These three students conduct the marching band during the field performances and in the stands. They are expected to help instruct stu-

	dents, maintain order, and be good role models.
Fees	The student fees are broken into three sections for band members. General band member \$150, color guard \$650, percussion \$265. These fees are assigned based on the services and materials needed for that section. The fees cover costs such as dry cleaning of uniforms, transportation costs, clinicians, contest entry fees, uniforms, and other items.
Firework Stand	This is a new fundraiser for the band. We will help set up the fireworks stand to prepare for sales and then provide cashiers, floor workers, and doormen for two weeks prior to New Year's eve. The band will receive a percentage from the sales.
Flip Charts	These are the small charts with music that the students use when marching, playing in the football stands, and for Martinette performances during the halftime festivities. They are strongly recommended as they are very useful.
Game Day	If a game day falls during the school week the students must remain after school for practice prior to the game. Game day meals are provided after practice if the student purchased this option on money day. The students must wear their black band shirt and athletic shorts that fit under their marching uniform. When they get on the bus they must have their water jug, hat box, flip charts with music, gloves, marching shoes, and instrument. At the game the students are not allowed to eat while they are in uniform. They are allowed to drink water only. They are expected to stay in their section and are not allowed to socialize with friends outside of band. All mobile devices must be put away during the game as well. The students must travel to and from the game on the bus. A tweet will be posted when the students are close to the school for parents to pick up their students. When picking up your student, please do not park or wait in the drive thru area. Please park in a parking spot and wait for your student to come to you. This helps with the loading and unloading of students and equipment. Also, please honk your horn as loudly as possible as the busses enter the parking lot to welcome our band home.
Game Day Meals	On days in which students do not have the opportunity to leave school for an evening meal between practice and game or event times, they have the option of purchasing game day meals. A light meal, water, and fruit is provided on each of these days. Students must select this option on Money Day and pay for all meals at that time. There are no single meals sold on the day of the event or partial orders. Game day meals are broken down into two categories: Student Paid and Booster Paid. The Booster club pays for two game day meals for all students during the fall marching season. These days are noted in Charms and the students are given menu options prior to the event.
Gift Wrapping	This fundraiser occurs on the days leading up to Christmas that the students are not in school. The students wrap presents for donations in the Katy Mills Mall. There are shifts that the students work and they work all the way to the big money day of Christmas Eve. Wrapping supplies donations are solicited beginning at the first booster meeting.
Grocery Rebates	This has to be the easiest fundraiser ever. Randalls and Krogers allow people to link their reward cards to their school organization. For every dollar that you spend the band will receive a portion of the proceeds. We simply accept the checks.
Hat Boxes	Each student is designated a hat box and hat on money day. They are responsible for the care of the hat and the box.
Homecoming	The students are allowed to wear their mums or garters. The marching band performance is usually moved to after the game due to the homecoming ceremonies occurring at halftime. The usual game day procedure are followed. The Band Beau and Band Sweetheart are announced at this game.
Ice Cream Social/Band Showcase	In September the eighth graders from the feeder middle schools come to MCHS and perform with the band in the Commons area of the school. The booster club provides ice cream and all of the trimmings for a small fee during this event. Students wear their band polos and jeans for this event. They have an opportunity to go home after school but are expected to be back by a specific time designated by the band directors.
Jazz Band	This is an optional band that students may join. Practice is held after school. They perform at the winter and spring concerts along with participating in the Katy Jazz Festival in April.
Katy Jazz Festival	The Katy Jazz Festival is held in April and the duties are assigned by the district. They can be anything from hospitality for judges to putting out signs.
Katy Ram Challenge	This the main fundraiser for the band. It is a MS 150 recommended bike ride that takes place in April. The booster club coordinates, plans, and operates the ride. The ride has an average of 1200 riders each year and nets around \$17,000. It takes a lot of volunteer help and is a lot of fun to work.
Katy Rodeo Parade	The band marches in the Katy Rodeo Parade in March. All of the Katy schools are combined into two big sections and march together from Rhodes stadium to Katy High School.
Leadership Camp	Learning sessions for the leadership team are provided in July and two workshop days are provided just prior to the start of summer band.

