**West Potomac Band Patrons Organization Voluntary Contribution**

It takes money to run a great high school band program, which is why every FCPS band has a booster club.

Ours is called the West Potomac Band Patrons Organization (WPBPO), and this year, as in the past few years, we’re slated to add about $60,000+ to the band program’s bottom line. More than half of that money is from fundraisers, and the rest is from the annual voluntary contributions we receive from each participant.

It would be impossible to run the West Po band program without the booster funding.

We try to ask for as small a check as possible from our families. We accomplish that in two ways: 1) by fundraising as much as we can as a group, and 2) by running “lean and mean.” Our program is arguably the best in the county – we achieved both the coveted Honor Band and Blue Ribbon status this year – and yet our participants end up paying less than most other high schools. We are tremendously proud of that.

The money raised by this booster club is used to enrich the Wolverine program in many ways. Among other things, it goes toward hiring extra, expert staff to work with the students on both music and marching skills. We buy uniforms and instruments, carts and equipment. We cover fees for competitions, and help provide buses to get the kids there. We also add a bit of fun in the form of things like student awards and recognition for seniors.

***So what’s the bottom line for you?***

**If your child is in concert band, marching band, guard or dance team, we’ll be asking for a voluntary contribution of $50 on the first day of school.** Of course we would gratefully welcome contributions greater than $50 is you choose to do so.  Please remember that because the WPBPO is a 501c3 corporation, your contribution is tax-deductible! As you think about where to put your charitable dollars, we hope you’ll keep in mind that our community’s young musicians are a worthy cause.

We’re looking forward to another fantastic year of music. Thank you for everything you do to support your child’s musicianship and this program.