

*Somerville High School
Music Boosters Association*
Parents' Guide

2021-2022



*Somerville High School
Music Program*

Welcome to the Somerville Music Program! Get ready for an exciting year as the parent of a Somerville High School music program student. This guide is intended to help you understand what is required of you as a music program parent and to serve as a resource to answer your questions. When your child becomes a member of the music program, you become a member of the Somerville High School Music Boosters Association (SHSMBA).

What is SHSMBA and what does SHSMBA do?

SHSMBA is a parent organization that devotes many volunteer hours to support the music program at Somerville High School. The objectives of our organization are to promote interest in and lend all possible support to the various music programs at Somerville High School.

What programs does SHSMBA support?

Student groups that benefit from SHSMBA's efforts include all instrumental bands and ensembles, choirs, indoor guard, drum line, and the Pioneer Marching Band.

How does SHSMBA support the Music Program?

The choral, color guard, instrumental and marching band programs require on-going assistance from families throughout the year. SHSMBA pays for equipment and music for the choral and instrumental programs, sponsors scholarships for graduating music students, and helps defray the cost of the music banquet and music trips, among other things.

We also fund the marching band and color guard programs by paying for drill writing; t-shirts; marching band, color guard, and drum line staff during band camp and the season; uniforms, flags; hot chocolate, water, meals and snacks.

Where do the funds come from to support the Music Programs?

SHSMBA asks for a \$50 donation from all music families to assist with expenses throughout the year, **and** another \$50 donation at the beginning of band camp from marching band and guard families to help defray the cost of band camp and the band season. It certainly is not required, but we hope all families will consider assisting with a monetary donation.

In addition to donations from families, we have fundraising activities throughout the year.

What are the fundraising activities that SHSMBA sponsors?

SHSMBA has 6 fundraisers - 2 working, 1 donation and 3 sales fundraisers. Participation in at least 3 of these activities qualifies the students for Trip Fund monies (refer to Trip Fund questions).

In addition to the above fundraisers, we host 2 competitions – Marching Band Festival in the Fall and Winter Guard Home Show in the Spring.

How is the money from these fundraising activities used?

All of the funds raised go to support **all** of the music programs.

How else can I support the Music Program?

As valued as donations are to the organization, we also need some of your time. Some of the many opportunities to lend your support are volunteering for the fundraising events (Car Wash, Balloon Festival, Marching Band Home Show, Indoor Guard Home Show, and Tricky Tray); hauling props and equipment; fitting uniforms; chaperoning away games, parades, and festivals; serving at Cookie Salad, and selling 50/50 at home games.

What are the volunteering activities?

It truly cannot be a successful year without strong family support. We need help from everyone!

There will be volunteer sign-ups for both the Marching Band Home Show Festival and for the Marching Band season at the preview performance.



In addition, we also need help in the following areas:

- ❖ PR/Marketing - publicizing all Music Department and SHSMBA events through writing and submission of articles to local area papers.
- ❖ Clothing Sales – At preview Performance, help collect orders and receive Spirit Wear payments.
- ❖ Uniform Committee – during band camp, fit and assign uniforms to new members and those who changed in size, maintain inventory, order uniform items that need replenishment. At end of year, ensure that senior uniforms are returned and sent out for repair and/or cleaning.
- ❖ Truck Drivers/Pit Crew/Chaperones – able-bodied men and women to load instruments and pit equipment onto the trucks at away games and competitions. No special license is required to drive our trucks.
- ❖ Food - organizing several meals for the students, as needed (before competitions, for example). Tasks include coordinating parent food donations and helpers for serving etc.
- ❖ Videotaping/Photography – taking photos and videos of performances during the season and posting to our Facebook page.
- ❖ Tricky Tray - Much help is needed with soliciting donations from music families and neighboring businesses, basket wrapping and helping out during the event.

What is the Music Department Trip?

Every other year, the Music Department takes a trip (usually four days) to perform at an out of state festival. In 2015, the students went to Disney World. In 2017, they went to Montreal and Quebec City. In 2019, they went to Chicago. The next trip should be in Spring 2022.

How is the Trip funded?

While a student pays for the trip out of pocket, if he/she participates in the fundraising opportunities and meets the minimum for participation, the money earned is placed in a **TRIP FUND** that is shared equally among those who qualify. The more that is raised, the less he/she will need to pay out of pocket.