Letterman Points	In order to earn a letterman jacket, band students must earn a certain number of points. Points can be earned by participating in extra activities such as solo and ensemble, general participation, and region/jazz band tryouts. Once the required points have been accumulated the student will be given the option to purchase a jacket.
Loading Crew	This is a group of students that make sure all instruments are loaded properly on the busses and the trucks/trailer.
Lock - In	This is a fun team building event. It occurs at the end of the first week of summer band. The students arrive at 9pm on Friday and are virtually locked in the band hall/gym area until 6am. Each grade level is assigned an item to bring such as soda, chips, desserts, or fruits/veggies. The booster club provides hotdogs and nachos along with the necessary utensils and paper ware. Various activities are planned for the evening such as a dodge ball tournament, ice cream challenge, relay races, etc. It is a great way to celebrate the completion of the first week of summer band and a spirited welcome to the band family.
Marching Festivals	The band participates in several marching festivals each year. The usual marching uniform is used for the festivals with the addition of gauntlets to the uniform and a few restrictions. For instance girls are not allowed to wear nail polish if their finger tips are visible with their gloves, the polish will be removed prior to the start of the event. Piercings are limited as well to stud type earrings for the girls only, all others must be removed during the performance times. Everyone must wear black socks. All hair must be neatly pinned under the hat during the performance. The students must have their hat box, water jug, marching shoes, and instruments as they enter the bus.
Money Day	This day kicks off the year. Students and family members follow a list of stations completing tasks necessary for band participation. They will update Charms information, collect necessary forms, sign up to volunteer, submit necessary district forms, purchase spirit items, get fitted for their marching uniform, and pay their appropriate student fees, including game day meal fees.
Patches	Patches are available for purchase at the various marching festivals. Some require the purchase of one patch and then a year rocker patch for each year that the student participates. These patches are usually sewn onto the letterman jacket.
Percussion Camp	These are learning sessions for the percussion group that are held in July
Piano Accompaniment	If your student participates in the Solo/Ensemble competition they may need an accompanists for their solo. The music that the student selects for the competition will dictate if they need this service. There is a fee for the service and this fee may be paid on money day or by the due date of the competition.
Pit Crew	The pit crew is made up of students and adult volunteers. They are responsible for loading, setting up the pit and percussion instruments and other items prior to the game, at half time, after the game, and unloading once back at school. The other large items are the drum major stands, tubas, and large instruments. Please help in clearing the path in and out of the band hall after a game or event to expedite the unloading process.
Plumes	Plumes are placed in each students marching uniform hat as they enter the field at halftime. The plumes are very delicate and cannot be touched by bare hands. A few adult volunteers pull and place the plumes for the students. There is a specific way to pull the plumes from the plume container, place the plumes in the hats, and returning the plumes to the container. The students are not allowed to remove or touch the plumes.
Practice/Rehearsals	All practice/rehearsals times are listed on the calendar mailings and on Charms.
Preview Performance	This is a great way to get a sneak peek at what the students have been working on during summer band. It is usually scheduled on the Friday of the third week of summer band. Family members are encouraged to visit the practice area/cage to see what the students have learned so far. Popsicle treats are provided for the students and family members at the end of the event.
Private Lessons	If a student is interested in private lessons they should contact the band director and they will be given the contact information for private lessons. Private Lessons are optional yet invaluable and prices vary.
Region Jazz	Students have the opportunity to try out for a spot in the Region Jazz Band. There is a fee for the tryout which occur in the fall and the actual band performs/competes in the Spring.
Scholarships	Each year the booster club budgets a specific amount to be distributed as senior scholarships in the spring. The scholarship requirements are posted on the web site, and distributed at the booster club meetings and at school by the band directors. Each scholarship application is anonymously judged by outside band members, teachers, and booster club members. The scholarships are presented at the band banquet in May.
Scoring	Scoring is done on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the best. If the band receives all "1"s for the Marching, Concert, and Sight Reading Contests, they receive the honor of Sweepstakes. The band received Sweepstakes last year and has an awesome record of ten years of first division scoring results at the UIL Marching competition.
Sectionals	During concert season the students have individual section practices/rehearsals. The times for these "sectionals" are determined by the director of the band that your student participates in.
