



# SAVANNA HIGH SCHOOL BAND & COLORGUARD

## PARENT GUIDE 2007-2008



June 2007

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## This is the June 12, 2007 Version.

All costs and dates in this document are approximate and for planning purposes.  
See the latest as it is published each year.

Savanna Band & Pageantry Booster Organization, Inc.  
301 North Gilbert  
Anaheim, CA 92801

*That is the Savanna High School address –  
be sure to label it for the Band Boosters since it  
goes through the school mailroom*

We are incorporated as a non-profit, 501 3(c) organization, and as such, all contributions  
are tax deductible. Our Tax ID is 33-0192653.

Contributions and payments can be made via:

- Mail: To the Band Boosters, at 301 N. Gilbert, Anaheim, CA 92801
- Drop Safe: In the Band Mom's Room next to the Band Office.
- PayPal: There is a link on the Band Website that allows you to pay via PayPal online, using your major credit card.



## QUESTIONS?

Email us at [boosters@savannaband.com](mailto:boosters@savannaband.com)

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*An informal guide to key things to know as a band supporter! Please note that dates and costs found in this guide are not final, and are for general planning purposes only. Specific dates and costs are announced as they come up through the Director's office and/or the newsletter and Parent/Booster meetings.*

## 1) Communication

There is a lot of information here, and a lot of things change from year to year, or even month to month! Here are some of the places to go for the latest information

**www.savannaband.com** - Yes, we have our own website at [SavannaBand.com](http://SavannaBand.com).

You can access it for some of the latest info. Check it for:

- Students can download their music (they will need Finale Notepad),
- Check Schedules
- listen to some really good music
- Contacts
- Pay your student's account or make a contribution on-line via PayPal

**Monthly Family/Booster Meeting** – Each month there is a meeting of friends and family of the band – especially important if your student is involved. This is where you get the latest information on music, performances, plans, and upcoming events. Usually they occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month (but they do change, depending upon the performance schedule and other events).

**Newsletter** – a regular (almost monthly) newsletter is issued to our boosters, and to the student home address. Make sure your address is up to date with the band office.

**Who do I call?** Or who calls me? Be a part of the phone chain and help contact people with the latest info. The current Booster board list with email and contact info is found on the band website, or asks for a list at the band office.

**Ask a question?** [boosters@savannaband.com](mailto:boosters@savannaband.com)

### ➤ **Monthly Reminders**

Not that this is a complete list, but here is a starting list of things to remember by month (of course actual dates will be published ahead of time):

#### August

Band Camp,  
 Student Packets go home and need various data returned (Medical Forms, etc)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Installment of Participation Fees due  
 Uniform Fittings  
 Bar-B-Q Showcase (Dinner & First preview of fall show)

#### September

School Starts  
 1<sup>st</sup> performance  
 Car Wash

October

1<sup>st</sup> Cookie Dough Sale (for Student Accounts)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Installment of Participation Fees is due  
Order concert attire

November

Tournament! The Saturday before Thanksgiving is historically when we have the tournament. See Tournament section for more information  
Order Concert Tux or Dress for new students

December

Holiday Concert  
3<sup>rd</sup> Participation Fee  
Winter Guard Try outs

January

District honor band

February

Winterguard Competitions  
Spring Ensembles

March

Band Festivals  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cookie Dough Sale (for Student Accounts)

April

Spring Fundraiser – Cow Chip Bingo

May

Show Case Bar-B-Q  
Spring Concerts

June

Elections for next year

➤ **Newsletter**

A Booster newsletter is issued regularly – monthly during the first part of the year during Marching season, and every two months after that (or as the need arises). All homes of students registered should receive them (note, you may check to see that our records are correct) as well as Booster members (whether or not they are at the home of a student).

Besides the news we try to put in, we also welcome articles, letters, or comments from our friends. If you would like to submit something, it can be emailed to the editor for the year. Generally the cut off is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the newsletter mailed at the end of the month. Send you notes to [boosters@savannaband.com](mailto:boosters@savannaband.com)

**A word about bulk mail**

Newsletters are sent via our bulk mail permit with the US Post Office in Anaheim. As such, Anaheim newsletters are routed through the Anaheim system and usually reach homes fairly quickly. However, if you live outside Anaheim (many of our students have a Buena Park address, or Boosters that live outside the area), those items are sent to the LA Sorting sender, and then returned to your local Post Office for delivery. This process

can take quite a while, and can cause other delivery problems. This past year we experimented with paying 1<sup>st</sup> class for non-Anaheim items, and other ways. We will continue to evaluate the best way to communicate.

## 2) The Performance Year

### ➤ Music

The musicians' music for practice and performances is posted on the Website. To download it you will need to have a program called Finale Notepad on your computer. There is a free reader version that you can download from the web. The link is found on the website under the Marching Band Tab, then click on Sheet Music.



### ➤ Band Camp

Band camp is an intense 2-3 weeks each summer where the musicians and Colorguard work on the fall show. Held at Savanna High, it officially starts off the year with the students, with tons of marching and skill practice. Sectionals and full group practices are held all day for the 2-3 weeks leading up to school. Incoming new students and student leaders usually meet for several days in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August – this allows the new students to learn basic marching and get to know some of the key people before the full camp starts. Everyone then is there the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month. The specific schedule is noted on the website.



