



# Boyne City Public Schools

## Excellence in Academics, Arts & Athletics

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# MEMO

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Pat Little  
DATE: November 4, 2024  
RE: "Band Together" Donation  
CC: Adam Stefanski, M. Wilson, Brandon Ivie

I want to draw your attention to Chris Faulkner's donation and the information he provided below. Chris donates to the middle school and high school band program for exclusive use for band needs. He plans on making a monthly donation; this month, it will be \$200. Specifically, I wanted to share the well-worded email explaining his passion for the band program, the special effect teacher Brandon Ivie had on him as a student, and the impact it can have on all Rambler students. Chris writes,

*I love the idea of 'Band Together.' That's perfect!*

*Pat, if you think my example might encourage others to do the same, you're more than welcome to include it in the board minutes. You hadn't come to Boyne City yet when I was in high school, so I thought I would let you know why I'm coming back 18 years after graduating looking to support the program. You're welcome to share it with anyone you wish.*

*People who were never a part of their high school music program look at it as another extracurricular activity, but it's far more than that. Before I became a part of the band program, I was a unique teenager with nowhere to fit. I was intelligent, but I was socially awkward. I was going to school in Boyne Falls -- a school with a culture which was largely and primarily grounded in athletics. I was never a gifted athlete, so my opportunities to feel accepted were slim and my opportunities to feel like I was a part of something larger were practically non-existent.*

*I discovered the Boyne City Band program, a group which uniquely disregards traditional barriers and social cliques -- everyone matters when they all have the same goal of playing music. This meant that when the traditional "jock" was playing base drum, the kid on the golf team played saxophone, the withdrawn loner played*

*french horn, and the perky cheerleader played flute, suddenly the social cliques didn't matter and everyone was just a person on equal footing trying to make the best music possible. In other words, everyone can belong.*

*To me, that meant everything, because suddenly I was a part of something. I had friends who still matter to me today, and I had self-confidence that can only come with being a part of something bigger than one person. That step in my life is what made it possible to accomplish everything else that came after it. If it weren't for the band program and the culture of acceptance which Brandon very deliberately built, I never would have had the confidence it took to start a newspaper, become a Paramedic, earn my Master's degree, and become the person I am.*

*I'll also add that your band director in particular has mentored far more students than he'll ever get credit for. They used to stop in the band room when they were having a bad day and sit against the wall outside his office to get advice on the biggest problems in their world. Uniquely, he never gave the standard "\_\_\_ won't matter to you in twenty years, so don't put so much energy into it now," he accepted that whatever little thing going on in their life was important to them and so he helped in any way he could. The advice he gave came from simple day-to-day tasks. I remember him writing a note to one of the building secretaries and including two sentences at the bottom thanking her for everything. He told me to never forget who really gets things done and makes things happen. It was a moment he may honestly not even recall, but one of the things I've become most known for in the company I now work for is always going back and thanking the people that work behind the scenes and making sure they know they matter.*

*You have a great program, but that greatness doesn't lie in the music they play or the medals they win, it's the culture of acceptance, the building of lifelong skills, and the chance to be yourself free from the judgement of anyone.*

Board members, please accept this generous recommendation to receive this series of donations.