

Somerville High School Music Boosters Association

222 Davenport Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

WELCOME TO THE SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC BOOSTERS ASSOCIATION!

We look forward to volunteering with YOU in the 2025-2026 school year!

WHO ARE WE? The Somerville High School Music Boosters Association (SHSMBA – “Shmoooooba!”) is a non-profit, parent run organization with 501(c)3 status (Tax ID: 22-3686173) that devotes many volunteer hours to support the Music Programs at Somerville High School. If you have a student in the SHS Music Programs, you’re now a member of SHSMBA and can consider yourself a Music Booster!

SHSMBA Board Members
Cathie Gelino, President
Tinu Batra, Vice President
Megan Smoliga, Secretary
Ann Marie Morais, Treasurer

OBJECTIVE: Support ***all*** student groups within the SHS Music Department. Some of the student groups that benefit from our organization’s efforts include:

- The Pioneer Marching Band – winds, battery, pit, and color guard
- VIPER – Ville Indoor Percussion
- Wind Ensemble
- Symphonic Band
- Jazz Band/Jazz Combo
- Chamber Choir
- Acappella Choir
- Chamber Choir
- Chorale
- Men’s Chorus
- Women’s and Men’s Quartets

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: There are many ways you can volunteer throughout the year! Here are a few:

- **CHAPERONES**
 - Ride the bus to away football games, competitions, and field trips/department trips! You’ll need to complete some paperwork and fingerprinting, then become Board of Education approved.
- **TRUCK DRIVERS**

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- o The Music Department uses two box trucks and drivers need a regular driver's license to drive them. You'll need to be a Board of Education approved chaperone AND submit a copy of your driver's license to them, as well.
- **PIT CREW**
 - o During the Marching Band season, our Pit Crew members assist in loading and unloading the trucks and pushing props into place on the field for performances at home/away football games and competitions. *This super cool group of volunteers has delicious TAILGATES!
- **CHAIRPEOPLE**
 - o **Band Camp**
 - Organize food donations and volunteers for summer Marching Band Camp. You'll become their favorite people when you serve them frozen ice pops!
 - o **Chaperones and Truck Drivers**
 - Send out emails to arrange volunteers to chaperone and drive trucks to games and competitions during Marching Band Season, VIPER's Season, and field trips, as needed.
 - o **SHSMBA Meals**
 - Plan meals for each competition day for the Marching Band, order food, maintain paper goods supplies, and arrange payment with the Treasurer.
 - o **Concessions**
 - Organize volunteers to sell food, drinks, and spiritwear at Music Department concerts/events, coordinate with school janitors to have tables/chairs, etc. set-up, sell items, collect funds.
 - o **Spiritwear**
 - Work with Sneakers Plus to set dates for sales, select items for sale, gather shirt sizes of students and staff, advertise, and arrange distribution of items for Show Shirts (MB & VIPER) and annual sales.
 - o **50/50**
 - Organize volunteers to sell 50/50 tickets at home football games, help sell, prepare tickets, count money, and bring to the announcer's booth.
 - o **Lemonade/Hot Chocolate**
 - Make drinks for Marching Band competition day meals and for home football games.
 - o **Cookie Salad**
 - Organize donations of cookies for each home game, arrange them on the platters, serve, and clean-up.
 - o **Website**
 - Update the SHSBMA website with calendar items, photos, and more.
 - o **PR/Marketing**
 - Submit articles and photos to local newspapers and on social media.
 - o **Music Banquet**
 - Coordinate with Bridgewater Manor, set menu, centerpieces, sign-ups, and admissions.
 - o **MARCHING BAND HOME SHOW**
 - **Logistics:** Moving trucks, buses, bands, spectators, etc.

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- **Snack Shack:** Coordinating volunteers, selling food, etc.
- **Ad Program:** Collect ads, organize into program, coordinate printing with SCVTS.
- **Trophies and Awards:** Order, coordinate volunteers to distribute at MB Home Show.
- **Admissions:** Coordinating volunteers to sell tickets and programs.
- **Candy Grams:** Coordinating volunteers, creating candy bags for each school, selling candy.
- **Air Grams:** Coordinating volunteers, selling air grams, bringing to the announcer's box.
- **Bake Sale:** Coordinating volunteers, gathering donations, selling, etc.
- **Vote for Your Favorite Director:** Coordinate volunteers, accept donations, etc.

Examples of contributions SHSMBA continues to make to the SHS music program are below.