No matter when it is held, there are a few things to note:

- It is hot! Each student should plan on wearing clothing consistent with hot days in the sun. Shorts, sunhats, and sunscreen.
- In addition, bring extra water – for example, a half gallon thermos filled with ice and water in the morning will make a much better day.
- There is also an hour lunch break, so a lot of students bring their lunch. There are several local spots that some of the students can go to to eat, including Subway, and Carl's – but they are off campus.

Uniform fittings are also conducted during Band Camp – done by classes (Seniors first, and on down the ranks). It is also during Band Camp that a lot of forms and materials come home to sign up, register, and get information out. Look for that from your student.

### ➤ The Fall Preview

The Fall Preview is usually held on the last day of Band Camp, and is the first major parent event of the year. We introduce the board, calendar, and most importantly, the students perform the beginnings of the show. It is amazing how much they learn in just two weeks at Band camp!

The Fall preview usually includes a dinner – either a pot-luck event or Bar-B-Q (last year we had the Carl's Truck come out! – and they donated back part of the proceeds). Plan on an enjoyable evening.

**Is the show complete?**

No. There is still a lot of work to be done, and actually the show evolves over the course of the season. As the students become proficient at the main elements of the show, additional details are added through the season.

**➤ Marching Season**

The marching season involves going to competitions throughout the fall – usually October and November, with Championships early in December.

**Who do they compete against?**

Bands are ranked by their size, ranging from 1A (smallest) to 6A (largest), known as Divisions. Savanna competes in the 5A division.

**How are they rated?**

Depending on the tournament and availability of judges, there are a number of sub-categories that may be recognized – such as “Auxiliary” (which is the Pageantry / Color Guard), “Drumline/Percussion,” or “Music.” However, the overall score for the band combines the sights and sounds into one ranking. Awards are given by placement within a division– with 1<sup>st</sup> place being tops. However, most tournaments have an overall Sweepstakes winner, which is the high score no matter what division you are in (in 2005, Savanna received two Sweepstakes awards).

**➤ Field Show Tournaments**

It is always inspiring to our students to hear cheering support from the grand stands when they perform at a Field Show. We encourage everyone to attend as many as our competitions as they can. The shows get better and better as the season goes on – and more things get added each time. Some helpful hints:

- Maps are available at the band room, and include info on call time (the time that the students must be ready to go at the school), and performance times.
- There is an admission fee to attend shows (about \$5-10/person). These are run by local band organizations (like our own tournament) and pricing and discounts vary by group.
- Food is available. Again, prices and menus vary by organization (these are fundraisers for them too). Remember, band members in uniform are limited to water only – don’t try and do them a favor and try to feed them while in uniform!
- Other items – Programs, T-Shirts, buttons, etc. – are popular items to buy at the show.
- Almost all shows are bleacher seating – brings pads, cushions, blankets for comfort. Also, in the fall it gets very cool at night, check the weather.
- Remember – this is a performance for your student. They have worked hard to get here. They may be a little stressed – be encouraging and supportive. Also, they are on a tight schedule before the performance – they may not be able to visit until after the performances ... don’t be offended, they are doing their job.

**➤ Savanna Football**

The Mighty Marching Rebel Band proudly supports the Savanna football team at all of its home games. The band performs not only their show during half time, but also provides music during the games. Most games are at Glover Stadium at La Palma Park in Anaheim, though some are at Handel Stadium at Western High School.

Since it is a full performance of the tournament show, the same parent support positions are required for the evening – chaperones, truck drivers, band mom's & dad's.

➤ **AUHSD Band Spectacular**

The tradition of Band Music in the Anaheim School District runs deep! This is a night to get together and show off the performances of all the High School Bands in the District. Though not formally judged, there are a lot of bragging rights for a good show. Each student is required to sell 5-10 tickets.



➤ **Musician Marching Uniforms**

For marching season, the band currently wears a “brick” colored uniform that is provided by the district. New uniforms are provided to all the schools in the district on a rotating basis – meaning that each year they purchase uniforms for another school. Currently we are behind only Western and Cypress, and are scheduled to have new uniforms again in 3 years.

**Costs**

When uniforms are purchased, the district will pay the majority of the costs, however, due to our bands large size, we will still be responsible for a portion of it, approximately \$15,000. We are trying to set aside money for that in our budget, but probably will have a special fundraising theme for that in a coming year.

**Uniform Fittings/Alterations**

Uniforms are re-altered every year for the entire group. Returning students may be able to use the same uniform, but will be checked for proper fit and conditions. Alterations usually are conducted in August during the weeks of band camp, and done after hours. Fittings generally occur in Grade order, with Seniors first.



We always need volunteers to help, not only to do the sewing/altering, but logging students in, keeping track of forms, and other logistics items. Since it is very early in the year, it is always hard to get the word out, but be looking for it when band camp starts.

**Shoes**

Shoes are purchased by the participant, and available for purchase at the beginning of the year.

**Black Socks/Gloves**

Students are required to provide and wear black socks and gloves while in uniform. A limited amount are available for purchase from the Band Parents at the time of competition – meaning, we end up having to provide black socks and/or gloves to a few students every week when they forget them. Please check them before they leave – it saves us all time, and saves you some of those miscellaneous charges to the student account.

