

*TO MAKE THE MARCHING BAND SEASON HAPPEN, PARENT VOLUNTEERS &
FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED.*

The Hampton Township School District provides basic funding for the marching band season. However, our program provides opportunities and experiences above what the school budget provides. These additional opportunities require additional funding. We meet these financial needs through contributions of the students and parents, and through fundraising.

Our field show is created and designed uniquely for our students. There are licensing and composition fees for music; drill design and production costs, field props and flags, instrument and equipment maintenance and upgrades, maintenance for our two travel trailers, wages for additional staff for band camp and throughout the marching season and various other needs as they arise. We also provide each student with a band shirt and we have pizza dinners, provide picnics and other snacks. Not only do we share school spirit at football games, but we march in parades and compete in Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association, ("PIMBA") and now Bands of America (BOA). The cost associated with doing all of these things has steadily increased, especially in the last year.

In order to maintain the caliber program we have and to support our students so that they can achieve a successful season, we need parent support in a few ways.

FAIR SHARE COMMITMENTS FOR 2026-2027

"Fair Share" is a student's financial share of the overall expense of the marching band season, which is required for all marching band members, including winds, percussion, dance and guard. Several schools who have programs similar to ours charge more than \$500 a year for marching band participation fees, and as much as \$700+. In order to keep our fair share fee lower, it requires **all families** to contribute.

The fair share fee for the 2026-2027 season will be \$400 per student. This fee covers your student's fair share of general expenses, which in part includes:

- Use of Uniform and 1 Pair Black Gloves for Marching Members
- Use of Uniform for Dance/Color Guard Members
- Use of Field Show Costumes for Marching/Dance/Color Guard Members
- General Expenses for the Field Show Including Additional Staff, Music Licensing Rights, Props, and Music and Visual Design
- BOA Show registration, Transportation to Delaware, and Dinner and Overnight expenses
- Band T-Shirt (*soft jersey*)
- Winter Band Hat (for 8th grade and new members)
- Frozen Sweets During Band Camp
- Band Camp Picnic & Activities
- Pizza at Home Football Games
- Bottled Water & Snacks at Games and Competitions

- Student Admission to Band Banquet
- Senior student gifts & Junior letter awards
- Assisting with the costs of Drum Major & Color Guard Captain camps
- Purchasing and Maintaining Instruments, equipment & props
- Professional musicians & recording engineers for special events
- CutTime, Flickr, Signup Genius, website & numerous other operating expenses

The HTSD also requires percussion students and those students who use school issued instruments to pay \$50.00. This is a mandatory fee for school owned instruments, for sticks and mallets for percussion and maintenance and repairs for loaned equipment.

Other out-of-pocket expenses include:

Drill Master shoes: Mandatory for Band Members: \$49 (Dinkles can be reused if they still fit)

Your Own Black Socks

Extra-Black Gloves: \$5

Extra Winter Band Hat: \$10

Extra Marching Band T-shirt: \$20

Flip Folder/Lyre: \$20

Away Game Hoagies – price TBD

Dance Team will have additional expenses that vary from year to year.

Color Guard will have additional expenses that vary from year to year.

Additional t-shirts, swag and gear can be purchased for your student and/or family at your option and at various prices.

The fair share payment and annual registration deadline for the 2026-2027 season is July 17th by midnight, which can be paid through CUT TIME or by check to the HBA. This a firm deadline because expenses start to accrue over the summer for band camp and T-shirts need to be ordered to be delivered by Kennywood day. There is a late fee of \$50 if this deadline is missed.

No student will be denied participation because of financial hardship. There are fundraising opportunities as detailed below. If you require financial assistance, please review the HBA Financial Aid Policy, Application and Agreement (which can be found as part of the Band Handbook) and submit the Financial Aid Application.

Students will receive their uniform, T-shirt and hat after their annual fair share fee is paid and/or the financial aid application is timely submitted.

