

TURPIN BAND BOOSTERS: What's In It For Me?

Turpin Band Boosters is a 501(c)(3) organization. This nonprofit status comes with certain privileges. The most obvious one is that your contributions to the TBB are tax deductible. We are also exempt from sales taxes when we purchase products for our band and students.

This 501(c)(3) designation also comes with specific responsibilities.

We cannot use the money that we raise to benefit any one person based on his or her contributions to the organization. For example, we cannot help individual students raise money to cover band fees or trip costs.

While organizations have operated this way in the past, the Internal Revenue Service is increasing aggressive in finding these organizations and fining them and/or removing their 501(c)(3) status. In a recent case with a booster group for a baseball team, the IRS fined a booster group more than \$80,000 for allowing families to “keep” a certain percentage of the funds they raised in individual student accounts.

Because these individual student/trip accounts are illegal, TBB does not support them. (See also: <http://parentbooster.org/default.aspx?pageid=521265> for additional information.)

So what can we do?

If you have a student who is truly in need, the TBB can help with band fees and trip costs. **With our nonprofit status, we ARE able to provide need-based help.** (This is different from the “trip accounts” explained above.) If the upcoming trip is not financially feasible for your student, please talk with Joe, with me, or with Steve Fiora, our treasurer.

Another option is to raise a lot of money and use the money to reduce everyone's cost of the trip. We have discussed this option, but with 120 students in the band, it takes more than \$1,000 just to reduce the trip cost by about \$10 per student.

So, why should you support our fundraisers? **There truly is something in it for your band student.** While district budgets face increased pressure – and some schools keep increasing pay-to-play fees – Turpin Band has maintained one of the lowest fees in the region, thanks to TBB support. The new band trailer is the most recent purchase that TBB fundraisers have made possible. Our fundraisers have also enabled the directors to purchase dozens of new instruments, speakers, and other needed items that our band students use in every performance.

Fundraising is a critical function of the TBB – and we truly need and appreciate your support. In fact, we appreciate all the time, talent and resources you provide to help the Boosters and the Turpin Band.

If you have any questions about trip accounts or how TBB can help you, please contact me.