### **Uniform Etiquette**

While a student is in his/her uniform, there are some strict rules that he/she must abide by – both as a demonstration of band pride, but also because of the practical reason of protecting the uniform.

- No Eating – just that, no eating. We provide them water while in uniform, but they cannot have other drinks or food.
- No Carrying / loading – other than their own instrument (this is why the loading crew waits to change until the loading is complete).
- No visible jewelry – including pierced items. Jewelry must be removed from visible areas while in uniform/performance.

### ➤ **Colorguard**

Colorguard (Pageantry) is an integral part of the Band and Field Show. Most information is the same (such as schedules, fundraising, etc.), but there are a few differences.

- Colorguard costumes change each year to match the field show theme. As such, they need to be specifically sized and made. Stay in tune for the schedule for that. These uniform costs are a part of the Booster budget (meaning students do not have to pay extra for them), however, there are the bands, and are to be turned in at the end of the season.
- Flags are also generally unique each season, and are made for the show.
- Colorguard participants are required to purchase their own flag bag. This can be purchased from Peacock's Marching World. ([www.marchingworld.com](http://www.marchingworld.com))
- In addition, Shoes need to be purchased by the participant based upon the show style.
- Again, no visible jewelry or nail polish at performances. Hair styles are also dependant upon the show theme.

### ➤ **Winter Guard**

Pageantry has its own winter season each year, known as Winter Guard. The Team develops a routine that uses pre-recorded music and is developed for competitions which are held in a gym or large arena. Winter guard is a separate team from the marching pageantry, and try outs are held in December of each year.

Winterguard shows are performed indoors, and usually performed barefooted. Uniforms are provided, but need to be fitted. In addition, props are usually a “group participation” activity, meaning parents and students make and paint any props.

### **Are there additional costs?**

Each year there is an additional cost to participate in Winter Guard for the unique uniforms and related equipment. In the 2005-2006 school year that cost was \$75.

### ➤ **Festival / Concert Season**

Beginning with the completion of Marching season, usually in December, the organization switches over to a concert season. Then each of the normal class bands, Symphonic, Jazz, and Wind Ensemble, begin on their own repertoire of music for the year. Over the course of the year the bands will perform at a variety concerts and competitions. All this means is that the support work does not end with Marching season, though the pace gets a little easier.

**What do students wear?**

For concert season, students are in “formal” attire. Ladies are in a black concert gowns, and gentlemen in Black Tuxedos.

**When and where do we get the clothes?**

Returning students may use prior year’s attire. The look is a general look, and exact matches of gowns and tuxes are not required, so if you have other access to gowns and tuxes, check with the Director for guidelines and agreement. Once purchased, they should be good for all four years.

However, in late November or early December we start alerting students how to order for the current year. For example, ladies gowns usually cost around \$75 to be custom made for each student. In addition, in 2005 we had a good deal from one Tux shop that allowed us to purchase an entire Tux (Shirt with studs/cuff links, dress shoes, cummerbund, tie, as well as Jacket and Pants) for \$150 (partial orders were OK, too).

**How are Musicians Rated?**

At festivals, the musicians are rated by a panel of 3 judges, using a consensus rating, not an average. Although there is a sight-reading element of the festival, it is not included in the final rating for District Festivals. Each judge rates the performance using one of 5 levels, which are:

- Superior – I
- Excellent – II
- Good – III
- Fair – IV
- Poor – V

The 3 judges scores are then evaluated against a prescribed table (as shown below) to develop a single rating:

Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
1-1-1	1-2-2	1-3-3	1-4-4	1-5-5
1-1-2	1-2-3	1-3-4	1-4-5	2-5-5
1-1-3	1-2-4	1-3-5	2-4-4	3-5-5
1-1-4	1-2-5	2-3-3	2-4-5	4-5-5
1-1-5	2-2-2	2-3-4	3-4-4	5-5-5
	2-2-3	2-3-5	3-4-5	
	2-2-4	3-3-3	4-4-4	
	2-2-5	3-3-4	4-4-5	
		3-3-5		

**Concert Etiquette**

A concert or festival is a formal event. While applause and approval is always appreciated, calling out of names and outbursts should remain outside the Concert Hall, and reserved for the end of the performance. Audience members should make sure their cell phones are turned off and that there is absolutely no talking of any kind while a group is playing onstage. One exception is during a Jazz ensemble performance, and applause after a soloist is appropriate and expected.

➤ **Showcase Bar-B-Q**

At the end of the year, May or June, we usually end with a concert based upon the spring musical selections. Most recently this revolves around a Booster Bar-B-Q and fundraiser. Basic Hamburgers and Hot Dogs are available as a “meal deal” with Chips and Drink. It is a fun time to see everyone one more time.

➤ **Awards Banquet**

At the end of the school year, there is an awards banquet. Attire is usually tie and dresses. It is a great time to honor the whole group, musicians, pageantry, assistants, and all. Not only are awards given, but student leaders for the following year are announced. Cost is usually around \$20/person.

A key part of the Awards banquet is a presentation of 100's of pictures from throughout the year. If you have some special ones you want to contribute, submit them through the band office, or one of the parent meetings, or email them to the current President.

In addition, there is a tribute to our graduating senior class, and parents are asked to submit not only this year's senior picture, but also a baby picture or other picture from their youth.

