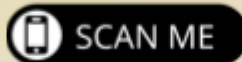


# Murray Band Boosters Family Guide

2026-2027 School Year



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## Welcome to the Murray Band Boosters Family Guide

Welcome to the Murray Tiger Band (MTB) family! Whether you're a returning member or joining us for the first time, this guide is designed to help you navigate the exciting world of the Murray Band Boosters (MBB).

Inside, you'll find everything you need to know, including how to connect with us through various communication channels and how to get involved. We've also outlined how we help financially support the band and provided details about uniforms, letter jackets, band camp, and more. Plus, we'll share tips for new marching band parents, so you'll feel prepared for the exciting year ahead.

Let's make some music and memories—welcome to the Murray Tiger Band!

### What are the Murray Band Boosters?

The Murray Band Boosters, Inc. (MBB, Boosters) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing the Murray Independent School District (MISD) band program. Our mission is to enrich the middle school and high school band student experience in compliance with district policies. While the core support for the Murray Tiger Band (MTB) comes from the school district, the Boosters provide vital additional resources to ensure the program's success. Think of the Boosters as the “icing on the cake”. Through volunteer efforts and fundraising, we work behind the scenes to support the band directors, staff, and students, helping the MTB continue to thrive.

### Who can be a Booster?

Booster membership is open to any parent, guardian, or stepparent of a student currently enrolled in MISD. Additionally, any adult who has received written or verbal consent from a parent or legal guardian to represent or support a student in the program is also eligible for membership.

#### ***Membership Types:***

**ACTIVE MEMBERS** - Active members are those who meet the above eligibility criteria and who attend regular monthly meetings, volunteer at events, or otherwise support the mission and activities of the organization. Active Members are eligible to vote on matters presented to the membership and may hold office. Each student may be represented by up to two active members.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** - Other individuals interested in supporting the band program (such as alumni, grandparents, or community supports) may be considered Associate Members. Associate Members may participate in meetings and volunteer activities, but do not have voting rights or hold office.

## When do Boosters meet?

All Booster regular monthly meetings are at 6:00pm on the second Monday of each month at the High School band room. There will be reminders sent out in advance of each meeting.

\*\* Mark your calendars for the April monthly meeting as that is when new officers will be elected and amendments to the by-laws will be voted upon. \*\*

Month	Meeting Date (subject to change)
July	July 13, 2026
August	Aug. 10, 2026
September	Sept. 14, 2026
October	Oct. 12, 2026
November	Nov. 9, 2026
December	Dec. 14, 2026
January	Jan. 11, 2027
February	Feb. 8, 2027
March	Mar. 8, 2027
April (Annual Meeting)	Apr. 12, 2027
May	May 10, 2027

If you are unable to attend, meeting minutes will be available on the BAND app within the same week as the meeting.

## How will I learn about Booster activities?

Clear and timely communication is essential to keeping everything running smoothly, so we use several channels to keep you informed about upcoming events, updates, and Booster activities. Here's how you'll stay in the loop:

### Primary Communication Tool

- **BAND app:**

The **BAND app** is the main way we communicate with families, directors, and Boosters.

- Download the app from the **Google Play Store** or **Apple App Store**.
- Join the **Murray Tiger Band Parent group** at:  
<https://band.us/band/87534800>
- This app is **approved by the Murray Independent School District** for use with the band program.

- **Tip:** The **BAND app** will always have the latest updates, so check it first!



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## Additional Communication Channels

- **Emails from Boosters:**  
Occasionally, the Boosters may send emails to share important updates. These will come from **MTBboosters@gmail.com**—make sure to check your inbox for these communications.
- **Facebook Page:**  
We also share event details, band news, and updates on our **Murray Band Boosters Facebook page**:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MTB.Boosters>  
Follow along and share to help promote our students and their upcoming events.
- **Official Website:**  
For more information, visit our official website at [www.murraytigerband.com](http://www.murraytigerband.com).  
It's a great resource for band updates, upcoming events, and to learn about our amazing sponsors.

## Monthly Booster Meetings

- Attending the **monthly booster meetings** is key to staying involved and up-to-date with all activities, events, and volunteer opportunities.

