

Fall 2020



Dear Bedford Families:

2020 is a year without precedent. Each of us has had to adapt to the realities and risks of COVID-19 in many ways—and POMS is no different.

As you know, Bedford Patrons of Music Students (POMS) provides support for music programs at Davis Elementary, Lane Elementary, John Glenn Middle School, and Bedford High School. Your donations help POMS offer resources and tangible supports including:

- **Stipends** for every music teacher in the district to support classroom activities;
- **Wish-list items** requested by the music teachers to enhance their curricula;
- Affordable and easily accessible **private music lessons** for students from K-12;
- Supplemental funding for costumes and other costs for **extracurricular musical activities**, including the JGMS and BHS musicals; and
- **Scholarships** for BHS graduating seniors.

The pandemic has curtailed our usual means of fundraising: running the Snack Shack at BHS football games; staffing a lunch booth at Bedford Day; selling concessions at JGMS and BHS theatre performances; and asking for your contributions in our donation jars after concerts.

POMS typically distributes the bulk of our donations twice a year: stipends and requested classroom wish-list items in the fall; and scholarships, plus any remaining wish-list items, in the spring. These grants are driven by the previous season's fundraising: fall donations pay for the spring items, and spring fundraising pays for the following fall.

We are grateful to the student performers and audience members who made our summer Pop-Up Music fundraiser such a success. The money we raised this summer was enough to cover our teacher stipends and a couple early wish-list items for JGMS and BHS.

We are committed to maintaining the extra-budgetary funding we provide our music students and teachers this year. We know POMS has many regular supporters who don't typically give to the Annual Appeal. We rely on those concession purchases and concert donations, and we encourage you to consider a gift at the same level now.

Think of it this way: WHAT KIND OF PATRON ARE YOU?

Are you a . . .

- **Shack Patron?** If you treat your family to cheeseburgers, candy, popcorn, and hot chocolate at two BHS football games a year, that's a **\$50** donation to POMS!
- **Concert Patron?** If you faithfully drop \$20 in the jar at every one of your kid's concerts, that adds up to **\$60** a year!
- **Bedford Day Patron?** For those who like to treat their kids to a **\$25** feast at the POMS concession stand!
- **Musical Patron?** Consider donating **\$20** if you typically purchase two candy bars and a "star for your star" at each performance of the JGMS musical.
- **Virtuoso Patron?** If 100 families each gave \$100, we could fund all our activities for the school year, and have some left over to carry us through another potentially lean spring.
- **New Patron?** If you have always wanted to make a difference in a young music and theater lover's life, now is the time!

Will you contribute to this year's Annual Appeal and help us fill the gap in our fundraising?

Any amount helps us continue our support of the students and teachers who make music happen in the Bedford Public Schools.

POMS is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation may be tax-deductible. Thank you for joining in POMS's legacy of support by participating in our 2020 Annual Appeal.

With best musical wishes,



Emily Mitchell, President

On behalf of the POMS Board: April Chen, Lisa Coyne, Anne Gardsbane, Karen Guetersloh, Susan Harris, Gretchen Kind, Jim O'Malley, Mark Mullins, Nicole O'Toole, Maureen Reyling, Becky Ricci, & Karen Sobol

P.S. What about private lessons? Our private-lesson program is financially independent from POMS's regular operating budget, with its own treasurer and bank account. The money you pay for lessons goes directly to the instructors, with a tiny bit set aside for the program's overhead. Taking private lessons through POMS is a wonderful thing!—but it doesn't affect the income we need to support our classroom teachers and students.

Please donate online at www.bedfordpoms.org or mail contributions to POMS, % Bedford High School, 9 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730. As access to our physical mailbox at BHS is limited, we appreciate **online giving via PayPal, to ensure your donations can get to work as soon as possible.**

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Benefactor \$150 + ____ Patron \$100-\$149 ____ Sponsor \$50-\$99 ____ Friend \$20-\$49 ____