### 3) **Who makes this possible**

➤ **Our Director**

Brian D. Belski is the Director of Bands at Savanna High School in Anaheim, CA. He directs the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and the 165-member Mighty Marching Rebel Band & Colorguard. Mr. Belski received his B.A. in Music Education from UCLA in 1996 and received his teaching credential at Cal State University Long Beach. While at UCLA, Mr. Belski arranged music for the UCLA Bruin Marching Band as well as writing and arranging music for high school and university bands across the country.



Since arriving at Savanna in 2003, Mr. Belski's bands have received Superior ratings at SCSBOA band festivals and jazz festivals. They have performed at the Rose Bowl, the Arrowhead Pond (with Shania Twain), at the Reno Jazz Festival, and have been invited to the SCSBOA Field Championships in the 5A Division every year since its inception. From 1998 to 2003, Mr. Belski was the Director of Bands at Capistrano Valley High School in Mission Viejo, CA. While at Capo Valley, Mr. Belski's Wind Ensembles and Jazz Ensembles were consistently rated Superior at festivals and the Marching Band won the 2002 SCSBOA Field Championships in the 2A Division.

Mr. Belski was a marching member of the now-defunct Velvet Knights Drum and Bugle Corps, from Anaheim, CA, from 1992 to 1994 and taught the brass section there in 1996. In 1997, he taught the brass section of the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps. Since 2000, Mr. Belski has been a member of the instructional staff at the Pacific Crest Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mr. Belski is a member of the California Band Director's Association (CBDA), the Music Educators' National Conference (MENC) and is Vice President of Public Information for the Southern California School Band & Orchestra Association (SCSBOA). He is sought after as an adjudicator for wind ensembles and marching bands throughout the United States. He regularly travels to attend and present at seminars and workshops devoted to music education in the public schools. Mr. Belski is a regular attendee at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL. Mr. Belski is currently pursuing a Master of Wind Conducting degree from Southern Oregon University.

➤ **Our School**

Savanna High School has a long tradition of musical excellence, both within the district as well as throughout Southern California. Take time to meet or call our principal and thank her for their support!

➤ **Our Coaches**

Every year we coordinate additional coaching talent to support the students. Mr. Belski is great, but with a group of 150 students, we need to have a little better student to instructor ratio. As a result, we bring in various specialized coaches – marching, brass, percussion, Colorguard, woodwinds, etc. – to work specifically with the students. These are people that are known in their field. These are paid for from the Booster budget.

➤ **Our ... US!**

Yes, that is us. Parents. Grandparents. Aunts. Guardians. Uncles. Former students. Friends. Whoever you are, wherever we live, there is a lot to do and to be a part of. These students work hard to be in this activity, and we should all work together to afford them every opportunity to succeed. It is the “us” that helps get it done. We can't do it without you.

#### 4) **Getting Involved**

➤ **The Booster Organization!**

For years the Savanna Band and Colorguard has provided a tradition of excellent music and performance to the Southern California region. First and foremost this tradition is based upon just plain hard work and dedication by the students. Of course, none of this just happens - it includes the efforts of the full and part time staff, a supportive school administration, and finally (but not least of all) friends and family of the program like so many of us. It is the “us” that we would like to talk about for a moment. The friends and family of the Savanna Band and Colorguard have formed a Booster organization to support these students. Each year the Boosters organize to provide support through providing hands and labor at the student's events, as well as material and financial support. For example, in the financial area the Boosters plan to raise over \$90,000 this past year to pay for many items to help the students.



Of course, if you are a Band or Colorguard parent, you don't have to be a Booster to receive the cool newsletter, or to help out in many ways, but being a Booster member does bring special privileges including: voting rights on Booster items, including budget related decisions; ability to chaperon at student events, added to the Booster mailing list even if you are not a parent of a current student; as well as the ability to serve on boards and committees for the boosters.

## Organization

The Boosters are officially incorporated as “Savanna Band & Pageantry Booster Organization, Inc.” Mail can be sent to 301 North Gilbert, Anaheim, CA 92801 (that is the Savanna High School address – be sure to label it for the Band Boosters since it goes through the school mailroom).

**We are incorporated as a non-profit, 501 3(c) organization, and as such, all contributions are tax deductible. Our Tax ID is 33-0192653.**

## Membership

As a result, we believe all friends and family of the Band or Colorguard ought to join the Boosters today! Cost is only \$5 per person, and submission of the information found below. Information and funds can be returned with your student to their class, or dropped off at the Band Room office (there is a deposit safe in the Band Mom room). Checks should be made out to “Savanna Band and Colorguard Boosters.”

Last Name/ First Name(s):  
 Address:  
 City/State/Zip:  
 Phone (with area code)  
 E-mail:  
 Student Relationship, if any - Students Name(s), Section, Graduation year:  
 Best time to contact me is:  
 Ways I can help:  
 Occupation(s):

## ➤ **Booster Budget Summary**

The budget varies from year to year, but here is a summary of the 2005 – 2006 budget to give you an idea of the typical budget.

