

Dear Stone Band Parent,

It has always been a pleasure to teach band at Stone MS and work with such a supportive community and wonderful students. Now is the time of the year when we need to call on that support to ensure the continued level of excellence that has made the Stone Band program recognized across Fairfax County as one of the finest.

During the past several years, your Stone MS music program has grown in both quality and size. Most band parents are unaware of how expensive it is to run a quality program for the growing number of students (215) we have in the Stone band. It also comes as quite a surprise that the county does not provide the money we need to purchase the equipment necessary **beyond the most basic level**. Listed below are just a FEW of the items that the band program needs and how costly these items are:

2 Oboes @ \$3,000 each	2 Trombones @ \$1,400 each
2 French Horns @ \$3,200 each	2 Tubas @ 3,400 each
1 Set of Vibes @ \$3,200	

Providing instruments for just 9+ students will run over \$25,000!!!

In the past, we have run an annual fundraiser typical in its format of asking family and friends to purchase gift and food items that, frankly, most people did not need or want. This year we are simply asking each band family to make a donation to the program in any amount that is comfortable for your budget. As a Centreville community member myself, I speak from experience when I say that I would much rather write a check that I know goes entirely to the program instead of buying items I do not need, with only 50% of the money going to the band.

With our past fundraising efforts, the average profit was approximately \$100 per student. This can serve as a suggested amount for reaching our target for the budgeted items listed above. However, PLEASE KNOW THAT ANY AMOUNT THAT YOU CAN PROVIDE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL TO BE HELPFUL. Be assured that no list will be kept regarding who does or does not contribute and participation will in no way have any effect on your child's involvement in our bands.

Your support is vital to our ability to respond to the growing reputation of Stone MS music and to keeping our program strong while maintaining a high level of excellence. We hope that each family will be able to participate. Please make your **tax-deductible** donation payable to **Stone Middle School** and mail your check in the enclosed addressed and stamped envelope.

Please don't hesitate to call or email me if you need further information about this "**NO FUSS**" fundraiser and again, let me thank you in advance for your support on behalf of all the students in the Stone band program.

Robert J. Zazzara, Stone Middle School Bands
703-631-5559
robert.zazzara@fcps.edu

