

August 2019

Dear BJH Instrumental Music Families,

We're looking forward to another spectacular year in Brea Junior High Instrumental Music! Our program offers a full day of instrumental music options including four levels of band as well as orchestra and guitar. As many local music programs face cutbacks, our BOUSD music program continues to grow and thrive. It's going to be the best year yet for BJH instrumental music!

As you know by now, music is about much more than just notes on a page. The students are developing responsibility, self-discipline, teamwork and leadership skills, higher level reasoning skills, building strong bonds with one another, and most importantly, having fun! They will participate in concerts, competitions, social events, fundraisers, and community service activities. Above all, they are becoming fluent in the language of music, and they will astound you with their abilities by the end of this year (if they haven't already!).

It's not easy running a program this multi-faceted. It requires lots of physical and financial support and we cannot do it alone. There is a lot of time and money that goes into creating the outstanding program that we have at Brea Junior High. As the program grows, that amount only increases.

Did you know that our music program receives **\$0.00** annually from our district and from the state of California? Did you know that we operate on a multi-thousand dollar budget each year that is based on donations and fundraising alone? It's not easy, but we do it! Here are some examples of the expenses that we incur each year just to maintain our current program:

Sheet Music - \$2,000+

- Each new piece of sheet music we purchase costs approximately \$50 each x 5 ensembles x 3 concerts per year.

Transportation and Festival Entrance Fees - \$5,000+

- Busing to festivals, competitions, and other field trips costs approximately \$750 per trip, per bus. Festival entrance fees for our ensembles to participate in festivals and competitions cost \$200 for each group.

School Instrument Repairs and Maintenance - \$2,000+

- Instruments "wear and tear" when they are heavily used, and must be properly maintained in order to play well. Many students use school-owned instruments such as French horns, tubas, baritones, oboes, bass clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones.

Uniforms - \$1,500+

- All students will receive BJH Instrumental Music t-shirts for "informal" performances such as the football game performance, in-school performances, and local community performances, as well as "band spirit days" at school. It is important for us to look good--no matter how good we sound, our visual appearance makes the first impression on an audience!

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End of Year Banquet - \$2,000+

- We have a wonderful celebration at the end of each school year at which we will enjoy a great meal in a great facility with great ambience. Many awards will be given--every student will receive something for their participation and dedication.

Every one of these expenses is *imperative* to our success this school year. Without these items, we cannot be competitive with other local school music programs, and more importantly, our children will lose out.

In addition, the above listed expenses do not include ways in which we should be expanding our program to plan for the future. Some of my goals for additional expenditures include:

- Additional school instruments: As the program continues to grow, we need to have a proportionate selection of school instruments for student use, including both large and expensive instruments (i.e. tubas, French horns, etc.) as well as common instruments that students may not be able to purchase (trumpets, flutes, clarinets).
- Hiring of additional walk-on instructors to teach small group sectionals (like small group lessons) so that each student can have an expert on their own instrument to keep them challenged.
- Technology: purchasing of computers and software for the students to use to improve and deepen musicianship.
- Storage: our antiquated music room does not provide adequate store for our expensive instruments and equipment.

The list could go on and on! This is where you come in. As you can see, we are in dire need of your help in these rough economic times. To help offset the cost of running our instrumental music program, we ask that you please make a **tax-deductible** donation of \$50. Your donation will go towards the following:

- Music t-shirt for performances and spirit days (see next page for more information)
- Various books and sheet music to be used by all students this year
- Instrument repair and maintenance costs
- Transportation costs (busing for festivals, competitions, and field trips).

Of course, additional donations are always welcomed and needed. Your donation is **tax deductible** and will go towards the plans listed on the previous page for expansion and improvement of our instrumental music program. Please take some time to fill out the form on the following page.

Thanks again for your support!

Sincerely,

Brea Junior High School Instrumental Music Boosters

**Please fill out the following form and return with your donation by Monday, 9/9.
Make out checks to "BJH Instrumental Music Boosters." Cash is also accepted.**

No student shall be excluded from participation in the program or penalized in any way due to financial difficulty. Financial hardship should never be a reason for your child to not participate in music! If you are unable to make a donation at this time, or you would like to organize a payment plan, please contact Mrs. Bartell! Our instrumental music booster club will work with you however possible!

Student Name: _____

Music Class and Period: _____

I would like to make the following **tax-deductible** contribution to the BJH instrumental music program (please check one):

_____ I will donate \$50 (recommended).

_____ I would like to contribute a smaller **or** larger donation in the amount of: _____

_____ I am not able to make a donation at this time. I will fundraise to help the band program as needed.

Please circle your preferred t-shirt size (shirts come in adult sizes).

Instrumental Music T-Shirt (all students receive a shirt, regardless of donation amount):

Adult sizes: XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

I would like to order additional band shirts (great for family to show support at events—add \$10 each):

Size: _____ Quantity: _____

Size: _____ Quantity: _____

Size: _____ Quantity: _____

Size: _____ Quantity: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT HERE (Donation + all additional shirts):

Thank you for your support!