- Coaches, coaches, coaches: You will find several lines alluding to various types of coaches for the band and Colorguard. In fact, about 40% of our budget goes to additional teaching and coaching staff. Why is this necessary when we have a director? Well, you do the math - with 150 students in Marching Band/Colorguard, plus more in several other performing groups on campus, each student would get about 1/200<sup>th</sup> of Mr. Belski’s time in any given week. As a result, a large part of our budget goes right back to our students with specific coaches to help with more personalized instruction (see next months article on the staff).
- Transportation: Whether it is to football games, performances, or competitions, the Boosters pay 100% of the transportation expenses. That is everything from hourly charges for district buses, to rental and maintenance of trucks to carry our equipment. In this years budget, about 15% goes to various transportation accounts.
- Music, Arranging, and License Fees: Here about 13% of our budget is spent. This used to be about sheet music, but now it is so much more! This includes the rights to use music that is not in the public domain, as well as designing our field shows.
- Uniforms and Equipment: Approximately 19% of our budget goes to uniforms and equipment. This includes new Colorguard uniforms, as well as an annual amount set aside for new band uniforms (the district pays part and we pay part). Equipment expenses include maintenance, but also new instruments (last years additions were the Mellophones on a multi year lease/own basis).

While that is not everything, and I suppose you could evaluate it several different ways, you can see that the Booster budget is not frivolous - rather it is a substantial element of the program here at Savanna! It literally moves the program along.

2005-06 Budget Summary - Total \$115,000

Staff \$37,500

- Includes Marching, Wind, Colorguard, and Percussion Staff

Transportations \$13,000

- Includes Buses, Truck Rentals/Expenses

Equipment \$12,105

- Includes Colorguard, Drumline, New Instruments, Band Equip/Supplies

Uniforms \$8,550

- Includes Colorguard, Drum Major, Uniform Reserve, and Cleaning

Drill Costs \$6,150

- Includes Band, Winterguard, and Field Props

Music \$4,700

- Includes Music, Arranging

Awards & Hospitality \$2,700

- Banquet, Hospitality, Student Activities

Administration \$4,000

- General Expenses, Liability Insurance, Newsletter, First Aid, Tax Services, Bank Fees

Tournament \$25,000

Unallocated Reserve \$3,000

We ask that as you look at this budget you do two things ... first of all, don't look at as dollars and cents, but rather as a vehicle to a vision of building critical values into our youth. Building not just music knowledge, but dedication, determination, and values of working together. Second of all, think about how you can help support us this year to achieve this vision. Every month (including this month) you will see articles about fundraising, and how you can help - sometimes it is buying something, and other times it is giving of your time and effort - whatever it is, please don't tune it out as a plea for money, rather look at it as a stepping stone to that vision!

➤ **Chaperones (aka: Band Parents)**

*One Band of 150+ Students. Musicians, Colorguard, Staff + Flags, Instruments, and a pit cart = 3 busloads of people, and 3 truck loads of equipment.*

Each performance – whether at a home football game or tournament - all this needs to get moved, watered, checked and rechecked. Hair needs to go up, black socks put on, plumes issued.. This and many other details come together each time there is a performance. And how does it get done? One BIG part of it is due to chaperones. Chaperones are parents and boosters that travel with the band wherever it goes. Each week we need 10-15 adults for big and little jobs – but most of all to be there with the students providing guidance and support.

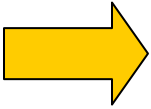
Being a Band Mom or Dad takes a little work, and time – but it provides a lot of satisfaction. Making a connection with the students is great, and when they call out saying “Mom” or “Dad” to you, I am sure that you will feel that special joy that so many of us has experienced.

**What does being a Band Mom or Dad (aka: Chaperone) involve?**

We meet at the Band call time (several hours ahead of the competition time – it depends on the where and what the event is) and while most of the loading is done by a group of students (the Band Staff) the chaperones help out and supervise. Of course there is riding to and from the event on the buses – which usually involves not much more than providing a parental “presence.” At the event, we help “water” the students, check uniforms, put up hair, and just provide encouragement. Really, while it may sound foreign with a lot of odd terms – come once and you will see how fun it is!

**What are the requirements?**

The school district has set up a registration and background check process for any of the official chaperones. This involves being fingerprinted and taking a Tuberculosis (TB) Test. While this sounds complicated, it actually can be accomplished fairly quickly with a few short visits to the district office and the test center.



To initiate the process you will have to set up an appointment at the district office by calling the Anaheim Unified School District (AUHSD) at (714) 999-3511 and ask for the Human Resources Department. The offices are behind the Target on Lincoln between Euclid and Brookhurst. You must make an appointment before showing up. During the visit your fingerprints will be taken and then they will refer you to a lab on Katella to have a TB test. The test is administered on your first visit and you will have to return within 48-72 hours to have it “read.” In some cases, if you have had a recent TB test for other reasons, you might not have to retake it, but you will have to coordinate that with the district during your visit, and they will make the final determination.

Once you have completed the fingerprinting and TB test, the district will notify Savanna and they will in turn notify Mr. Belski.

**Is this all necessary?**

To some this seems awfully complicated, or even intrusive ... but it is to provide all of our students with a safe environment – and that is the important thing. So it takes a little of our time to help our students, and that should not be too much to ask.

**Well, I don't have to do this, someone else will – right?**

Actually, there are lots of times we do need more chaperones, for lots of reasons – like we need to rotate assignments so that one set of people don't always have to go every week. In addition, there are times we need more – an overnight trip requires a higher chaperone / student ratio.

