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St. George event benefits high school music programs

St. George, Utah – On Saturday, November 3rd, our high school students will get the chance to perform live at the Dixie Center and compete against other schools and raise money for their school music departments in the first annual Battle of the Bands. The Washington County School District has encouraged their schools to enter the competition, and so far, four area high schools are stepping up to face the music. Sponsors from Washington County have donated money and prizes to encourage these students to follow their dreams.

Hurricane, Pine View, Snow Canyon and Dixie high schools have all entered. Each of the schools in the Washington County School District will have the bands in their school compete and pick a winner to go to the main event and represent their school. The drumline from each school will also attend and compete. Schools will be holding assemblies and voting to choose the winners, and the students are helping sell out the venue. To wrap up the event, two successful local artists will perform and talk to the kids about how much hard work and sacrifice it is, and also how rewarding it is when you finally accomplish your goals. Volunteers are hanging fliers, selling tickets, and getting the word out.

20% of the total ticket sales are going straight to the school music departments. Tickets are available for purchase at participating high schools. While the music departments try to support themselves by putting on fundraisers each year to raise extra money, it's not always enough. In addition to ticket sales, there are bonuses that will go to benefit the school music programs. There will be two \$250 grand prizes that will be donated to the schools, one for the winning drumline and one for the winning band. There will also be a \$250 bonus for the school that has the highest ticket sales. The winning drumline will receive a traveling trophy that will be passed off to the new winning school each year for display.

The purpose of our event is to help our kids stay involved in positive extracurricular activities. Keeping students involved in music teaches them discipline, patience, and gives them confidence. These are some very important things young people need to learn to function in society. The drumlines only get a chance to perform and compete once a year. Competing in front of an audience is an exciting and very important aspect of music. Bands learn that it is not always about talent, but also about stage presence and playing on a live stage with all the extras, like lighting. Music is a very important part of the lives of many of our local youths, and dedicated students often practice for hours each week, writing songs and saving up money to purchase expensive equipment. These students need support, and we hope that this event will become annual and bring in extra funds for school music departments each year.