



GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

April 2006

Editors: Judy Hardwick and Erin Gaston
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 (Send addresses corrections to us!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Wow, it is hard to believe that the school year is almost over. However, we still have several band engagements, and I'd like to encourage you to attend the upcoming concerts and festivals. I would like to extend a welcome to all the 8th grade parents who are reading this newsletter. Grissom Band Parents is a great organization to be involved with, and we are working to make band a wonderful experience for your child. We have plenty of opportunities for you to get involved and would love to have you. Please come to our band parent meeting on April 24 in the GHS auditorium and learn about our upcoming summer activities. I am looking forward to meeting you there!!

I would like to issue a special "thank you" to all the parents that answered the volunteer call at meetings and in the newsletters for help with the banquet. It takes a lot of parents and students working together to make the banquet successful year after year. Kathy Francica and Reba Bridges have done an outstanding job leading this group. This banquet is sure to be a treat for all with many happy memories for our departing seniors and students.

I look forward to seeing you at the band parent meeting on Monday, April 24th. This will be the final Band Parent Meeting for this year. Officers will be elected for next year. Nominations for the 2005-2006 Year are:

President	Jay Simcox
1st VP	Jim Gatherer
2nd VP	Laura Mollere
Treasurers:	Julie Ashcraft , Tonya Hayes
Secretary:	Mary Setzer

Please be sure to attend. I encourage you to take a moment to read the newsletter. It contains important information for the remainder of the year as well as for the upcoming summer!

Sincerely,
 Cherry Hovik
 President 2005/2006
 cjhovik@comcast.net or 882-6190

Executive Board, 2005-06

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Webmaster: Ron Lewis

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Bill Connell and Theo Vernon, Directors

881-1075 (band room)

Directors' News

April 2006

All-State Band

The Alabama All- State Band Festival will be April 20-22 in Auburn. Those students who tried out in January will be attending this clinic. We will leave at 7a.m. on that Thursday and return by 9 p.m. Saturday night. The cost of the trip is \$135.00. A complete itinerary will be given to the students after spring break.

Congratulations to the following students:

Allison Potter – Patrick Cornell – Ellen Field – Amelia Lane – Shibli Rahman – Rusty Clark – Deanna Swain – Michael Montgomery – Melody Hovik – Matthew Parker – Matt Keffer – Corey Sherman -

Jazz Band

Both jazz bands traveled to MTSU on Saturday, April 8th to perform in their jazz festival. Both bands played very well and were given good comments to improve their individual jazz abilities. Please come to the Spring Concert to see what they are doing.

Auditions

Yes it is that time of year once again. We will hold semester auditions the week after the Spring Concert May 8-12. The audition music was handed out the week of April 10th. These auditions will be band placement for the fall semester as well as part of the student's final exam grade for 2nd semester. The requirements will not be as much music as the fall auditions but will still require preparation. All of the music will have Smart Music Accompaniments that the students can practice with to help them.

Jazz Band audition material was also available the week of April 10th. All students interested will need to record their audition onto a CD or cassette tape and turn it in to Mr. Vernon by May 8th. If you signed up and do not make one of the bands then you will need to get a schedule change. Also if you did not sign up and wish to audition and make it then your schedule will need to be changed to add you to a jazz band class.

End of Year Calendar and Summer Schedule

All-State Band:	April 20-22	
Jazz Bands Spring Concert:	April 28 th	7:30 p.m.
Band Spring Concert:	May 4 th	7:30 p.m.
Band Banquet:	May 5 th	6:30

VBC North Hall (ALL Debts to the Grissom Band MUST be paid in order for you to get in. Be sure to turn in a reservation card with your meal choice or you will not be allowed in. If your family members wish to come they also must turn in a reservation form with money for the meal. These cards have been mailed out. If you did not receive one in the mail, contact Mrs. Francica at 883-7132.)

Band Auditions:	May 8-12
Leadership Clinics:	TBA
Percussion Clinics:	NO Spring Percussion this year!

Percussion Auditions and Placements:

Performers will be assigned to their instruments during the early part of June. It is very important that all students interested in performing in the fall line be present at all rehearsals and technical development sessions throughout the summer.

Color Guard Clinics/Auditions:	May 8-12 3:30-5:30	GHS Band room
Graduation (required performance for all underclassmen):	May 18 th	VBC Arena 3:30 p.m.(report time is 2:45 p.m.)
Rookie Camp:	May 22-26 8a.m. – 12 p.m.	Band room