**Do I have to waste a night?**

Every time we spend time with the students (and it does take time and effort) it is NOT a waste. In fact it is just the opposite – it builds into our lives, as well as the student's lives. To the entire group you become Dad or Mom – and that is (to quote that TV commercial) PRICELESS.

**➤ BandAid**

For Band events, such as tournaments and football games, we bring along general first aid to cover various things that come up – cuts, bruises, and the like. For each student we need a Student Medical Form so that we know how to care for each student. The form simply lists common medications, like Aspirin or Cold Remedies, and allows you to

give an OK or not to various items. It has a place for special considerations we should know about, like allergies or other medical conditions that we should be aware of.

Student Medical Forms come home with the student packets at the beginning of the year, and should be returned as soon as possible.

### **Who performs BandAid?**

We are always looking for volunteers of nurses or other medically trained personnel. If you have such training, contact the BaidAid coordinator, or a Booster Board member.

### ➤ **Other ways?**

Of course ... in any given year we need a variety of skilled labor – you might be surprised at what is needed – first aid, driving, mechanics, sewing. Mailing, writing, filing ... something will fit your skills – let us know!

## **5) Finances**

### ➤ **Student Accounts**

Each student has an account that lists their financial activities – payments and charges.

### **What dollars are tracked?**

Whether it is a minor charge (like the purchase of black socks at a performance) or major (like Participation fees or a Trip charge) they are all tracked here. Payments include not only actual dollar payments, but also credits. This account stays with the student throughout high school – so balances carry forward to the next year. Also they can be transferred to siblings.

### **When do I get a statement of my account?**

Account statements are sent out regularly, 3 times in the fall (when most of the financial activity is going on), and 2 times the rest of the year.

### **How do I earn credits?**

Over the year there are several ways, including:

- Fall Cookie Dough Sale: All the net proceeds (usually around \$4/tub) goes to the student's account. Last year one student sold over 50 tubs of cookie dough, paying the majority of his next years dues.
- Parent Participation: Parent participation at our major fundraising events is critical. As a result we give a credit for Parent Participation at major events. Specifics change from year to year, but are announced at the beginning of the year.
- Tournament Advertising: Ads in the Tournament Program range from \$25 to several hundred, depending on size and placement. Students receive a credit of ½ of the ad value that is attributed to them.

### ➤ **Student Participation Fees**

Student participation fees are required to support the Band and all that it does. Of the Booster budget, about 1/3 is supported by Participation fees. As you can see, this is an important element of keeping the band running. We have numerous fundraising events

over the year, and as a result we try to raise 2/3<sup>ds</sup> of the budget elsewhere (that is why your support of fundraising events is so essential), however, we still need to rely on the support of the actual students and their families.

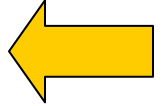
### Do other groups pay fees?

Yes, whether it is a “shop fee” or another band in the district, participation fees are frequently used to supplement the basic services that the district provides. The good news is that through fundraising and other activities we have kept the Savanna participation fees some of the lowest in our class of bands.

### When are they due, and how do I pay?

Fees are due in three installments – the first is at the beginning of band camp in August, the second in October, and the final in December. Specific payment amounts and due dates are specified at the beginning of the year. Payments can be submitted two ways:

1. There is a “drop safe” in the Band Mom’s Room next to the Band Office. Be sure to include the student’s name and your name / contact information to be sure that it gets credited correctly
2. PayPal: There is a link on the Band Website that allows you to pay via PayPal online, using your major credit card.



### Aren’t these fundraisers all after the fees are due? What happens to the “left over” money?

Most of the ways to earn credits are after the first two installments are due. However, Tournament advertising sales can start in the summer, but most of the credits apply to other costs and future fees. Those other costs include items that the students buy (like extra gloves when they lose theirs, or have to buy socks when they don’t wear black ones with uniforms, etc.). Future fees can roll over to the next year, or roll over to sibling accounts. We do not normally give refunds.

### Can I work out a payment plan?

Yes, if you cannot pay by the installment due dates, you can work out a payment schedule. However, such deferred payments must be formalized with the Director in writing.

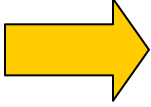
## 6) Savanna Band Tournament

Each year Savanna hosts a tournament where bands from all over compete with their Field Shows. There are about 45 bands, and they compete from 8 AM to around 9 PM. That sounds like a lot of work! And it is! It takes work from all the students, parents, and even alumni and friends. You will be hearing a lot more about it, but some of the jobs we need covered are things like:

- Snack Bar – work front taking orders or back on preparing orders
- Bar-b-que Row – order taking or cooking
- Gates – coordinating bands and performers as they come in
- General food preparation
- Runners – driving to help buy food and supplies as needed
- First Aid
- Main Gate – take tickets
- Sales – We have several booths selling Halos, Churros, Candy, Programs, etc,

- Warehouse – keeping stock ready for the various booths
- Set up and clean up
- Parking lot – greeting bands as they arrive
- Specialized needs - Plumber and electrician

And more. And this is just on Saturday. On Friday and Sunday we also need people to help load, move, and set up as we can.



But the key is that we need EVERYONE's help on this weekend! Mark your calendar now.

### **What are the shifts like?**

On Friday, there is a set up shift – starting with Breakfast and working the day to move items to the stadium.

