

April 4, 2022

Dear De Soto Band Parents,

My name is Matt Bradford and I am the band director at De Soto High School. One of my responsibilities as director is to make sure that the band program is financially secure and has the resources to support outstanding learning opportunities for our students.

Each year, we run a Donation Drive fundraiser. This fundraiser helps us raise thousands of dollars for our band program, allowing us to hire additional staff for band camp, improve our show design, and provide greater opportunities to our students. This has been borne out over the past three years with our best ever finish at the KBA Championships and winning the Baker Marching Festival in 2021, and with the Wind Ensemble performing for the KMEA In-Service Workshop in 2021. For next year, I am again hoping to raise **\$10,000** to support our needs for the upcoming school year.

It is my hope that **each family** will contribute to support the band if possible. If each student's family contributes just \$80, we will meet our fundraising goal. However, families are more than welcome to contribute more or less if they would like. This amount is much lower than most schools in our area, as the average school in our area has fees of more than \$250 per year and has a total budget of over \$40,000. However, it will be enough to continue to offer a quality experience to our students.

This year, we will be able to accept contributions digitally through Venmo. We are optimistic that this will make supporting our program more convenient and accessible to our band families and other friends and families that would like to contribute. Please consider forwarding the attached donation request form to others that may be interested in supporting our program.

I know that it may be difficult for some families to contribute the full amount. Students and families may use fundraising money help cover their portion if they would like, and students may also contribute a smaller amount if necessary. Our band program has always been inclusive of all students, and this will still be the case. **No student will be turned away due to an inability to donate.**

Providing a high-quality experience to our students is important to me, and this Donation Drive is just one of many ways that you support our program. Thank you for all you do—we are only as successful as the support system we have! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Best wishes,

Matt Bradford
Director of Bands, De Soto High School