Percussion Rehearsals June 1-July 27 (Thursdays 6-9 p.m.)
 Mini-percussion Camp 1: June 8th 6 - 9 p.m., June 9th 5 - 9 p.m., June 10th 5 - 8 p.m., and June 11th TBA
 Mini-percussion Camp 2: **TENTATIVE:** June 29th 6 – 9 p.m. and June 30th, 5 – 8 p.m.,
OR July 6th 6 –9 p.m. and July 7th 5 – 8 p.m.
 Color Guard Camps: June 5-9th 8 a.m.-11 a.m. 12 p.m.-3 p.m.
 July 3-7th 8 a.m. –11 a.m. 12 p.m.- 3 p.m.
 (Frontline only) July 24-27th 5-8 p.m.
 Percussion Camp July 10-14 or July 17-21
 9-12 p.m. / 1-6 p.m.
 Uniform Fittings (fee payment) July 24-27 TBA
 Band Pre-Camp July 26-28 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
 DCI show at MTSU (optional) July 28 3 p.m. -midnight
 Band Camp July 31-August 4th
 Tentative Marching Contest Dates: September 30th and October 7th

2006 EXPO Date

Saturday, October 21st is our date for the 2006 Grissom Marching Exposition, better know as the EXPO. Committees are already working towards improving from last year's. We will need everybody's help to have another successful EXPO and hopefully earn bigger funds for the band program. More info will come soon!

2006-2007 Band Calendar

The 2006-2007 band calendar should be posted on Charms by mid June. Please refer to this calendar to make plans. You can print out the calendar if you wish also. To access Charms go to www.charmsmusic.com and enter grissomhsb in the Parent/Student login, School Code box to see the calendar and download other forms in the handout section. All new freshmen will be able to access the Grissom Charms site to see your individual account information in July once we have all finished our end of year activities and transferred everyone one over.

2006 Marching Band

The directors have spent the last several months mulling over the past marching season and have come to some conclusions that you probably arrived at too. This past fall marching band was not a very fun activity. Mr. Connell especially put lots of pressure on the band and himself to 'raise the bar' so to speak with the marching band where they could compete with anyone. Unfortunately, the music and drill was too hard and we were not able to get the show to a level where the band was comfortable with it.

As a result, we will make some changes with the marching band starting next fall. The content will be easier, both in music and drill. We will concentrate on performing at a level comparable to the past, but since the music and drill is not quite so complex, the end result will not take as much rehearsal time. You probably will not be able to tell the difference in our performances, but hopefully you will see many more smiles on your children's faces.

Evening rehearsals once school starts will be 6:30-8:30 as opposed to 6-9 in the past. Pre-camp times will be the same, but we will shave some rehearsal time off band camp, the final schedule to be announced later.

The biggest change however involves all first year GHS Band members, which includes freshmen (9th grade). *All first year members will be required to participate in marching band, but that participation will be limited to performing the pre-game show and playing in the stands at football games- with the following exception: **Only those first year marchers that choose to and pass the audition will have a position in the performance band.*** This performance band will march at halftime at the varsity football games, compete at the marching contest that we choose to attend and march in exhibition at the marching band expo the GHS Band sponsors. Those students with one or more years experience in the marching band may continue to choose each year whether they will participate in Symphonic/Concert Band only or march and perform in Sym./Concert Band.

The rationale is complex, but at the same time quite simple in the minds of the students in the Grissom Band. Coming to Grissom High School from middle school or transferring in from another school is quite a challenge for EVERY student. The demands in the past by the **marching** band for rehearsal/performance time and the pressure to perform at such a high level of proficiency has taken its toll on the number of students signing up to continue band from middle school to high school. That is not even mentioning the significantly higher academic demands put on these young people moving from middle school to high school. This situation simply has gotten to the point where something has to be done. There are too many fine musicians in the middle schools not signing up for GHS Band because they fear all the demands of the marching band. This is simply not acceptable.

The quality of the GHS Marching Band will not decline. As a matter of fact, it will improve and like we said earlier in this section, you will not be able to detect any decline in the performance of our band. The performance expectations of the Symphonic and Concert Bands will not change. We will continue to be one of the finest Symphonic/Concert bands in the United States, carrying the tradition forward that has been established since the school's inception.

Things to Remember!

***Rookie Camp - May 22-26 (8am-12pm) Medical Forms**

All students, whether returning or new, are required to have a notarized medical form on file to be able to participate in band activities. We ask that **all upcoming freshmen** have their new medical form notarized and ready to turn in at Rookie Camp on May 22nd. Please wear comfortable clothes (shorts, t shirts, sunscreen) and bring **WATER** to Rookie Camp. All veterans must fill out a new medical form each year! Please take care of this prior to July 26th. A form can be downloaded from the website at: <http://www.hsv.k12.al.us/dept/forms/Outoftown.doc>

***Grissom Band Website**, a plethora of information. Check it often! www.grissomband.org

***Charms** www.charmsmusic.com is the website for Calendar information and many forms that you will need through the year plus updated financial information. If you have had any changes in address, phone numbers, etc., within the past year, please make appropriate changes and notify the band directors of this change.

***Grissom Band Handbook** is posted on the Charms for downloading. Revisions are being made this summer. **Please read this handbook.** It will answer many of your questions about the Grissom Band Program.

***Summer dates.** Please check the Charms website for all band activities throughout the summer. These are very important rehearsals that will put you behind if you miss.

