

Boosters Make it Roll

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While sitting at Alamo Stadium earlier this year waiting for The Battle of the Bands to start, I began looking around at all of the families that were there waiting as well. One of the Marion Booster members spotted several people wearing t-shirts for one particular band that stated: The Band Makes It Rock, Boosters Make It Roll. How true that is.

The boosters are a very big part of the band. You might ask yourself why I feel that way. I have been an active Marion High School Band Booster member since August 2009. Before that I paid my dues, but never attended one meeting; I sold the pizza kits or butter braids to help where I could, without knowing what they did with the money or even trying to find out.

Last year, with two of my kids in the high school band, I decided it would be in my best interest, as well as theirs, to see what actually goes on at the meetings. I participate in decisions that are made regarding paying for more instruments or buying/repairing the uniforms, deciding on where the kids are going at the end of each school year and help out with anything else that might need to be taken care of.

I have seen firsthand how the booster members load the trailers full of instruments for an away game, only to unload and load it again to get home and THEN unload the trailer again once we get back to the school. They help to run the concession stand for a home game while missing their children's performance at half time. These members make sure each student that is headed to Fredricksburg or Lago Vista or elsewhere have something to eat before they get on the bus for that long journey. And they ensure that the students have water to drink at each game. When the buses pull back into the lot behind the band hall, the boosters are right there with them, making sure the instruments get where they need to be, the uniforms get put where they need to be, and help to straighten out the chairs. Some of these members don't even get to go home until 1 o'clock or so in the morning. Not to mention the other booster members that are still cleaning up the concession stand after a game.

If that is not dedication to your student or the band, I don't know what is. Between all of that, the boosters help the students by listening to their problems, whether it is with a particular subject or another student.

This year Marion High School Band has more students participating in the program than in the recent past. These kids are together for several hours each week, starting in the summer and all through the year. The band boosters are there for as much of it as they can be to help keep things running smoothly. If you have a student in band, I encourage you to become an active member in the boosters this year. It is not too late to participate in all of the fun we have.

Yes, there are fund raisers, but that is so we can make sure the students are fed before long trips or so they have uniforms to wear or instruments to play and for that trip at the end of each year that the students are encouraged to participate in. Whatever the band director might need, we are there to support him and his band.

So I stand by that saying: The Band Makes it Rock; Boosters Make It Roll!