

To: University City High School Centurion Foundation Board

From: Brandon Corenman, UCHS Music Program Director

Date: January 31, 2017

Dear Centurion Foundation Board,

Let me begin by thanking you for your past and continued support of our Music Program here at UCHS. As do all of our campus organizations, we rely on from families, community groups and school support organizations such as CF to help us with funding.



Last December, we submitted to you a request to fund the purchase of a plume holder for our marching band. At first glance, this request might seem minor. The item value is about \$90, and it initially seems to be not much more than a small carrying bag, much like a piece of carry-on luggage, as you can see in the picture to the left. This photo of the plume holder in use was taken on the evening of the last UCHS home football game of 2016.

At the start of our marching season this year, we had not put an entry into our annual budget to purchase this item. While we knew that it was 'nice to have,' we had several additional required expenses this year, due primarily to the substantial increase in the size of the Music Program. However, as we began the season, we noticed signs that our plumes were beginning to experience undo wear. The photo at right shows the cause: our storage and transport system was vintage Rubbermaid, and was simply not



designed for the purpose. You can see that about 20% of the plume was being left exposed, putting them at risk during insertion and removal from the crate. We became extremely concerned, because just two years ago we purchased brand new plumes for the program at a cost of about \$1,000. We

therefore made the decision to procure the plume holder, which was specifically designed for the task at hand.

This case serves a couple of important functions. First, and most importantly, it provides much better protection for our plume investment. As you can see in this pair of photos, the system is designed for



maximum protection. When the plumes are returned to the case, they are inserted into one end of the holders that fit in the case. Once all the plumes are in, the holder is set on its side, and the other end of the plume holder is opened. From the other end, the bottoms of the plumes are drawn the rest of the way into their tubes, leaving no feathers exposed beyond the tube ends. Once all the plumes are positioned, both sides of the case are zipped closed. When the plumes are next needed, the side is once again opened as in the photo at the above right, and the plumes are extracted for use. Second, a convenient strap allows the case to be carried easily, and hard sides on the case allow it to be stored and transported without great concern of damage.

I offer my sincere thanks for your support of this purchase. The case was used with tremendous success during the marching season this year, has improved the protection of our plumes and has simplified their handling by our parent volunteers. From all of us in the Music Program, thank you for helping us maintain that final touch in the Centurion Sound look.



Sincerely,

Brandon Corenman, University City High School Music Director