

November 12th-December 7th, 2018

It's November, which means it is candy bar time at Sparta Middle School! **Our goal this year is to raise \$5,500 for our middle school band and choir programs.** This money goes toward providing additional opportunities and equipment that our budget from the school district doesn't quite cover, such as: private lessons, guest artists, clinicians, new instruments, sheet music, and the many other costs associated with a middle school music program (see reverse for specific items we need!). If every student in our middle school band and choir program sells just ONE box, we will easily meet our goal! **If a student takes out a box, it is expected that they will sell the whole box or very close to it.** We cannot afford to have students take out entire boxes, only to have it sit at home or in their locker and not sell any candy bars. We will also be offering a number of prizes to our top sellers this year. Last year we had students earn hundreds of dollars in prize money!

Early Bird –

- Any student selling a full box (with money turned in) by **Friday, November 16** will receive a \$5 gift card to the store of their choice from our Sparta SCRIP list.
- The **FIRST 5** students to turn in money for a full box will receive a 1lb chocolate bar prize!

Class Top Seller – The top three sellers* from each music class will receive the following:

- 1st place –\$30 in Sparta SCRIP gift cards (minimum 4 boxes sold)
- 2nd place - \$20 in Sparta SCRIP gift cards (minimum 3 boxes sold)
- 3rd place - \$10 in Sparta SCRIP gift cards (minimum 2 boxes sold)

Overall Top Seller – The top two sellers out of all classes* will receive a free box of candy (\$60.00 value) to sell (or eat...or share...) in addition to the following prizes based on their sales.

- Grand Prize Overall Top Seller \$50.00 SCRIP (minimum 10 boxes sold) + Box of Candy (\$60.00)
- 2nd Place Overall Top Seller\$25.00 + Box of Candy \$60.00 (minimum 6 boxes sold)

***If no student qualifies for the top prizes, the highest prize any student qualifies for will be awarded instead.**

Students should turn in their money as soon as they have sold their entire box. If a student is able to sell more than 2 boxes, we can definitely give them more boxes AFTER they have sold their first 2 boxes.

We will be handing out candy bar boxes starting **Monday, 11/12**. ONLY students who have turned in their forms may sell chocolate. Students may receive chocolate boxes late if they forget to turn in their form by the start date of the sale, but we cannot guarantee we will have any left.

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I give my child, _____, permission to participate in the candy bar sale. I understand that if a box is taken out, it becomes my family's responsibility to manage. Any missing money or candy bars will need to be accounted for and reimbursed by the student's family. **I understand that keeping or spending the money my child collects instead of turning it in is considered theft, and will result in police action.** I will make an honest effort to sell my whole box.

Student Signature _____

Parent signature _____

Number of Boxes Requested: _____ (note: we will only be giving out 1-2 boxes to start, unless the student was a top seller last year).

SMS Band and Choir Fundraiser Needs 2018-19

Sparta Area Schools does a great deal to support our students' music education, but with cuts we've experienced over the past few years due to state funding of education as a whole, we have failed to address some real needs in our area. Addressing the following needs will allow us to provide your students with the music education they deserve. We thank you for your support of the School Bond Proposal; however, none of the items below could be purchased with bond money.

The profits from last year's sales allowed us add several new pieces to our band library, replace several smaller percussion instruments, purchase some new instrument for our inventory (a baritone and an oboe), a used set of 4 timpani drums, repair many school instruments, and purchase six new music stands for the classroom.

We have compiled this list based on what we see kids really needing in class on a daily basis. Please consider participating in the fundraiser by selling some items or maybe even personally contributing for some of these needs if you are able. If you are able to help us with any of these items, we would greatly appreciate your support!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Whitney Brainard and Jim Walsh: Sparta Area Schools Band Directors

New music. Students regularly ask, "Can we play/sing _____?!" Each piece costs between \$45 - \$100. We build our curriculum around the music that is available to our students. Our music library at Sparta Middle School is very small, and new music is constantly published that would benefit our students. It would be great to be able to add at least 2-3 new pieces to each group's library. **Approx. cost: \$450-600.**

Baritones and French Horns. We have a great problem--currently, we have more students playing baritone and French horn than we have instruments to lend them! My short-term goal is to have enough instruments so that each student can be assigned their own instrument without sharing. My long-term goal is to have enough instruments that each student can be assigned two instruments--one to keep at home and one to keep at school (due to the large size of the instrument and difficulty bringing it back and forth). I would like to purchase one or two baritones and horns this year, which would remain in use at Sparta Middle School for years and years to come. **Approx. cost: \$900-2,000 per instrument.**

Music Stands. The majority of our music stands are long past their prime, and some of our classes are so large that we do not have enough working music stands to go around! We would like to purchase a dozen new Manhasset music stands. **Approx. cost: \$450**

Cleaning supplies, accessories, and repairs for our school owned instruments. We are fortunate at Sparta to have a fairly large supply of school owned instruments available for students to use, but many of them are quite old and need regular maintenance and repairs. We need to replace swabs, neck straps, mouthpieces, etc. **Approx. cost. \$750**

Electric Piano. The tuning and maintenance of our current piano is costing us money out of our instrument repair budget, and the piano itself takes up too much space in the band/choir room. We would like to purchase an electric piano for use in the band room, which could also be moved on stage or into a practice room as needed as we move to the new middle school in a few years. **Approx. cost: \$1,000**

Clinicians. We would like to raise money for some guest clinicians to come into our classroom to work with our kids. This will especially help in our very large 6th grade classes, where it is difficult to give kids individual attention on a day-to-day basis. **Approx. cost: \$500**

Our goal is to raise \$5,500 to fulfill these needs. Again, any help is appreciated! If you would rather help our program by donating instead of fundraising, we will happily accept any amount you are willing to give.