On Saturday (the actual tournament day) there are four shifts for adults, three of them are 6 hour shifts (6AM-Noon, Noon-6PM, and 6PM to midnight), as well as a 9PM to midnight cleanup shift. Students are broken into 2 shifts over the day.

On Sunday, there is a “put away” shift, where items are checked and stored for next year.

### **Is there anything else we need to do?**

Students are responsible to bring a 24 can pack of name brand soda to sell (bring them about a week ahead of time) as well as one batch of brownies that morning (cut into 12 large squares).

In addition, each year you will see lists of items that can be donated. Anything we sell (cups for drinks, napkins, foods, water/drinks, preparation materials) need to be obtained by either a donation or we pay for it. Obviously, a donation is best for the whole band.

### **Tournament Ads**

Each year there is a tournament program that lists all the participating schools, as well as details about the day and the Savanna organization. Programs from prior years are available from the band office as an example of the type of layouts we do. As a part of the program, every year we sell ad space – from business card size to full page. These are everything from simple messages of encouragement to students / band from friends and family, to display ads from local businesses. Price vary from year to year, but are quite reasonable.

These ads contribute in two ways – first, obviously they provide income to the overall band, and a good part of our tournament profit comes from these ads; but secondly, they also contribute to the students account. For every ad that a student sells, ½ of the value of the ad goes towards the student's account. Sell a \$100 ad, and \$50 goes specifically to the student. Each form has a space for the student's name near the bottom, be sure this is filled out as it is the only way to keep track who is responsible.

Who do we get ads from? A lot of different sources. Some are just parents or friends/family that write words of encouragement; however, most of them are from local businesses that we all do business with. While we do get some larger companies (and that is something we are working on), a large number come from the local market.

Dentists, restaurants, stores, repair shops, and the like are all places to look for – especially if you have a relationship with them from repeat business.

Ads are usually due mid-October, so we usually start off right away on this!

### **Why do the tournament?**

First of all, it is a service to the band community, providing a forum for competition. Of course another reason is more practical for Savanna Band – it is THE major fundraising even of the year. We net over \$20,000 each year to support the band, making it an important part of our entire program – far outlasting the 3 days that it takes.

## **7) General Fundraising Events**

Why do we do so much fundraising? It is for the students, of course. The program we have at Savanna costs about \$800 per student each year beyond what the district pays for. This includes costs for the coaches, transportation, new instruments, uniforms, and more. Of this Participation fees and other charges only cover about \$300-\$350, leaving over half to group fundraisers. Be sure and help support the whole group by being a part of them!

Most of our fundraising goes to our general fund – not to a specific student account (though there are lots of opportunities for that too). Student fees only make up about 1/3 of our budget, so there is a great need to raise funds various ways throughout the year. Participation is very important to the success of the year. We are talking about a few changes, but here is some typical information – look for the final info in the newsletter and announcements during the year.

For 2007 – 2008, we are trying limiting general fund Fundraising to a few key items – Car Washes, Tournament, and Cow Chip Bingo. In addition, we have some “pay as you go fundraisers”. Cookie dough sales will now be for student accounts only.

### ➤ **Car Wash / Rummage Sale**



Twice a year (one usually right as we start off the year in September), we usually have our Car Wash / Rummage Sale fundraisers. These happen simultaneously at several locations. We usually staff 3-5 car washes around the area, where students clean cars in two shifts from about 8am to 4pm. These sites also need adults to manage the students, take money, and provide supervision.

At the same time, there is a Rummage Sale, held for years at the Albertson's at Dale and LaPalma. There we sell new and nice used things that are donated. Think of it as a large garage sale. Bring your donations the night before to the designated location so we can set up, and get organized for the early Saturday shoppers. This site needs adults for various shifts (including the all nighter by a few), and for sales.

➤ **Cow Chip Bingo**

Another major fundraiser we do is selling plots of land, and if selected, the winners can win lots of money (\$750 for the big winner!). The trick is how the winning plots are selected ... well, the cows do that. It is a fun event, with some real winners, and we need your help each year to make sure we sell tickets and that everything is followed up on.



➤ **Albertsons**

- has a Community Partners Program. Just link your Preferred Savings Card to the Community Partners Card for Savanna Band, and each time you record your Preferred Card, a portion goes to the Band General Fund.



- **What do I do?** To sign up or renew, you can do it right in the store with any cashier as you check out (it just takes a minute) or go to [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com), click on "In the Community" (down on the bottom right), and go to "Community Partners" (this may take a little longer to get it linked up). Just remember to swipe your card each time you shop.

- **How do I know it worked?** Your Albertsons receipt will have a note at the bottom that says "Your Community Partners Cards have been successfully linked to your Preferred Savings Card."

**Our Albertson's ID No. is 4 90001 05934 1**

**We are registered as "Savanna High School Band & Pageantry"**

➤ **eScrip.**

One of our newest fundraisers for the band, and this works the same way. The program is called Escrip, and again takes two minutes to set up. You may be familiar with the paper scrip program, where you purchase scrip up front to use for shopping later. This is the electronic version of this same program, and requires no upfront purchase. You register your grocery cards (Vons and Safeway), and your debit/credit cards on their secure website. **Participating merchants contribute back to the group** as you go about your everyday purchases and use the registered cards. **There are grocery stores, fast food chains, restaurants, hotels, automotive stores, bookstores, even an online shopping mall** - you name it! Another great feature of this fundraiser is that family and friends from across the country can also participate, as there are participating merchants nationwide. You may register by going to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to see a list of merchants and register online. Again, this is a totally secure, encrypted site, and your information will not be used for any purpose other than to raise funds for a great cause - your child!



