



William B. Travis High School Travis Tiger Band

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19 April 2010

Dear New Members and Parents,

April is almost over and it is nearly time to register for the 2010 Travis Tiger Band marching season! New Member registration is May 3, 6:30 PM, here at THS. Enclosed is the New Member Form Checklist and the Expenses Checklists 1 and 2. These and all of the other required forms are available on both the band's website, www.travistigerband.com, and my website, www.nathanlcarter.net. This may seem overwhelming with all of these forms, but we like to get this done now so that when camp rolls around we can devote 100% of our time to rehearsing. Please download and complete all of these forms prior to registration night.

I want to address the costs that are involved. There are two fees that I am sure you have noticed. The marching Band Fee which is \$200 and the Trip Fee which is \$850. We are very sensitive to keeping costs down for our students and do a great deal of planning in order to keep costs down. The Marching Band Fee is broken down on the Expenses Checklist 2 so that you can see all that the fee covers. We have checked with the other big programs with whom we compete and have found that our fee of \$200 is much lower than most programs. The average fee that we found was about \$800, *exclusive of any travel expenses*. I know that some other school's fees being more than ours doesn't make it easier to cover our \$200. I just want our band families to know that we have kept these fees lower than most other programs.

We are traveling to St. Louis next October to compete in the Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional Contest. The trip fee will cover not only this four-day trip, but also covers our overnight trip to San Antonio, as well as our travel to our other contests. This fee covers all of our travel and lodging for the contest season.

We set up a payment schedule for the trip fees early in the semester and started these payments back in March with our current students so that we could have the funds to begin making deposits. We do not expect the new members to pay the full outstanding amount right now. You can use this schedule as a timeline for when payments are due and divide the amounts on payments how ever best works with your budget. We do have to have all payments in by September 1.

I also want to stress that we do not want any student not to go on the trip due to finances. We are well aware of the challenging economic situation that some are facing. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns about paying for the trip. We will do whatever we can to make sure that every student can participate all season with the band. These trips are amazing in how they help the kids to bond and the motivation that they provide to push ever harder to improve. Our experience is that the kids grow a great deal from our travel. It's why we take on these huge projects as often as we can - the kids really grow.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan Carter