## How can I get involved?

The success of the Murray Tiger Band program relies on the active involvement of our entire community. There are many ways you can contribute, whether by donating your time through volunteer work or supporting our fundraising efforts. Every hour you dedicate and every dollar you help raise directly impacts our students and enhances their band experience.

### Volunteer Hours

We offer a variety of opportunities to get involved through different **volunteer teams**. Whether you're interested in helping with uniforms, chaperoning at events, building props, or working on the pit crew, there's a team for everyone. Check out the team descriptions to find the perfect fit for your skills and interests.

### Fundraising

Fundraising is another critical way to support the band. The funds we raise help cover essential costs like competition fees, special instruction, transportation, and more. Your participation in fundraising activities—whether through organizing events or simply contributing—helps ensure the continued success of the Murray Tiger Band.

By volunteering your time and supporting our fundraising efforts, you're playing an important role in the success of the band program and the students we serve. We encourage every family to get involved in some way!

Please note: **All volunteers are required** to complete the **MISD volunteer training**, which includes a

mandatory background check, to participate in any capacity as a Band Booster volunteer. Contact Sherry Purdom for details. This ensures the safety and security of all students during school-related activities.

## Who should I contact if I have any questions?

We love questions! It means you're engaged, and we truly appreciate that. If you have any questions about the Boosters or just want information from a band parent's perspective, **please ask**—we're here to help!

If you're unsure who to reach out to, anyone on the **Boosters Executive Board** would be happy to assist. Please refer to the list of 2026-2027 Executive Board members for contact information. If the person you contact doesn't have the answer, we'll make sure to connect you with someone who does.

### 2026-2027 Executive Board Members

Position	Name
<b>President</b> president@murraybandboosters.org	April Haneline 270-978-8756
<b>Vice President</b> vicepresident@murraybandboosters.org	Chesley Thomas 270-227-9091
<b>Secretary</b> secretary@murraybandboosters.org	Megan Ware-Carter 270-978-7533
<b>Accounts Payable (AP) Treasurer</b> ap-treasurer@murraybandboosters.org	Bentley Utgaard 270-978-2159
<b>Accounts Receivable (AR) Treasurer</b> ar-treasurer@murraybandboosters.org	Lynda Harrington 270-293-9113
<b>8th grade representative</b> 8thgraderep@murraybandboosters.org	Kristen Baker 270-206-2384
<b>7th grade representative</b> 7thgraderep@murraybandboosters.org	Nathan Hughes 270-293-0244

All band directors are also *ex-officio* members of the Executive Board.



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## Our Volunteer Teams - Pick One and Have Fun!

### Hospitality Team

The hospitality team organizes the volunteers and presents plans to the Executive Board for approval for the following events: band camp meals, contest meals, the band awards ceremony, and any other events where food or hosts/hostesses are needed (such as special concerts, etc.).

Hospitality further identifies, purchases, and coordinates donations and delivery of meals, snacks, and waters for contests, clinics, and other special events. We request donations for some items such as snacks and bottled waters from the entire Booster body throughout the marching season. These requests are made through the Band App.

*There will be opportunities for individuals to volunteer to assist for every event, but there will need to be 3–5 permanent members of the hospitality team.*

### Uniform Team

The uniform team is made up of individuals who are responsible for all things uniform. Uniform team members will assist in fittings before and during band camp, and making alterations, such as hemming of pants and any other necessary alterations. The uniform team is also responsible for washing uniforms before/during/after the season, and for ensuring that uniforms are kept in good condition and all band members maintain uniforms appropriately. The uniform team will keep an inventory of uniforms and assignments.

*We need 5–7 members of the uniform team.*

### Transportation Team

Transportation team members include drivers of the equipment transportation such as the pit truck and trailers pulled with band and personal vehicles. Transportation needs are listed below but are not limited to:

- Individuals willing to tow a band trailer with their personal vehicle (would need a truck with a V8 engine, ranked for certain towing capacities).
  - Boosters will cover fuel costs to these individuals.
- Individuals willing to tow a personal trailer to haul the band's Gator and Golf Cart that we carry with us to competitions.
  - Boosters will cover fuel costs to these individuals.
- Individuals who have a Class A CDL to drive our pit truck.
- In the event we need to rent a box truck to haul equipment to an event, we need individuals willing to drive the box truck to the event (this is generally a 16–24 ft box truck and requires no special license to operate).

