

Erik J. Edoff
SUPERINTENDENT

Kimberly Rawski, Ed.S.
PRINCIPAL

Meredith Beard, Ed.M.
Nick Ellul, Ed.S.
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS

Michael Poljanac II, Ed.M.
DEAN OF STUDENTS

To the parents and members of the Marching Crusaders,

Over the last 5 months or so we have had many conversations amongst our board members and at the booster meetings about the true cost of marching band and increasing our pool of volunteers to keep marching band affordable. Even though I put this out every year and do talk about it many are surprised when they realize that for 2018/19 fiscal year marching band was budgeted at \$980/participant. We have only charged \$550/year for a while and depend on our various fundraisers to bring in the rest.

I'm sure many are shocked to hear marching band actually costs \$980/participant so the logical question is: What do we spend our money on?

- The camp, not only do we pay for the students but we also must pay for the accommodations of the chaperones/medical officer/staff.
- First aide supplies for camp and the season.
- Staff: 8 summer practices, mini-camp/pre-camp/camp and 28 services through the season.
- Food during the Super Saturdays and competition days.
- transportation to the competitions
- the costs of being a member of MCBA
- the competitions themselves.
- the show music,
- copyright fees to arrange the music
- the drill design
- the color guard book
- the percussion book
- the color guard costumes
- any props we might need and use.

Our goal is in doing this is to increase our volunteer base to ensure the band students are given all the tools we can give them to be successful on the field and in the classroom. I believe that this will also help form an esprit de corps amongst our parents that has been developing nicely over the last several years. This also has potential to increase the opportunities we're able to provide our students or to provide the members/parents to do more fundraising to lower their financial obligation to the group!

In an effort to recognize the need for fundraising and volunteering that is required of a large competitive marching band program we are implementing a system of earning credit towards marching band dues through volunteer services/hours. Next year's dues will be raised to \$650/student. This has been discussed significantly during our meetings and while the price is going up it is STILL a significant saving over the actual expenditure of \$980/member for the activity.

In creating our budget for the 2019/20 year I am actually keeping our budgeting at \$550/member revenue. In implementing this approach we will be allowing families to earn up to \$150 of service credit to off-set their dues. We are requesting 30 hours per marching member. We will grant credit up to \$150/marching student for volunteer hours. Event chairs will earn \$175 upon successful completion of their activities. Either parent (or both) can work for these hours or if both parents work an event, like the craft show, they will both earn money for their member's dues. I expect that some families and parents will actually see an out-of-pocket cost for marching band of only \$400. Here's how that math works: dues \$650 - \$150 volunteer service credits - \$100 raffle tickets sold = \$400.

We have an incredible program here at North. The equipment/uniform/camp/staff are truly top notch and one that the staff takes pride in. I hear often about the amazing parents we have and the groups that come to L'Anse Creuse North for marching band festival are always complimentary. There are so many out there that do so much and for these kids and this program that it is truly inspirational. We need EVERYONE though. This is an activity that truly requires a village.

One thing I hear often from graduating senior parents or alumni parents: they MISS the kids of the group and the parents. As a band teacher I am blessed with having some of the best students that are at LCN and as a parent myself I know that good students come from good parents. If you haven't experienced these good people don't be shy, come out and get involved! I know so many people who have become great friends through their involvement with band programs (ours and others).

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Griffith
Director of Bands