How do the students qualify for the Trip Fund?

Music Department trips occur every other year. However, every year, a fundraising pool is established and divided evenly between all who qualified for the pool that year.

To qualify for the trip fund, a student needs to participate in at least three fundraisers in a school year.

Fundraiser	Method of earning credit
Tricky Tray (April or May)	Donate basket(s) valued at least \$100
Balloon Festival (July)	Student/Family work at least one shift
Car Wash (August)	Student/Family work at least one shift
Gift Wrap (Aug-Sept)	Sell \$100 worth of product
Pies/Cookie Dough & Cheesecakes (Oct)	Sell \$100 worth of product
Gourmet Popcorn (Dec-Jan)	Sell \$100 worth of product

Are there SHSMBA Meetings and can anyone attend?

Yes, SHSMBA general meetings are held the second Tuesday in Sept, Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May & June at 7:30 PM in the Choir Room. Everyone is welcome.

How do I find out about music department news, performances, competitions, fundraisers, activities schedules....?

There are several ways to get information including the students' flyers sent home, "Big Weekend/Little Weekend" (see Marching Band Things to Know section), SHSMBA emails, SHSMBA meetings and the SHSMBA website (www.shsmbanjan.com).

To ensure that our emails reach you, please update your contact information by logging in as a parent/student to: www.charmsoffice.com. Type in 'SomervilleHSMusic' in the school code. If you do not remember your student's CHARMS ID or are new to the program, please contact our CHARMS administrator at shsmbahelp.nj@gmail.com.

Marching Band Specific Things to Know

With being a member of Marching Band (and the parent of a member) comes additional responsibilities and important information to know about. Don't worry, this guide and the "Little Weekend" or "Big Weekend" will help you understand what is happening during the season.

What are the "Little Weekend" and "Big Weekend"?

Every week during band season, Mr. Krempasky (also known as Mr. K.) distributes an information sheet known as the "Little Weekend" or "Big Weekend". It is a Big Weekend when there is a competition that weekend. The LW/BW is sent home, emailed as well as posted on our website. It typically comes out Wednesday or Thursday afternoons before the weekend. Take the time to read each "weekend" as they contain information about where to be, when to be there, and what to do once you get there.

When does Marching Band season start?

The year starts with Band Camp, which starts in mid-August. For a full schedule, refer to the SHSMBA website calendar. The MB season really gets busy when school starts. There are practices, football games and competitions every week through November. Our biggest activity of the season is when we host a MB Home Show in October and play host to about 14+ schools.

Is there anything special I need to know about Band Camp?

Yes. Band Camp days are very long and at most times, hot. Please send your student to school prepared for a hard day of work. Please make sure they have had breakfast, bring lunch and dinner (or money to go buy dinner), bring a refillable water bottle or jug, wear sneakers, and stuff to protect them from the sun.

Can I come watch practice during camp?

Yes, and please come to our preview performance (date to be announced) as they perform what they have learned so far. Light refreshments will be served that night.

Besides Marching Band season, are there other activities?

Yes, the Marching Band also performs at Parades during the year. Save the dates - Basilone Parade at Raritan (9/19/22), St. Patrick's Day Parade at Somerville (3/13/22) and Memorial Day Parade at Somerville (5/30/22).

Do we need to supply any part of the uniform or is everything provided?

Marching Band: The uniforms, a bag and initial set of black gloves are provided. You will need to purchase shoes (around \$35 and from Mr. K) and black socks. There is a mandatory \$25 Annual Uniform Usage Fee.

Refer to the SHSMBA website for care and cleaning of the uniform since that is your responsibility. Check weather reports before every event to make sure your student is dressed appropriately. A long sleeve thermal shirt or extra pair of socks might be needed – remember we are outside for long periods.

Color Guard: The uniforms and all equipment are provided. You will need to purchase shoes, gloves and make-up.

Are parent volunteers needed?

Yes! See Volunteering activities.

If I have more questions, what do I do?

Email us at SHSMBA.nj@gmail.com



Somerville High School Music Boosters Association (SHSMBA)

Website: www.shsmbanj.com

Email: shsmba.nj@gmail.com

CHARMS: www.charmsoffice.com

School Code: SomervilleHSMusic

Your student's CHARMS ID:

FB: Somerville High School Music Boosters

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