

I have been a “band parent” for the past 6 years at FHS, and consider my involvement to be among the most important things I have done in my life. I started my involvement by peeking in the band room before a Friday night home game, and was blown away by the organized chaos of 200+ musicians that is typical of pregame nights all around the country. So, why did I get involved??

- I have no musical ability: no training, no ear and no rhythm, but I like to listen!
- I didn't now a single person, aside from my own son.
- The “skills” I brought to the organization that year was a strong back to move instruments.

This is not exactly the “resume” that you would expect for an active band parent! Now, 6 years later, I look back at 2 years as booster President with major involvement in helping the band go to the Hollywood Christmas Parade, the Fiesta Bowl Parade and the grand-daddy of them all, the Rose Parade. I helped direct endless fundraising efforts, loaded and unloaded band trucks in my sleep, drove 100 miles at 5mph in a band truck on its last legs and sat for 30-hour trips with scores of energetic teens; and I cried with pride watching my children and “my” band march down the street and on the field.

My involvement returned rewards 10-fold my effort. I spent incredible quality time with my children doing something they love, I learned a real appreciation for music, and I met several friends that will be with me for life.

All that started by picking up one end of a “piano-looking-thing on wheels”. Now I know it as a marimba, and I love its sound with 200+ instruments in accompaniment.

So, peek in that window, pick up one end of a tuba....you never know what will happen, but it will be a heck of a ride that you'll never forget, I promise.

Tim Kring