

Important Announcements from the Royal Guardians

As we begin to look forward to planning for the 2010-2011 HSE Band year, there are a few things that I would like to bring to everyone's attention.

As we all know, there have been tremendous budget pressures placed upon the HSE School Corporation. With that in mind, it is incumbent upon us to report that we are beginning to feel the impact of these budget cuts. Unfortunately, when economic times are tough, the Arts programs are the earliest to suffer. We already know that the Corporation will not cover truck rentals for all band activities next year. This impacts all students enrolled in band sponsored programs both in the classroom and extracurricular. We also know that effective next year we will no longer be able to run the breakfast program at the high school as the school will be operating their own breakfast program. With all else being equal, this will leave the Royal Guardians with at least a \$13,000 to \$15,000 budget shortfall for next year.

It is important for everyone to realize that the Royal Guardians remain committed to these exceptional programs and are working closely with Mr. Niemiec, Mr. Cook, Mr. Frye, Kenny and Lora to ensure that there will be minimal or no impact to the caliber of programs for our children. However, I wanted to let you know now that there is a good chance that all fees will be increased for the upcoming school year.

With all of that being said, I am writing to you to ask for your support. It takes many parents to help make all of these programs successful and currently (with the exception of The Royal Invitational) we have a less than a 20% parent involvement ratio. We need new ideas for managing our budget, we need people with specific skills to step in and help with various things; such as communication, corporate sponsorships, fundraising tasks and ideas for individual student accounts and the entire program. We especially need more parents to attend the monthly Royal Guardians meetings to make sure that we are operating as optimally as possible to benefit all of the students we support.

It is also time for new Royal Guardians board members to be nominated for the upcoming school year and we are seeking nominations for officers and volunteers for committees. It goes without saying that the individual time commitment of each duty will be lessened if the number of volunteers increases. Please consider volunteering for either a board position or participation on a committee by completing this brief interest form: <http://hsehsbands.com/royalguardians/>

Looking forward to next year:

There are still several student account fundraising activities available at Lucas Oil Stadium this year. This is a great way to help offset some of the expenses of participation in any of the Royal Guardians supported programs. Credit earned by volunteering at LOS can help offset next year's instrument rental fees, tux rental fees; Marching Band, Color Guard, and H.I.P.E. fees, future trip costs, and spirit wear purchases. If you are interested in participating in the LOS fundraising opportunity, you can find more information on the HSEHSbands.com website or by following this link <http://hsehsbands.com/fundraising>

As I end this letter to you today, I would like to thank all of you who have already given generously of your time, talent and resources to this organization and to the terrific students and directors we support. I would also like to encourage those of you who may not have supported these programs in the past to consider doing so today. The benefits that all of our children receive from their participation in these programs is something that they will carry with them long into the future and it is the Royal Guardians mission to insure that all future students will be able to receive a similar opportunity.

Regards,

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