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Individuals on the transportation team will assist when issues with equipment arise. They will keep directors and transportation team lead informed of any problems (actual or potential) and will help research possible solutions to transportation issues. On contest days, transportation team members will travel ahead of the band along with the Pit Crew to assist with getting instruments and props unloaded and loaded for the students.

*We need 3–4 members per event, including home football games.*

## **Chaperone Team**

Chaperones will travel with the band on school buses to and from competitions. Chaperones will be present with the students at all times on trips to assist with their immediate needs and will be responsible for making sure all the students are accounted for. If the uniform requires plumes in a particular season, chaperones will “plume” the band members as they enter and exit the field. Chaperones will receive a free admission pass to each competition they chaperone.

*We need 5–8 chaperones per event where students are bussed. During football games, we need 2 chaperones.*

## **Pit Crew**

Pit crew members will assist at each home football game and marching band festival/competition, plus some Thursday night rehearsals. Members will assist in:

- loading and transporting marching band equipment/instruments and props from MHS to Ty Holland Field before a home football game and then back to MHS after the game.
- loading and transporting marching band equipment/instruments and props from MHS to whichever contest the band is competing in that day and then back on the trucks after the contest is over. Trucks are usually unloaded Sunday afternoons, and everyone (not just Pit Crew) is expected to help.
- moving front ensemble (percussion) instruments, props, and equipment on and off the field for the marching band show during half-time at home football games and at each competition.

*Pit Crew needs at least 15 members at each event.*

## **Props Team**

Props are constructed in-house by parent volunteers, so we are always looking for individuals with skill sets such as welding, carpentry, and painting. Construction begins in late spring and continues through summer, and into fall as necessary.

## Communications and Technology Team

The communications and technology team is responsible for the disbursement and publishing of Booster news and notices, as well as the administration of platforms such as the Spirit Store, social media, emails, and digital documents. This team shall also be responsible for the collaboration and collection of photos, etc. to document band events for historical purposes.

*We need 2–4 members of the Communications and Technology Team.*

## Fundraising Team

The fundraising team assists with generating fundraising contacts and ideas, and organizing and staffing fundraising events. Fundraising ideas are presented to the Executive Board for approval and planning. Members will also coordinate with members of the communications and technology committee to manage online fundraising sales activities.

*We need 5–6 members of the Fundraising Committee.*

**If you are interested in volunteering with an above team or in some other capacity, please contact our Booster President at [president@murraybandboosters.org](mailto:president@murraybandboosters.org)!**



## Financial Support of the Murray Tiger Band

The Murray Tiger Band program relies on a variety of funding sources, each playing a vital role in ensuring that our students have the resources they need to learn, perform, and grow. These funding sources work together, much like the sections of a well-balanced musical ensemble, each contributing to the overall success of the program.

### Funding Sources

#### 1. School District & Class Fees

The primary layer of support comes from the **school district** along with **class fees** for participation in Marching Band, Color Guard, and Winter Guard. These fees help cover the basic operational costs of the program and ensure every student has access to the instruction and performance opportunities they need to succeed.

#### 2. School-Run Fundraising

In addition to district funding and class fees, the MTB program benefits from **school-run fundraising efforts**, such as chocolate bar sales, mattress fundraisers, and other campaigns organized by the directors. These efforts supplement the core expenses of the program and provide additional support for student activities.

### 3. Booster Fundraising

The Murray Band Boosters play a crucial role in raising additional funds to support the program throughout the year. Below is an overview of the different ways we generate financial support.

