Dear Friends of the Ferris Band Program,

Welcome to the **BIG BAND ASK 2026-27!** This is your opportunity to support the Ferris High School Band Program and show the students in the program how much we appreciate and believe in the dedication and hard work they put in. If you supported the BIG BAND ASK last year … thank you so much! It was a great success, and we raised just over $44,000! We have set the goal for $40,000 this year. We hope if you donated last year, you would consider donating again at or above last year's level. If you have not donated before, we need you.

Why support the Ferris Band Program? That is a great question! In talking to many people over the years, we have heard plenty of stories about why this band program deserves our support. Here is what we know to be true:

Band is a place for kids to belong. Everyone does better in life when they have a strong connection, a place to be themselves, and an opportunity to build strong friendships. Being a member of the Ferris Band Program helps students avoid the fringes where things can get dark and lonely. It is a place where kids support each other and embrace each other's differences. We work hard to make the band a welcoming environment because we care about each student experience in the program!

Band is a place to experience success. Success comes in the band program as our students learn hard work and perseverance. They are taught to **work together** to make great things happen. The skills they develop in time management and teamwork carry over into many different areas of life. They feel a sense of pride that grows from doing a great job. We set high standards for quality and push the students so that they can grow. This experience helps them develop confidence and maturity for future challenges in life.

Band is a place to be a leader and role model. When our students find success through hard work, they set an example for others who follow. Those students, in turn, commit to a high standard as well. Through this process, they also learn to negotiate personality differences and manage group dynamics. *What wonderful skills to have before moving on to college or the work force!*

Band is a place to give back. Our students are using their musical skills to give back to our community. They see immediate results in making others' lives better. Music can positively affect everyone! No matter one's age, gender, race, religion, level of education… ***all*** of humanity can be moved by the gift of music, and our kids have the power to deliver that gift.

Band stimulates the brain. Studies have shown that many forms of brain development are occurring while people learn and play music. The biggest bonus: they are also having fun and developing life skills while becoming more intelligent! How amazing is that?!

At Ferris High School we have a **fantastic band program**! Historically, our students have benefitted from extra opportunities which create an environment where they can grow as musicians well beyond the typical high school band program. As you may have witnessed, Ferris band performances are **impressive** and **inspiring**! This is partly due to the extras that have been funded by parents, families and friends of the band. Your contributions pay for things like sectional coaches, visits by world-class musicians, technology purchases, and extra instrument purchases that are not part of the school district budget.

Our students, your partnership, combined with these special experiences and purchases, are what makes our band program so great! This is not an inexpensive effort; the "extras" work out to be approximately **$200 per student** each year, but contributions in any amount are much appreciated. **This is for a high-quality learning experience unparalleled by any other band program in the area.**

Our students are counting on your generous support. Every gift contributes to the best experience possible! Your contribution is ***deeply appreciated*** by all of us in the Ferris Band. These kids are only in high school once, and we want to help lay a foundation for a happy and successful life, which includes becoming contributing members of society. **Please become a part of the FERRIS BAND and make a generous gift today to the Big Band Ask! Our goal is to raise $40,000. We believe that together we can do this! Thank you in advance for your support.**

Warmest regards,

Ben Brueggemeier
Director of Bands, Ferris High School

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