Contributions		
Percussion Music and Drill Writing Fees	Sound Equipment & Microphones	Provided gap funds for digital sound board and cover
USBands Membership and Show Fees Fees for Staff Memberships to Professional Organizations	Senior Banners during Covid-19 and Senior Posters	New top hats & bonnets for Chamber Choir
Choir Trips	Big & Little Truck Lettering	Travel expenses for choir members qualifying for States
Uniform Upkeep & Show Shirts	Choir Risers	(2) New speaker carts for Marching Band
SHSMBA Meals (MB, Chamber Choir, and Indoor Percussion)	Assistance with department senior gifts, scholarships, and awards.	Covered additional trip expenses

Requested Family Donations

To continue our efforts to enhance the SHS Music Department, SHSMBA is requesting that **each family with a student in a music program make a \$50 donation** (concert choir, chamber choir, a cappella choir, chorale, men's choir, symphonic band, wind ensemble, jazz band, etc.) to assist with expenses throughout the year. The Cheddar Up link is below for your convenience and is our preferred method of donating. However, if needed, you can also use the donation form included in this communication. Please be sure to check the appropriate donation box on the form to ensure proper credit.

Annual Donation Link for Music

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/annual-donation-2025-2026-copy-48270>

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Each **Marching Band family (includes Color Guard)** is asked to raise/contribute **\$300** of the actual cost of \$500 per student to help defray the increasing costs of the marching band season. Information about VERTICAL RAISE was sent on 8/11/25 via CutTime.

Other Fees:

- o **\$10** replacement fee for replacement gloves or mirrors for marching band students if they lose their issued gloves or break/lose their uniform mirror.
- o **\$50 (about)** for the required marching band shoes made by Dinkles. An order form will be sent out through the Band Director, Mr. Ferguson.
- o **Other fees** will be charged if damage is done to the marching band uniform or if part of it has been lost (hat, plume, gauntlets, jacket, bibbers – pants, etc.).
- o **\$50 (about)** for required color guard shoes. An order will be taken by the Color Guard staff.
- o **\$40 (about)** for required color guard gloves.

✓ **Stay Informed**

- o Communications from SHSMBA will be delivered to your **email or phone (text) via CUT-TIME**. Please take the time to read the emails/texts, notices, letters/forms, etc. The calendar of events is posted on the SHSMBA website (www.shsmbanji.com) so you can print and keep in a handy place for quick reference, or you can access right from your phone.
- o Join us at our monthly **Music Booster Meetings**, which are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the SHS Choir Room.

- ✓ **Facebook** - Please join the Somerville High School Music Boosters group on Facebook. Announcements about and pictures from most events are posted by SHSMBA and parents that attend.

- ✓ **Volunteer** – There will be many opportunities to volunteer to help with events throughout the year. Get a first-hand look at what an incredible job the kids are doing. There is something for everyone, no matter what your interest level or how much time you can spare. Volunteer assistance is greatly appreciated. We cannot be successful without your support.

- ✓ **Cheer them on!** – Come out and support the students. See how their hard work matures into great performances. Events occur throughout the year and the students very much appreciate the cheers at the end of their performances. You will be glad you came – we have amazingly talented students!

Be sure to bookmark the SHSMBA website and check it often for important information. To ensure that our emails reach you, please review and update your contact information as needed.

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Enclosed is additional information outlining the 2025-26 SHSMBA fundraising. Also included is the 2025-26 Donation Form, should you choose not to use the Cheddar Up link provided above. ***We know it's lengthy, but please read the attached through to the end as there is important information regarding fundraising opportunities included.***

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our program.

SHSMBA Fundraising Information

SHSMBA fundraising events allow us to help pay for equipment and music for the choral and instrumental programs, sponsor scholarships for graduating music students, and help defray the cost of the music banquet and music trips, among other things. Our largest expense is funding the Pioneer Marching Band program, at over \$40,000, by paying for:

- US Bands/TIA/BOA Competition and Hosting Fees
- Drill Writing
- Percussion Music Arrangement
- Marching Band and Color Guard Uniforms
- Color Guard Flags
- On-Field Props
- Competition Day Meals, Bus Candy, and Cookie Salad for Home Football Games
- Senior Posters and Hat Plumes
- Show shirts for Marching Band/Indoor Percussion members
- Polo shirts for all Choral members
- Choir Meals during certain events

Volunteer opportunities begin this summer with the 4-H Fair and your SHS music student could start saving up for the 2026 trip. It truly cannot be a successful year without strong family support. We need help from everyone!

Why participate in SHSMBA fundraisers?

Every dollar earned goes back into the Music Program or into the Fundraising Pot. The fundraising dollars your student earns can be used to reduce the cost of various SHS Music Department events. Below is a short description of some trips your student may choose to participate in throughout their tenure at SHS.

