



Dartmouth School Music Association – How Things Work!

FUND RAISING AND ASSESSMENTS

The **DSMA** exists to promote and enhance the various music programs in the Dartmouth Public School System. We also believe that these enhanced musical and performance opportunities should be available to every student that wishes to participate, regardless of a family's ability to pay – this is the reason that there is *no* entry fee to join the Indoor or Color Guard programs – unlike many other school districts that do charge a participation fee. To provide the level of support that the **DSMA** does requires us to raise a significant amount of money every single year. The amount varies from year to year but is generally about \$100,000 each year. The money raised goes into several funds under DSMA's control, namely:

- General or operating account
- Scholarship Account
- Reserve Account

Some other funds raised go into the Music Department budget to be dispersed under the direction of the Music Director, one of these fund raisers is the football season concession stand and another are the seasonal concerts each year.

There are several ways the DSMA raises funds each year including the following:

- Concession Stand at home football games
- Gillette Stadium Concession Stand
- Home Competition Shows
- Pop's Concert and all Holiday/Spring Concerts
- Various fund-raising events determined by the Board for each year, i.e. advertisement books, yard sales, car washes, candy bar sales, dine-out, baby-sitting, lottery tree, 50/50 ticket sales etc...

The number and type of events is largely determined by the anticipated need each year and the capacity of the volunteers to pull off each event successfully.

The Board of the DSMA determines how the funds raised will be allotted. For example, Ad Book sales are directed specifically to the Scholarship Fund, while other funds may be allotted to the general/operating account to cover expenses or the reserve account to cover unanticipated or maintenance expenses generally related to the maintenance and operation of DSMA's tractor trailer truck and other vehicles used throughout the year for the program.

Some of these fund raisers will have a student assessment attached to them. The assessment is an amount of money generated by the student during an event that goes into that student's own account held by the DSMA. That money is used by the student to offset the costs generally associated with championship travel events such as MetLife and/or Dayton, or 2016's trip to Disney World. The *ability* of the DSMA to offer assessments for fund-raisers *will vary greatly* each year depending on the anticipated cost of that year's programs and monies available to the DSMA in their operating account. To date the Gillette Concession program is the most consistent way for a family to set aside assessment money in their child's account. The DSMA strongly encourages families to use this as an opportunity to offset the cost of their child's participation in the, often costly, National Championship events. It is important to remember that the ability for the DSMA to offer assessments to students for fund raising events is directly tied to the success in their fund raising efforts which *depends entirely* on the assistance of the entire band community. It is our goal to continue to offer Dartmouth the financial support it needs to maintain its world class music programs while also making it possible for every family to participate the lowest cost possible. Thank you for your continued support!

Your friends at the Dartmouth School Music Association