

Dear Band Parents,

July 20, 2011

First let me thank you for the many forms of support you provide the Northwestern High School Band and Booster Club. Without the financial, moral and physical support you provide for our band students we could not do the things we do. I hope you are as proud of the band programs here at Northwestern as I am. The bands of the **PURPLE REGIMENT** are a source of pride for our band family, school and community. The Booster Club exists to support the band so that it can continue successfully competing and providing quality musical experiences that are on par with the best high school programs in the country. A big part of that support is financial. All of you are certainly aware that our school district is undergoing major financial problems that only reflective of our current economic situation. The high school band programs have absorbed a 75-80% loss of District funds over the past two years. As a band family we must find ways to continue financial support for our band and the 160 kids that are the **PURPLE REGIMENT**. As a result of the loss of District funds, we must find new and creative ways ensure the continued success and quality of program that you and the community have come to expect.

We will all need to manage our budget very carefully this coming year. We will all need to help, support and do your part to ensure success. Fundraisers and other money raising events must be supported by ALL band parents. Remember, if we all pitch in and do our part, then no one person or family has to be overburdened. The marching band fee this year is the same as the last 4 years - \$500.00. With payments due as follows: May 29 - \$75.00 with Intent form. Then installments of \$75.00 on August 1, September 1, October 1, November 1, and a final payment of \$125.00 on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The only major change is the fact that we will no longer receive District financial assistance for families on free/reduced lunch. Any family that is experiencing hardship or is in the need of financial assistance can simply fill out a hardship form ( available in the band office or on-line at **PurpleRegiment.com** ) and return to Mr. Wells. We will make every effort to provide financial assistance for any family in need. We will however, require that families receiving hardship assistance partially repay the scholarship by working any of the many events we offer for parents to earn Band Credit Points. All these details will be discussed at our July and August meetings and will be clearly detailed on the hardship form. ***PLEASE NOTE THAT NO MEMBER OR FAMILY WILL EVER BE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTHWESTERN BAND EXPERIENCE AS A RESULT OF FINANCIAL CONCERNS. BY TAKING PART IN OUR FUND-RAISING PROJECTS, NO FAMILY SHOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR BAND FEES "OUT-OF-POCKET"***

Warmest regards,

Larry Wells