- ✓ **Music Department Trip** – Every other year, the SHS Music Department takes select groups on a trip to perform at an out of state event. Each trip takes place in the Spring and varies in location. For example, in 2015 and 2022 they went to Disney World, in 2017 they went to Montreal & Quebec City, in 2019 they went to Chicago with a stop in Cleveland along the way, and last year they went to Norfolk, Virginia.
- ✓ **Wind Ensemble Trip** – This trip typically occurs on the “off” year of the Music Department Trip and could either be a day trip or overnight trip. An example venue would be Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

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- ✓ Choir Trip – This trip typically occurs on the “off” year of the Music Department Trip and is usually a day trip like a visit to NYC Broadway for dinner and a show.

If it wasn't for SHSMBA fundraisers, students would assume the entire cost of each planned trip or event out of pocket. However, if he/she participates in the fundraising opportunities scheduled throughout the season and obtains a minimum of **four (4) points** the student will be eligible for an equal share of the annual fundraising pot that would help defray their costs. SHSMBA continues to provide multiple opportunities for students to gain a share of the fundraising pot if they qualify as per the below. For each fundraising event that a student has met all requirements, they will receive one (1) point toward the required four (4) points to gain a share of 2025 Fundraising Pot. We encourage all families to take advantage of the fundraising opportunities to help lower the out-of-pocket costs of these events. (*A typical share of the pot is about \$300 but depends on how much money is earned and how many students qualify. The total amount may vary year to year.)

Fundraising for the following school year begins in the spring with the SHSMBA Tricky Tray (i.e. Spring 2025). If you have not done so already and would like to donate, now is your chance! **To provide NEW/freshmen students the same opportunity as current students, we have extended the donation period through December 1st for freshmen and new students only. We can only accept \$100 donations to receive one (1) fundraising point.**

FUNDRAISER POINTS...

Below is a sample of the typical fundraising opportunities you can take advantage of to reach the required **four (4) points** to receive a share of the fundraising pot. We have a mix of working and selling fundraisers so there is an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Fundraising Event	Requirement	Reward
Tricky Tray (Spring of previous school year) (The 1 st fundraiser of this school year.)	Donate \$150 OR Basket/Items valued at \$150	1 Point
4H Fair Italian Ice Sale (Summer)	Student works at least one shift. Parent works one shift.	1 Point 0.5 point
Home Show Ad Sales (Summer/Fall)	Submit \$100 worth of ads.	1 Point
Home Show Volunteer (Fall)	Parent works one shift, but can work up to 2 shifts for a total of 1 point.	0.5 Point
Dip Sales (Mid-Fall)	Sell a minimum of \$100 (excl. tax & shipping) worth of product.	1 Point

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Maddalena's Cheesecake	Sell a minimum of \$150 (excl. Tax & shipping) worth of product.	1 Point
Pancake Breakfast - planning stage	More information to come.	

NOTE: Fundraising events may change or be added as needed.

STUDENTS:

Students in grades 9-12 can participate in all sales and volunteer events. They will earn one (1) point per event when they meet the requirements

Students earn one (1) point per event they volunteer/participate in. Students are welcome to work multiple shifts but will not earn additional points. They are welcome to sell more than the required \$100 per sales fundraiser but will not earn additional points. (*BONUS: Our top 3 earners will earn PRIZES for each sales fundraiser and for Vertical Raise!)

FAMILY MEMBERS:

Family members who volunteer must be at least 21 years old. They can earn a 1/2 point per event they volunteer at (4-H Fair or Home Show). If they can't attend the 4-H Fair, they may volunteer for two (2) shifts at the Home Show to earn one (1) point. Family member points are limited to one (1) point in total. (*Volunteer opportunities are limited, so sign-up early!)

As always, we encourage all music families to support our sales fundraisers even if you don't need the credit. Proceeds from these fundraisers go directly into the fundraising pot. The more we sell, the more money added to the fundraiser pot that will be split equally amongst the qualifying students.

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2025 Donation Form

This donation form can be used in lieu of donating via the Cheddar Up link. To ensure your donation is accounted for as requested, please complete all requested information below with regard to your 2025 donation to the Somerville High School Music Boosters Association. Checks made payable to **SHSMBA**.

Thank you so much for supporting the SHS Music Programs!

Parent Info:

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Student Info:

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Annual Donation

Amount Enclosed \$_____ Cash ____ Check ____ Check #: _____
(Please check one.)

Freshman/NEW Student Tricky Tray Donation

Amount Enclosed \$_____ Cash ____ Check ____ Check #: _____
(Please check one.)

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