FAMILY VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

Each marching band family, including dance team and color guard members is required to volunteer (3) times throughout the year, two general commitments and one Holiday Extravaganza commitment. At the time of registration, families will pre-register for the two general event tasks. Pre-registration helps us plan for the season in advance and will help to

reduce the number of requests we need to make throughout the year. Only one adult per family must register, but both are welcome or you can divide the assignments over multiple family members. If you have more than one student in the band, this is a family obligation, and not per student. You are also welcome to volunteer more than the minimum. If a conflict arises after registration, you can change your pre-registration selections during the season. There are lots of options to choose from, over various time-frames, and not all require clearances. Some jobs are little, and some jobs are bigger, but all jobs are important. Please see the volunteer description list.

If you are going to be working directly with the students or are chaperoning, clearances are required. See instructions for clearances as part of the Band Handbook.

If you serve as a committee chair, we will count this as (2) general commitments, as committee chairs do require additional time.

In addition to (2) two general volunteer commitments, every family will also be expected to help in some way with the Holiday Extravaganza, which is our largest, all grade level, event of the year. Registration for these tasks will open later in the school year. While some students will be performing at the HE, all students are strongly encouraged to volunteer at this event. They can earn community service hours too!

If you serve as a committee chair for HE, we will count this as (2) commitments, plus your (1) HE commitment, as HE committee chairs are more time consuming, and work is necessary over a few months due to preparation for the event.

We really need your time, but we understand some families are unable to volunteer for various reasons. If you would like to opt out of volunteering, the opt-out fee is \$300 (or \$100 for each commitment), which should be seen as an increase in your fair share fee, and **which is to be paid by the first day of band camp.** To be fair to all families, if you do not fulfill (3) three volunteer assignments (2 general and 1 HE), you will be subject to a \$100 fee at the end of the season, for each commitment missed.

It is noted that if your student participates in HIPE, Winter Guard or Indoor Dance, these activities have their own financial requirements and volunteer commitments, in addition to commitments for participating in marching band.

FUNDRAISING COMMITMENT

Fundraising is critical in order to be able to meet our annual budget and it helps keep the fair share fee low. All fundraisers support the HBA in some manner. Every student/family, including color guard and dance team families, is expected to participate in at least one (1) student fundraiser throughout the year. There are some fundraisers that allow students to earn funds for the spring trip (or other expenses, including fair share fees) and some that are for the general HBA fund.

We understand some families would rather not fundraise for various reasons. If you would like to opt out of the fundraising commitment, the annual opt-out fee is \$100, which should be viewed as an increase in your fair share fee. The opt-out fee is due by the first day of band camp. To be fair to all families, if your student has not participated in a fundraising event by the last fundraiser before the spring trip, you will be subject to a \$100 fee.

New as of the 2024-2025 season, the HBA began seeking corporate sponsorships at various financial levels, as another means to keep the fair share fee lower, as costs continue to rise. If a student brings a new corporate sponsorship to the HBA, at any financial level, that student's fundraising commitment shall be satisfied, without any other individual fundraising. This could be a corporate sponsorship through a family member or friend's business or by other efforts. Of course, a student can always choose to fundraise more than the requirement. If you are interested in being or obtaining a corporate sponsor, please ask for the corporate sponsor packet.

It is noted that if your student participates in HIPE, Winter Guard or Indoor Dance, these activities have their own fundraising commitments.

DONATIONS OF ITEMS

Throughout the year we will be seeking donations of various things. Donations are not required but are appreciated. Your donations are another way to keep fair share fees lower and it allows us to use our funds on the more expensive items needed for the season. For example, we were able to save enough funds to upgrade and purchase new field speakers, speaker carts and tech for the 2023-2024 season, as well as replace some older instruments.

Please note donations of items are not a replacement for payment of fair share, volunteering or fundraising.

We are looking forward to an amazing season and can't wait to see you at events and performances. Thank you in advance for the generosity of your time, talents and gifts.