**Our Escrip ID is 500004334**

**We are registered as “Savanna High School Band & Pageantry”**

➤ **Mmm ... Cookie Dough Sales**

Usually once in the fall, and then once more in the spring we have a cookie dough sale.

The fall is unique as it is a student fundraiser, meaning that all the net proceeds goes to the selling students account. Depending upon the specifics this, students earn about \$3-4/carton – the more they sell, the more that goes into their account.

The spring cookie sale is a general fund sale – meaning the net proceeds go to the booster general fund (top seller’s get a prize, though).

➤ **Others?**

Sure! There are lots of ideas out there, and if you have an idea – let us know. Other things we have done in the past and may bring back are:

- “Dine Out” – Participating restaurants give a percent of their proceeds from sales to boosters on a specific night.

## **8) Targeted Fundraisers**

➤ **The Trailer**

Our trailer is mostly done, and a result of such a targeted fundraiser (see some of the sponsors on the side of the truck!). We paid for its conversion as we had money over two years – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Why did we need such a big trailer?**

Historically, it would take three or four support vehicles to travel with the band - a large rented truck, the band 15' van, and at least one vehicle to tow the pit cart/trailer. The new trailer ~~it~~ will allow us to carry more of this equipment in a single full time vehicle, and in a more organized manner. In addition, interior and exterior lighting has been added to accommodate those evening shows.

### **How does it get there?**

Obviously a volunteer driver. If you have a Class A Commercial Driver's License, please contact Mr. Belski at 220-4270 or write [boosters@savannaband.com](mailto:boosters@savannaband.com)

### **What do I have to lift if I help out?**

The good news is that the majority of the loading, unloading, putting away, etc, is done by the students themselves. Racks and pit equipment are handled by the pit personnel and the Loading Crew. The Loading Crew is a selected set of students that it is their responsibility to load and secure the equipment. You will often see them out of uniform, as they have to take care of these responsibilities, and then change at the last moment.

#### ➤ **New Instruments**

One of the next things on the agenda is an ongoing instrument replacement program. Good instruments are expensive – and with the use that our instruments get, they need to be good and durable. Depending upon the instrument, instruments can cost from a \$1,000 to \$8,000 each (or more).

UPDATE: 2006-2007: Boosters have added some new pit equipment, brought to you from the Booster fund! The Vibraphone, Marimba, and Timpani should be here in September! Now on to the next thing we need .....

UPDATE: 2007-2008: The new state budget is bringing us some much needed funds for new instruments. We are waiting to see what is coming and what we may need.

#### ➤ **Band Truck**

The next "big" thing is a replacement for our small truck. It is a 1979 Ford Truck, that has served us well, but is nearing some major work. We are looking into several avenues for another similar sized truck. This is something we use all year long from Car washes and Tournament to Winterguard and other events. If you have a desire to be a part of this – or know of some sources, please contact us at [boosters@savannaband.com](mailto:boosters@savannaband.com) .

## **9) Band Attire**

#### ➤ **T-shirts**

Each year there is a specific Band T-shirt developed. Each student will receive one, and it may be required to wear at specific events during the year (such as when they play at nearby Jr. Highs) or other events where a uniform or concert dress is not appropriate. Additional shirts may be purchased for the student, or supporters, as long as the supply lasts.

Many of the parents purchase these T-shirts during the course of the year to show they proudly support the band. Purchases can be made at the Band Mom's room, or contacting a Booster. We only make one order a year of these T-Shirts, and when they are gone, they are gone.

➤ **Caps / Booster Shirts**

Other items (hats, general T-Shirts, etc) are available from time to time. Stay tuned for additional information.

### **10) Why did the chicken cross the road ... ?**

An age old joke, however, it takes on a slightly different response when shouted to a group of Savanna students. The shouted response from the group not only includes the standard answer, but it then immediately followed by the singing of the Savanna School Song.

#### **Why do they do that?**

We don't know.

But that is one of the proud cheering traditions that has been handed down over the years from student to student. As many of you may already know, during games and tournaments, it seems it is pretty easy to find the Savanna Band in the stands after a performance ... let's just say that we have "spirit".

However, we do try to emphasize appropriate spirit – not only cheering (loudly) for our school, but also recognizing winners, and keeping quiet for performances and announcements of the standings.

### **11) Glossary**

- Band = The entire group of performers, including Pageantry, Musicians, and Drum Major(s)
- Battery = The drumline section
- Pit = Set of instruments (chimes, timpani, etc) that are set up in front of the show, and generally don't move due to their size or complexity.
- Pit Cart = A Cart / trailer used to shuttle the Pit items on and off the Field, before or after the performance.
- Band Staff = Student leadership team – section leaders, loading crew, etc.

### **12) What we didn't answer ...**

I know this is long LONG documents, we have tried to be complete, but I am sure we have missed something ... be sure and come out to our meetings and ask, or call Mr. Belski, or drop us a note at [boosters@savannaband.com](mailto:boosters@savannaband.com)