#### Dedicated Booster Fundraising Events

- **Fall Sports Kick-Off**
- **Backyard Brawl**
- **Community Preview Show**
- **Trivia Night**
- **Sweet Jazz Concert**

These events are community-focused and provide significant contributions to the band program's needs. Ongoing Fundraising Efforts

- **Merchandise Sales**
- **Community Initiatives like Kroger Community Rewards**
- **Sponsorships from Local Businesses and Community Members**

These ongoing efforts help provide financial support throughout the year. Local businesses and community members also support these efforts through sponsorships, further enhancing our fundraising capacity.

### Community Donations

The Boosters are also fortunate to receive **generous donations** from the community in various forms:

- **Cash Contributions**
- **Food for Events**
- **Supplies, Equipment, and Other Materials**

These donations directly enhance the student experience by helping cover expenses for competitions, performances, transportation, and more.

Your participation in these events, as well as any contributions you make, is crucial to the continued success of the Murray Tiger Band program. Together, we can ensure that our students have the resources and experiences they need to thrive both in and out of the classroom. Thank you for your continued support!

### Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards!

Kroger community rewards is an excellent opportunity to raise additional funds for MTB at no

additional cost to you. Simply use your Kroger Rewards Card when shopping at Kroger, and follow the steps below to send Kroger community rewards to Murray Band Boosters:

1. Sign into your Kroger rewards account at [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) (or sign up and create your account at Kroger, if you have not already done so).
2. Select **My Account**, then choose **Community Rewards**.
3. Select **View Community Rewards**.
4. Scroll down to the Community Rewards section. Select **Edit**.
5. Search for Murray Band Boosters by entering **80160**.
6. Select **Murray High Band Boosters, Inc** and hit **Enroll**.



## What to expect when you're expecting.... a marching band member!

### Band Camp Overview

Band camp is an exciting and often challenging experience, especially for first-time marchers. During these two to three weeks, students learn the majority of their marching band show while building endurance, confidence, and teamwork skills. It's completely normal for students to come home tired—this is a sign of their hard work and progress.

To support student well-being, the schedule is designed with regular water breaks and indoor rehearsal time, typically during the hottest part of the day. This balance helps students stay safe, focused, and ready to make the most of each rehearsal.

### Band Camp: How Families Can Support Their Student

Band camp is an exciting and demanding time for students as they prepare for the season ahead. Your support plays an important role in helping them stay healthy, focused, and confident throughout the experience. Here are some key ways you can help your student succeed:

**Encourage Healthy Routines** - Band camp requires long, active days. Help your student adjust back to a school-year sleep schedule before camp begins. **Consistent, quality sleep** will help them stay energized, focused, and physically prepared.

**Start the Day Right** - Make sure your student eats a **well-balanced breakfast** each morning. Fueling their body properly will help them perform their best. **IMPORTANT:** Students should avoid milk and dairy products before camp, as they can cause stomach discomfort in the heat.

**Prioritize Hydration** - Staying **hydrated** is essential. Encourage your student to bring a **large water jug (1–2 gallons)** each day. While refill stations are available, starting the day with plenty of water helps prevent dehydration.

**Pack Smart Snacks & Lunches** - Band camp is physically demanding, so students benefit from light, **nutritious snacks such as fruits, vegetables, and crackers**. If your student plans to eat out during lunch, encourage them to **avoid heavy or greasy foods**, which can make afternoon rehearsals more difficult.

**Prepare for the Outdoors** - Rehearsals take place on a field without shade, so proper protection is key. Make sure your student bring items to help prevent sunburn and fatigue:

- **Sunscreen**
- **A hat**
- **Sunglasses**

**Double-Check Materials** - Before leaving each day, help your student remember everything they need. Being prepared reduces stress and keeps rehearsals running smoothly:

- Instrument
- Music
- Drill sheets
- Any required equipment

**Encourage Connection & Team Spirit** - Band camp is about more than just music—it's a time for students to **build friendships and develop teamwork**. Encourage your student to participate fully, embrace section traditions, and enjoy the experience.

**Get Involved** - During the **second full week of camp**, students will participate in evening team-building activities. Families are encouraged to attend and join in. Your involvement shows support and gives you a chance to see your student's hard work in action.

Your encouragement, preparation, and involvement make a meaningful difference. Together, we can ensure every student has a positive, successful, and memorable band camp experience.



