

STCE Music Booster News

Christmas and Holiday Break Letter

On behalf of the STCE Music Boosters Board and Committee Volunteers, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe and joyful Holiday Break. I hope your children enjoyed their music program experience this semester and have a great vacation. We hear it all the time about how fast things move, and here we are nearly halfway through the school year. Many things have happened in this time span of our children's school music "career."

The music program and Booster function always starts in August, prior to school starting, when the marching band cranks up practice for the marching and football season at summer band camp. This includes acclimating all the incoming freshman and their parents for that matter. The Music Boosters are there providing students their music holders and t-shirt packets and even an ice cream social. During camp, the over 200 students in the band also were fitted and assigned their marching uniform and hat and provided alterations by Booster volunteers. Then Booster volunteers issued out and collect uniforms on game days and the homecoming parade. Many new band parents joined in the activities and were a great help. It was the first Friday of the school year and there was the massive marching band, an impressive sight as they marched into the football stadium, filling the stadium track looking sharp and belting out our St Charles East spirit songs. Our band Directors make it look easy getting all these students to work as one functioning unit. We are lucky to have these dedicated Directors. Thank You Directors, students, and volunteers for another great football season. And they have all now transitioned from marching season to concert season, providing us parents with wonderful concert memories.

It has been a semester of transition for the Boosters and school's music program too. Half of the four full time music Directors (Choir and Orchestra) had to be hired this summer. This scale of startup has its own acclimation challenges for the incoming Directors, as well as the current Directors. Add to that, all the questions the Boosters had for them about what they wanted to do with their programs and how and where Boosters could help them and work together. I am thrilled to say it was a nice experience meeting the new Directors at our Board meetings and having them take time to meet the Music Boosters, sharing their thoughts and ideas about where they want to take their programs for our kids.

The Music Boosters are working with the new Choir and Orchestra Directors and their programs under the new expanded Booster structure. This includes efforts developing new Booster Liaison Chairpersons, receptions, a Choir student scholarship, spirit wear, and support for future trips and guest artist opportunities. This semester, Booster volunteers helped with the first annual District 303 Orchestra festival at the school where all the middle school and North High School orchestra students practiced, ate, and performed together with our orchestra. This was a great opportunity for Booster volunteers to work with the orchestra program.

Along with starting the school year with the "marching band storm" and two new Directors, the STCE Music Boosters were in a transition process and needed several Board and Committee Chairs filled, which many of them were filled by wonderful dedicated parent volunteers. The Boosters gained new Orchestra, Choir, and Athletic booster liaisons, a Board Secretary, a new website Chairperson, and a new transitioning uniform and hat team. There are still more committee openings, and help is always

welcome. Some Board members like Marybeth and Joelle have taken on multiple roles as liaisons, band equipment purchasers, and fundraising chairs.

And on that “note,” thanks to Marybeth, the Boosters launched two new fundraiser campaigns for the entire music program including the spirit wear and pizza coupons. These went well and are looking like programs we can build on to help fund our kid’s music activities. The “Musical Saints” donation program was also started this semester and the response has been growing. I can not say thank you enough for the donations parents and supporters have made to help Boosters enhance our kid’s music experience. It’s through funding and volunteers that enables Boosters to provide support for our school’s great music programs.

And if you are reading this letter, you must be traveling through the all new and exciting (to me for sure) STCE Music Booster website. Thank You! The Boosters were crippled at the beginning of this school year when our old website was disabled, and two more music programs were added to our support outreach. Again, thanks to our dedicated and talented volunteer Karen, Music Boosters has a comprehensive website resource now. On a side note, you don’t have to be “talented” to volunteer. This I know. You just need to be willing to help. And while you are on this site, I encourage you and every music parent to register with us, so Boosters can communicate effectively with you. This will alleviate some of the communication burden put on the Directors when the Boosters do not have all the program contact information.

With support and funding, the STCE Music Boosters will continue enhancing our kid’s music programs in the future. I’m personally looking forward to our winter and spring concerts, pep band, parades, senior concerts and banquets, and guest artists. **Our first Music Booster Board meeting of 2018 will be on Monday, February 5th, 2018 at 7pm in the band room.** All are welcome.

On behalf of the STCE Music Boosters, I thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Steve Laskowski STCE Music Booster President 17/18