



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

THIS
ISSUE

SnapRaise

Fundraising

Concessions

Football Games

FROM THE DESK OF MR. BROWN

A number of announcements came from our school board members last week that high school football would resume play this month, but band and cheerleading would not. Now, there are not many people I agree with all the time, but I felt this particular decision made sense. Any football players who are counting on athletic scholarships to college need the talent scouts to see them play this fall, while cheerleaders have their competitive season in the spring, and as you all know, there is a lot more to our own discipline as musicians and performers than what we do on the football field. Furthermore, the band directors had already made the decision not to field marching bands this fall. It was a very hard decision to make, but once made, it allowed us to focus our attention on the activities we can more reasonably pursue in the midst of all the Covid-19 restrictions.

Unsurprisingly, many parents across the district interpreted this as a slight at best, or an attack at worst, on our performing arts students. It looked to many like football was getting special treatment and band (and cheerleading) were literally being sidelined. In response, the school district released a statement on Friday evening, announcing that bands would still be participating in games, although if I may put it diplomatically, I'll say "clear procedures on how this should be done have not yet been outlined."

We view this situation as an opportunity to be proactive and lead the way. After speaking with our principal, we have decided to use our experience collaborating online to create a series of audio recordings of our stands tunes and other music, which will be played in the stadium during games. Our athletic director has assured us the announcer will continually be recognizing our students as the performers. In two weeks, Mr. Brown and Mr. Willis are actually going to be running a clinic for all the county's band directors to help them do the same with their students. Details about putting these recordings together will be shared through our concert band classes this week.

While we would like to be physically present for the games, our position is that whatever restrictions have been placed on marching band must apply equally to an in-person pep band. I know we are all looking forward to the day when we can get back to live performance, but in the meantime, University will continue to be the leading program in our activity.

CONCESSIONS

Normally, the concessions stand at our football games is operated by the band and staffed by band parents and volunteers, with proceeds going to the benefit of our band program.

Under the new safety protocol OCPS has established governing the return to fall sports, concessions are limited to bottled drinks only.

Our new athletic director, Mr. **Frank Prendergast**, has made it clear that the band will continue to operate the concession stand even under these limited parameters.

He has also asked us to put together some recordings of our stands tunes so that our team knows the band is still with them even as they play for a mostly-empty stadium.

We are grateful to Mr. Prendergast for his support of the band under these circumstances.

SNAPRAISE

We will be starting up our SnapRaise Campaign next week on **Friday, September 4**. This is one of the easiest and most successful fundraisers we are able to do. Last year we earned over \$20,000 for the band!

To prepare, we ask that each student start getting together a list of **twenty (20) emails** from *adults who might plausibly want to make a donation on your behalf*. Orthodontists, pediatricians, pastors, grandparents, extended family, etc. are all great choices. Please have these ready to go for our start-up next Friday.

Fifty percent of what each student raises will be credited individually to his or her band account. Students will create a SnapRaise profile and enter these emails into the system which will contact each individual and show them how to donate. It's easy and usually yields great results!

WHY FUNDRAISE?

In a normal year, the UHS Band's income breaks down roughly like this:

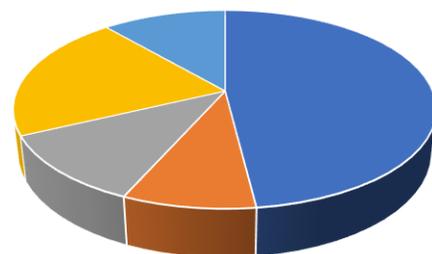
- Band Assessments 48%
- Concessions 11%
- Fundraisers 11%
- Winter Guard Assessments 9%
- Events 21%
- Money from the School 0%

Without marching band, our band fees have been reduced by 75%, we will be taking in only a tiny fraction of what we usually earn in concessions, and we are not able to host any large events.

Although our expenses are significantly lower without marching band, we still have to acquire, maintain, and repair instruments, purchase music, pay for registration fees and professional memberships in our component organizations (such as FMEA, FBA, FMBC, BOA, WGI, and FFCC), and we are looking at hosting a few guest clinicians.

All this is simply to say that it's going to be especially important this year that every band member get on board with fundraising to help keep our band program operational.

UHS Band Operating Budget
(typical year)



- Band Assessments
- Winter Guard Assessments
- Concessions
- Events
- Fundraisers

COLOR GUARD UPDATE

Our color guard students have begun a series of video tutorials provided by our design and color guard coordinator, Michael James.



While only students in our Eurhythmics class will be graded on these assignments, all members of our color guard program are invited to participate in submitting video assignments for feedback.

Details are available on the Members Page of the band website.

THANK YOU!



Thank you to the **Gotham Family**, the **Young Family**, and the **Ramsay Family** for their donations to the band's Foundation for OCPS fund to help pay for medical supplies!

These supplies were ordered and delivered by the **Cassidy Family** and will be extremely helpful in keeping our students safe in the weeks and months to come, especially with the return of our face-to-face students and upcoming activities. We are not ready to cross that threshold yet, but the day is coming. We are all looking forward to its arrival, and want to make sure we can greet it with confidence that our students will be safe and well cared for. Thanks to the wonderful support we have from our parents and community, I have no doubt that will be the case!

"Ay, now the Plot thickens very much upon us."

George Villiers, The Rehearsal (1671)

Our already crazy year keeps getting crazier with each new announcement and press release, but I encourage everyone to think of the resulting chaos as an opportunity to step up and lead the way forward while so many others are throwing up their hands in despair. I encourage all of you to look at things the same way, finding unique opportunities you may not have had before things became so unusual.



Jon Brown
Director of Bands
University High School



Jeff Willis
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