



## PRESS RELEASE

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## Kaiser High School Band Receives \$10,000 from Kaiser Permanente for Premier Rose Parade Performance

**FONTANA, CA** – Students in Henry J. Kaiser High School’s Catamount Pride Band and Color Guard received an early holiday present as they prepared for their premier performance at the 2019 Rose Bowl Parade – a \$10,000 donation from Kaiser Permanente to help offset transportation, lodging and meal costs for the band’s Jan. 1 appearance.

Kaiser High’s band and color guard will be the featured band during the opening ceremonies of the 130th annual Rose Parade presented by Honda, and perform a show highlighting the parade’s theme “The Melody of Life.”

Kaiser is the first Fontana Unified school to earn an invitation to the New Year’s Day celebration.

“We are so grateful for the support of Kaiser Permanente,” Kaiser High Principal Terry Abernathy said. “Kaiser Permanente recognizes this as a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students, band leaders and booster club volunteers, and this generosity helps us all to realize our dreams.”

The Catamount Pride Band and Color Guard is composed of 180 students and is ranked in the top 10 parade bands in Southern California. In addition to performing in parades, the band has competed in field show tournaments for the last six years.

“We are so proud to see Henry J. Kaiser High School’s Catamount Pride Band and Color Guard representing Fontana in the 2019 Rose Parade,” said Greg Christian, Kaiser Permanente San Bernardino County senior vice president and area manager. “Kaiser Permanente is pleased to provide this significant donation, demonstrating our pride and confidence in these amazing young people. We want this to be a joyous and lifelong memory for each of them.”

The Catamount Booster Club, which received the donation on behalf of the band, fundraises for the band, manages its finances and events and helps band members during competitions. Projected total expenses for the 2018-19 performance season will be nearly \$100,000, money that is spent on transportation, music supplies, instrument repairs, sheet music, accessories, entry fees, maintenance of uniforms and props, water and food.

“The Catamount Band prides itself on its high expectations, and we rely on our community and business partners to help support the program so that we can maintain our rigorous standards,” Booster Club President Lourdes Avila said. “The gift from Kaiser Permanente ensures that our students will be poised and ready for their Rose Parade debut.”

Before marching in the 5.5-mile Rose Parade, Kaiser High and other bands will perform in one of three Bandfest events on Dec. 29 and 30 at Pasadena City College.

“I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kaiser Permanente for their contribution to our performing arts program, as well as the Catamount Booster Club, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the students,” Fontana Unified Superintendent Randal S. Bassett said. “On New Year’s Day, the whole world will get a chance to see what Fontana Unified students can do, and we appreciate the community support that makes this feat possible.”

**PHOTO CAPTION:**

**FUSD\_ROSEPARADE:** Henry J. Kaiser High School’s Catamount Pride Band and Color Guard received a \$10,000 donation from Kaiser Permanente to help fund transportation, lodging and meal costs for the band’s Rose Parade appearance on Jan. 1. Kaiser band is the first FUSD school to be invited to the New Year’s Day celebration and will perform during the opening ceremonies.

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