Senior Night	The parents and senior students are recognized prior to the beginning of the football game. A senior picture is taken at this time as well. Prior to game day each senior must complete and submit a senior bio to the directors to be read

	at the presentation time.
Shoe Fitting	Around the second week of summer band the directors set up a day in which students are fitted for their marching shoes. Shoes may be purchased for your student at this time if they are freshmen or if they have outgrown/worn out a previous pair of marching shoes. You may pay by cash or check made payable to Tote Unlimited and the cost is usually around \$42.
Showcase	In September the eighth graders from the feeder middle schools come to MCHS and perform with the band in the Commons area of the school. The booster club provides ice cream and all of the trimmings for a small fee during this event. Students wear their band polos and jeans for this event. They have an opportunity to go home after school but are expected to be back by a specific time designated by the band directors.
Silent Auction	This fundraiser is held in conjunction with the Winter concert. Various items are solicited and available for auction up to the start of the last band to perform. A raffle for a big ticket items is usually held as well.
Solo/Ensemble'	Solo/Ensemble is a competition that is strongly recommended for all band students to demonstrate their musical talent by performing a solo and or an ensemble with other band students. There are fees to participate, that may be paid on money day or prior to the contest due date. Music for the event may be purchased as early as December prior to the competition school year.
Spirit Items	Spirit items such as shirts, jackets, bags, and other misc. items are available for sale at money day, at the games, or by submitting an order form by e-mail to fundraiser1@mchsramband.org.
Spirit Nights	Various restaurants designate specific nights in which people indicate that they are from the MCHS Ram Band and the band will receive a portion of all sales for the evening.
Spring Trip	Each year a trip is scheduled for the band. Every four years the band has a big trip to Disneyland. Any other year the trip is much closer. The cost is estimated at the beginning of the year and broken into payments to make it easier for students to attend.
Summer Band	Summer Band begins the first full week of August. A calendar is sent to the student's home address in late July with practice times, however the most up to date times are posted in Charms. For the first three weeks of summer band the students learn the marching fundamentals and some drill in the morning and then the music in the afternoon. The students have a lunch break in the middle of the day, they can either bring their lunch or leave for lunch. They are encouraged to dress according to the weather. Each student will be provided a water jug and is encouraged throughout the day to keep hydrated.
Texas Roadhouse	This is another fundraiser that occurs in the fall and sometimes in the spring. The students sell frozen rolls from Texas Roadhouse prior to Thanksgiving and Easter. The students take orders and then the purchasers may pick up the rolls on designated dates. The rolls are frozen and directions for cooking are provided. Cinnamon butter is also sold at this time.
Town Pep Rally	Near the first week of school, MCHS hosts a town pep rally in which the fall sports teams are introduced. The band performs at this event. The students usually wear their band polo and jeans for this event. Parents are encouraged to attend to cheer and support the band members along with the athletes. This event is held on the MCHS football field behind the school.
Treat Days	The day of practice prior to a game day or marching festival day the students are provided popsicles after practice as a treat for all of their hard work.
Twitter	The band director uses twitter to keep parents informed during events and the times that the students will be returning from a game or an event. This is a great way to keep from sitting in the parking lot waiting for your student to return or your student waiting for a ride. You can follow the band on twitter at @mightyramband. You will need a twitter account to receive updates by this method.
UIL Hospitality	In April the band hosts the UIL concert competition and the booster club provides hospitality for the judges and staff.
Uniforms	There are two uniforms provided by the district, marching uniforms and concert attire. Both uniforms require some additional items to be purchased such as marching shoes, cumberbund and bow ties, etc. All fitting for core uniforms are done on money day.
Varsity/Non-Varsity	The top band or wind symphony band is considered the varsity band. The other bands are non-varsity. This comes into play during the UIL concert competition in April.
Water Jugs	Each student is provided a water jug on money day or during the first week of practice. Students are required to bring the jug with them to all practices, games, and events. They must be filled with water ONLY.
Website	Pictures, videos, upcoming events, calendars, forms, booster info, and much more is all located on the band website. www.mchsramband.org .
8th Grade Night	The eighth grade students from the feeder middle schools join the band at one of the football games. They sit with their coordinating sections and participate with the high school band members.