## Quick Tips for New Marching Band Parents

### Attend & Support Events

- Plan to attend **marching band contests and performances** throughout the season.
- **Wear show shirts and spirit wear** to show your support.
- Marching band *is a spectator activity*—**cheer from the stands!**

- Sit with other **MTB families** and enjoy the experience together.
- **Admission** forms of payment vary. Watch the BAND app for info as available.
  - *Tip:* You can often get in free by volunteering (Pit Crew, Hospitality, Chaperone, Transportation).
  - Some events may limit volunteer passes.

### Be Prepared

- Most competitions are outside - bring **weather appropriate gear**: sunscreen, hat, rain jacket, blanket, etc.
- Consider a **stadium seat**. Some venues do not have seats with backs.
- **Concessions** support other band programs—consider buying from them.

### Stay Connected to Rehearsals

- Attend **Thursday night** run-throughs when possible.
- Most rehearsals are at MHS, with some later in the season at MSU's Stewart Stadium.

### Follow Contest Etiquette

- **Do not move in the stands** while a band is performing (this is the #1 rule!).
- Support all bands—**cheer for everyone**.
- Remember, you represent MTB—**be respectful** in language and behavior.

### Join the Fun Traditions

- **Decorate lockers** before competitions—students love this tradition!
- Help make **State Week** special:
  - Assist with **decorating** the band hallway with photos and themes.
  - **Contribute** snacks and drinks for goody bags sent with students to State.



## Marching and Concert Band Uniform Basics

Uniforms are an important part of the band experience. They represent **unity, pride, and a shared identity**—one band, one sound. Marching band uniforms may change each year to reflect the theme of the show.

## T-Shirts

- **Semper Melior shirt** (provided through Booster fundraising)
- **Show t-shirt**
  - One is provided through Booster fundraising
  - It is recommended to purchase an additional shirt
  - **Required to be worn under the uniform at all competitions**
  - Wash regularly

## Marching Band Uniform - Issued Items

- Show **tunic**
- One pair of **bibs (pants)**
- **Garment bag** for storage and transport. Keep all uniform pieces clean and organized in your garment bag.

Students will be **fitted at school** during scheduled times by Booster volunteers. At this time, uniforms are assigned for inventory purposes.

- If a student misses their fitting, they must **coordinate with a director** to schedule an alternate time.
- Directors will provide guidance on **proper undergarments**.

At the end of the season, the director will determine whether tunics may be **kept, purchased, or resold** to another program.

## Marching Band Uniform - Required Student-Provided Items

- **Black socks** (at least 2 pairs)
- **Marching shoes** (1 pair)
  - Students will be fitted during band camp
  - New shoes should be ordered if outgrown
  - Gently used shoes may be **donated** to Boosters as backups
  - **Label shoes with student's name** to avoid mix-ups
- **Gloves** (determined annually by directors)

## Color Guard - Required Student-Provided Items

- **Shoes**
- **Undergarments**
- **Makeup**
- **Gloves** (as directed)
- Students are required to wear their **show t-shirt on contest days**

- **Color guard uniforms remain property of the band**
  - These are valuable assets and are often **resold** after the season

## High School Concert Band

- **Concert Black Attire Required:**
  - Black pants, shirt, skirt, or dress
  - Black shoes
- Student that choose to wear a dress should consider a **below the knee** option, as some performances are elevated above the audience

Proper uniform care and preparation help ensure every student looks and performs their best. Attention to these details supports the overall professionalism and success of the band.

## Letter Jackets

The band director will send out information from the letter jacket company regarding how to purchase the jacket. Information regarding embroidery and placement of patches will also be distributed.

Letter jackets are typically available for order during band camp; however, they will likely not come in until the fall. Jackets should not be worn until the letters have been sewn on. For this reason, parents may consider waiting to purchase jackets until students receive their letters.

## Patches

Some competition patches will be supplied to students at the end of each year. But many patches are considered “fun patches” and it is up to each individual to purchase these patches, as they are completely optional. Be on the lookout at competitions for merchandise stands that will sell these items. These patches generally range between \$5-10 each. Boosters will provide information on what patches are needed before each contest, if available.