

AISD Board of Directors:

The times are changing and there is much to be excited about for Aubrey ISD and the Aubrey Band program. When I took over as the director of bands for the district in July of 2007, the band program had been progressing at a moderate pace. That year, the marching band had fifty-four students on the field. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade band had a total of just 18 students participating that year and we had less than 50 students pre-registered 6<sup>th</sup> grade band. This year the total band program has over 360 members and the program continues to grow.

For the 2012/13 school year, the AHS Band has pre-registration number of 107. We are expecting to pick up a few more 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as well as flag girls. By the start of next year, I firmly believe we will have close to 115 students enrolled in the high school band. In short, we have doubled the band size in just 5 years. This also means that 20% of the student population of Aubrey HS will be participating with the band program!

Not only are we growing in numbers, but also we are sustaining a quality that Aubrey has never seen before. This year, the high school band needed to be split into two concert performing groups. Both of our HS bands went to UIL this spring and both earned 1<sup>st</sup> Division ratings on stage. Aubrey High School was the only school with two bands at UIL contest that both earned First Division ratings on the stage! AHS earned their 4<sup>th</sup> UIL Sweepstakes trophy in five years in 2012. The HS band has made 14 First Division ratings out of 15 contests, two trips to the state marching championship and one Final's appears along with the 210 State TMEA Honor Band State title.

Currently, the HS band is now working on 4A level music and has entered the state TMEA Honor Band contest for class 3A. This is the same contest we won in 2010 being named the best concert band in class 2A in the state! We feel we will be very competitive in this competition.

Here is the simple problem we have: We are out of instruments. This program never was prepared for the kind of growth and development that has been booming during the past five years.

This fall, we will have several students coming to the high school that will not have a school instrument to use. School instruments are those that are too expensive for parents or booster clubs to rent or purchase. School instruments are instruments such as all forms of marching drums, marching baritones, sousaphones, tuba's, xylophones, marimbas, French horns, euphoniums, marching French horns and various large percussion instruments. Not only do we not have horns for this year, as we look forward just one more year, we are going to need another influx of equipment to allow everyone to participate the following school year. We are going to need Tuba's and sousaphones next fall for certain!

Dr. Monaco has done a wonderful job in helping us acquire instruments and uniforms during our growth, but now during these tough times things are getting tougher. I do not envy the decisions that our board of education has to make in these trying times. The instruments we need cannot be found at second hand shops or at discount warehouse stores or even pawnshops. They are normal quality band instruments that schools districts everywhere provide for their band programs. We simply do not have the instruments we need for the size program we have today and are expecting tomorrow..

We need to acquire these instruments while at the same time not vacating our approximately 19K of yearly total MS/HS band budget. That money is used to make sure we have what we need to have a quality marching show, repair instruments, maintain all equipment, purchase music, pay for music rights, obtain color guard drill and design, purchase flags, enter UIL contest, and bring in clinicians and other professional support. If we rob Peter to pay Paul, we will be in much worse shape than we are currently in.

Our band booster organization is on board with financial support in this trying times. This spring the band boosters offered up \$4,000.00 to help offset the cost of purchasing an additional twenty uniforms for the marching band. However, with many instruments costing well over \$2,000.00, it is hard for them to raise money for one student, to use one instrument for just 5 months of a marching season. The booster club is already picking up some of the extra cost we have since our budgets have been reduced the past several years.

There may be longer term options to consider such as fee based enrollment and asking the boosters to fundraise just for capital outlay items. However, we are in a need base today and those solutions will take time to develop, establish and promote. I believe we should pursuit all options to plan for the long-term success of Aubrey band program.

We need your support if we are going to continue to make this community proud of the program and accomplishments of our students. I simply desire the ability to insure that each child that wants to participate in the band will be able to do so with the instrument they have been trained for since 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Attached you will find a list of the equipment that is needed for our students for the 2012/2013 school year. We have been able to make arrangements for the uniforms, now we need to find a way to put horns in students' hands.

In closing, I was reminded that In 2010 one of the top 3A Band directors in North Texas stopped me at contest and said, "Mr. Chapman, by the next 3A state marching contest, we all may be chasing you (Aubrey Band Program)". The fact is, the program is here and now - we are ready.

Your help and support is greatly needed and appreciated!

Ron Chapman  
AISD Director of Band

**Equipment and Model  
needed**

	<b>#</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total Price</b>
Tenor Sax -YTS 475	1	\$2,294.00	\$2,294.00
French Horn – YHR 667	2	\$3,676.00	\$7,352.00
Euphonium – YEP 321	2	\$1,859.00	\$3,718.00
Marching Baritone – YBH 301M (silver)	2	\$2,108.00	\$4,216.00
Snare Drum – and carrier MS9214 – Black	4	\$668.00	\$2,668.00
Bass drum and carrier – 1MB – 8200 Series black 20”	1	\$450.00	\$450.00
Tuba – YBB321 with case	2	\$4,050.00	\$8,100.00
Timpani 23 "	1	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00
Timpani 32"	1	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
Uniforms – 20 Uniforms	20	\$571.65	\$11,433.00
If we allow more than fifteen 8th graders to march, we would need more uniforms for them.			

**\$46,081.00**

I am only estimating for 2 Baritones, Marching Baritones and 2 French Horns. These numbers could easily be 3-4 and I will know more by the end of the month.

I have not asked for a Sousaphone, unless we allow 1-2 8th grade tuba players to march. A used sousaphone is roughly \$3000.00 each, if we can find used silver ones. However we **WILL NEED** 2 by 2013 !!!

Also not included is a need for 2 3/4 size tubas at the ms These are very hard to find in used condition.