

Dear Band Boosters and Band Parents,

My name is Robert Peliti and I am proudly serving as the Blanchard Band Booster President. Being honored to serve as president for my fourth year, I would like to attribute our successes as a booster organization to the parents that are involved. We have many that stay in front of everyone, and then we have those that remain behind the scenes. Without help from each and every one of those parents, we could never accomplish the things that we do. The success of any booster organization is determined by those involved.

I would like to explain exactly what it is that our boosters do and why we could use more help. We do not ask for money from our booster parents. There are no fees. We ask for participation, and that all depends on the time you can put forth. These band students are willing to spend countless hours at the band room, a competition, a football game, or an honor band. They will be at the high school at 5:30 in the morning, not to return until midnight, and all for something where they can win group awards, but not individual awards. That is dedication pure and simple. And that deserves our support and help.

A few things that we do as a booster organization;

Organize the fundraisers that middle and high school band students participate in, as well as fundraisers that are done by the boosters. These include the brochure fundraisers, the annual Breakfast with Santa, the annual Mattress Sale, and the Blanchard Bands May Daze yard sale.

Manage funds raised, along with the band directors, to purchase music instruments, equipment, offset some travel expenses for the band, maintain equipment including the band trailers, and cover any other costs not maintained by the school district. In any given year, there are tens of thousands of dollars spent to accomplish these things.

Organize the tailgates that feed our hungry high school students at all day competitions and home football games. For football games, we just prepare food for dinner. At the competitions, we set up two 10' x 30' canopies and six 10' x 10' canopies. These canopies are to cover the students from the weather and to keep and prepare food for the day. Some days, we start at breakfast and finish after dinner. Other days will be shorter. We also have parents that come and go as they are able. All day is not a requirement.

Organize the annual Band Banquet for the High School Band. The Band Banquet celebrates the accomplishments of the high school students individually. The senior students will be honored, and the new class officers and drum major will be named. With students and their families, there will typically be around 150 people attend, eat dinner, and see the awards given to the students.

Organize the yearly trips for the high school band. We will typically have a large trip one year and a small trip the next year. Some of our large trips have been to places like Washington, DC, Orlando, FL, and New York, NY. Small trips have been to Branson, MO and Dallas, TX.

Individually, our band parents will help with uniform fittings and alterations. They make calls soliciting sponsors or donors. They will pull a band trailer to a competition or a football game. They make a crock-pot meal and send it with their child to help feed the students. They will donate their expertise to build or maintain props or equipment for the band. And still there are others that do not have the available time to give, but will buy supplies and give them to the boosters for the band.

Why could we use more help? One reason, the more the merrier. We have great fun as a group. Some parents I just met this year, because they are new parents to band. Others I have known longer, strictly because of the band. And I have made many friends that will extend beyond my children being in high school band. The second reason, every year we have parents graduate. I know that sounds funny, but think about it. When your child graduates from high school, so do you. Our band is growing every year. As it grows, so too should the boosters. If you are a current booster parent, please introduce yourself to a parent that you don't know. Make them feel welcome. I know starting out can feel like being a new kid in a new school, but we really are nice. Even if you can only make the meetings, the more input we have, the more successful we will be. Meetings are the last Tuesday of every month and are shown on the band calendar.

Thank you to everyone that has participated. You make it look like I know what I'm doing as president.

Sincerely,

Robert Peliti