



Pioneer Band Association Family Financial Information Frequently Asked Questions

I pay my taxes for public education. Why am I being asked to pay more?

The Pioneer Band Association (PBA) was incorporated in 1985 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit booster club to support the band program at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. The PBA serves as a conduit for the fees associated with the many program, social and special activities carried on by the bands. The PBA also carries on fundraising activities to provide supplemental instruction, equipment and other services not covered in the regular tax-supported school budget.

Isn't it enough that I volunteer my time and talents to the PBA?

Your participation as a volunteer in our band program activities is a priceless gift that deserves our deepest appreciation. Our mission, by its very nature, includes financial support and therefore we also solicit and appreciate the funding you can provide to help carry out our programs and activities.

How do I find out what money I owe and when?

The various program and activity fees, and fundraising expectations, for the school year are outlined in the 4-page **Financial Information for Pioneer Band Families** document. As fees become due and fundraising activities are made available, you will receive a variety of communications, including direct invoicing, e-mails, postings on our website, articles in our newsletter, and verbal communications at PBA membership meetings. The directors will also communicate to your student in the band room.

What items and expenses can I expect to be invoiced for?

- Band Camp Fee
- Annual Program Fee (\$30)
- boxes taken by your student for the Candy Sale fundraiser
- tickets taken by your student for the Bands in Review concert
- Band Tour fees
- Gala and Band Banquet tickets you order online
- Donation offers you make online

What items and expenses will I not be invoiced for?

- Solo & Ensemble fees (individual payment must accompany each event application)
- Car Wash pledges you solicit (you are responsible to collect and submit those)
- Donations (unless you fill out an online form)
- Apparel items you purchase

How do I make payments?

We offer several options for making payments, knowing that each family has its own comfort level when it comes to handling their finances. We accept cash, check and debit/credit card payments. We accept payments through the band room, through the mail, and through a secured online connection. See the **Payment Options** sheet for more information.

Do I have to submit a Payment Form with each payment?

No. Our goal is to avoid confusion over which student or family is making the payment, what the payment is for, and how a payment is to be applied. Online payments are generally clear in these matters, but you can avoid potential confusion with payments turned into the band room or sent in the mail by including a **Payment Form**. (Solo & Ensemble payments must accompany each event application, so a Payment Form is not needed.) You may also submit a **Payment Form** to inform our Treasurer about how your family wishes to be sent invoices and make payments.

I don't want to be invoiced by e-mail or do online financial transactions. Can I be invoiced by mail?

Yes. Simply submit a **Payment Form** indicating that you wish to be invoiced by U. S. Mail.

Can I pay online with my debit or credit card?

Yes. Submit a **Payment Form** indicating that you wish to be invoiced by e-mail. Invoices will be attached to each e-mail and a link to our secure payment site will be included. You can make payment with Visa, MasterCard, or American Express.

Is the \$100 Annual Direct Fundraising Expectation mandatory?

No. Fundraising is always a discretionary option, but we do budget for each family to contribute \$100 in direct fundraising as a way to fulfill our mission as a booster club. Some families are able to contribute more while others find this expectation a challenge.

What is the easiest way to accomplish the direct fundraising expectation?

Every family's perception of what is "easy" is different. That's why we offer so many fundraising options. If you were to choose to participate in **just one** fundraising activity, here's what it would take to meet the \$100 expectation for each of our direct fundraising options:

- sell 4 boxes of candy (\$25 fundraising credit per box), or
- collect \$100.00 in Car Wash pledges (for instance, if we wash 400 cars, get 5 people to pledge an average of 5 cents per car), or
- make a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 to the PBA
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Can my PBA fundraising be used to offset my student's fees?

No. IRS regulations prohibit the fundraising activities of the Pioneer Band Association to benefit students individually.

What if my family is in financial distress?

Many fundraising activities don't require out-of-pocket expenses. The following scenario meets the \$100 fundraising expectation: sell 2 boxes of candy (\$50 fundraising credit), solicit 2 people to pledge .05 per car and help us wash 400 cars (\$20 fundraising credit).

If program and activity fees are a problem, talk to Mr. Leach or Ms. Waring. Your situation will be held in confidence. Assistance and scholarships may be available. **Our goal is to ensure that all students are able to enjoy a high quality band experience.**