



STEINERT MARCHING UNIT PARENTS ASSOCIATION VACATION RAFFLE TICKETS

As the parent(s) of a Marching Unit student you're probably aware of SMUPA's Vacation Raffle fundraiser. Five raffle tickets were distributed to each student (siblings received 4 each) during Band Camp week and each family was asked to sell its tickets by the end of January 2012.

To minimize ticket sales we requested each family sell **less than 1%** of the total tickets printed. The 5 tickets you sell could earn SMUPA over \$15,000, or 50% of its total operating budget. As you can see, this is a MAJOR fundraising event for SMUPA.

As with most arts in the schools, music programs rest on fragile bases. Economic constraints prohibit the vast majority of school districts from funding anything beyond the bare essentials. SMUPA's leadership works earnestly to provide the necessary financial support needed to ensure the success of Steinert's Marching Unit...but we cannot do it alone. **YOUR help is greatly needed!**

With 120 band members and an operating budget of \$30,000 per year, SMUPA's cost is **\$250 PER STUDENT, PER YEAR** to support the Marching Unit. Fundraising helps defray costs that would otherwise be borne by the student (and ultimately his/her family). SMUPA relies heavily on students and families to successfully fundraise...*and failure should not be an option*. If we fail something as simple as supporting our children, we only need to look as far as the mirror.

As the calendar moves forward to 2012, SMUPA finds itself in the precarious position of "falling behind" in meeting its revenue budget for the year. The Vacation Raffle will be successful, but with less than 30 days remaining for ticket sales it is not likely to generate the \$15,000 revenue we hoped it would. Non-participation by many families has left SMUPA with a large void in its fundraising goals.

Please remember we are **NOT** asking you to purchase the raffle tickets; we're asking you to **SELL** them. Family members (aunts & uncles, brother & sisters, cousins, grandparents, etc.), co-workers, friends, neighbors, and alumni parents that have supported the Marching Unit in past years will be eager to support SMU.

Without revenue increases from fundraising, planned expenditures must be reviewed for cost-benefit results; non-funded expenses must be reduced or eliminated. These will be tough decisions because it will have an immediate financial impact to the students.

To those who participated and those that continue to participate in the raffle we sincerely say, "Thank you for making a difference."

For those still undecided...the toughest ticket to sell is the **FIRST ONE!**