***Car Washes.** Each section will have a couple of car wash fundraisers for our Max Hammond Instrument account. These are held at Advance Auto on South Parkway on Saturdays throughout the summer. The schedule will be posted on the Charms and section leaders will be calling you to remind you about your weekend. We must have a parent from each section be there during their section's car wash to handle all money and get it to our treasurers.

***Percussion/Color Guard** summer rehearsals. Please refer to the calendar posted on the C Charms website and in the newsletter above for all summer rehearsal dates. These are very important in the development of these sections which require many hours of preparation prior to our Pre-Camp and Band Camp.

*Marching Band Music

The marching music will be posted on Charms prior to Pre-Camp for you to download and practice. All of the stand music is already posted so you can begin learning it too. Parts will be divide up and posted in June. You will need the following to access the music. Username: student and Password: *bandontherun*. Please download this and print out your parts. **We ask that each playing member of the band, with the exception of the pit percussion, have a flip folder by Pre-Camp to hold all music for the fall.**

***Summer band uniform** for the first few football games. Each band member is required to have a pair of Khaki shorts and **WHITE** tennis shoes to wear along with the band T-shirt for the first few football games. We prefer a knee length (or as close to that as possible) Khaki pant for everyone.

***WHITE TENNIS SHOES.** We ask that each member of the marching band wear a pair of **WHITE** tennis shoes to all marching band rehearsals. These do not have to be \$200.00 shoes. Please make sure the color of the shoe is majority **WHITE**. This helps the directors fix many foot problems during the season when they all are close to the same color. Thank you!

***Instrument Rental.** If you are playing a Grissom Band owned instrument, you will pay a per semester rental fee of \$TBD for summer, fall and spring. The following instruments have a rental fee: Sousaphones/Tubas, all percussionists, Mellophone (marching French Horn), Concert/Marching Baritones, Bass Clarinets, Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone (as available), piccolos (as available) and Bassoons. Other instruments may be available.

***Uniform Fitting.** The week of July 24-28. Each class will be assigned a specific night for fittings. Please refer to your July newsletter for specifics. All new marchers will be required to order a pair of black marching shoes from the band at approx. \$30.00. Any veteran marchers who need new shoes will order at this time also. Black gloves will be sold prior to the first performance in uniform.

***Pre-Camp and Band Camp.** These rehearsals are required for all marching band members and are part of your grade for the first nine weeks of school. Pre-Camp for all marching band members is July 26-28 from 8am-12pm. Marching fundamentals and music will be practiced. Band-Camp is July 31 – August 4 with three sessions. 1. morning (outside learning the show) 2. afternoon (inside working on music and equipment work) 3. evening (outside working on show). We get so much done during these camps and have a great time doing it!

***Rehearsal Attendance.** Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals (full band and sectionals) and performances is required of all members of the band program. Unexcused absences or frequent tardiness will lower your grade and hinder you from performing. It is your responsibility to notify the band director in advance (**at least 2 weeks**) with a signed note from your parent if you will miss a rehearsal. You must make up all missed rehearsals (excused or unexcused) by staying after school, making up the lost time, and passing off music with the director. Failure to do so within one week will result in your grade being lowered 10 pts. per missed rehearsal during that 9-week period. We request that **2 weeks prior** to a performance no rehearsal is to be missed; no excuses except family emergencies. The student will not be allowed to perform with the band and as a result they will receive a failing grade for that 9 weeks. This is why we hand out activity calendars at the beginning of each school year and post on Charms in late June or early July.

Excused absences included the following reasons: (Must be made up within one week)

1. sickness – must have signed note from parent/guardian
2. death in the family
3. pre-arranged conflict -- must be cleared in advance (**at least 2 weeks**)
4. emergency doctor's appointment.

Unexcused absences include the following reasons: (Cannot be made up)

6

1. skipping
2. forgetting
3. employment conflict
4. babysitting
5. birthday
6. club meeting
7. make-up test that could be scheduled at a different time
8. doctor and other appointments that could be scheduled at a different time
9. trip made in disregard of band commitment
10. any other conflict not cleared in advance with the band director
11. any conflict that is not school related

Grissom Marching Band Rehearsal Schedule
Opening of School to Fall Break
August 9 to October 7, 2006

- Monday:** Guard: 6-9 pm. Percussion: 5-7pm
- Tuesday:** Performance Band: 6:30-8:30 pm Football Band: 6:30-7:30 pm through September 5th.
- Wednesday:** No after school marching band practice except for the weeks when there is a Thursday night game. During those weeks Performance Band will rehearse 3:30-5:30. Football Band will rehearse 3:30- 4:30. Final football schedule to be announced soon.
- Thursday:** Performance Band: 6:30-8:30 pm. Football Band: 6:30-7:30 pm.
When we have a Thursday night football game, there will be a rehearsal for both bands: 3:30-4:00.
- Friday:** Both bands rehearse after school 3:30-4:00 the days of home games.
- Saturday:** Two marching contests- September 30 and October 7.
Grissom Band EXPO- October 21.

Football Games: Home games-Report at 6pm at Milton Frank. Meet in sections at 6:15 to check attendance and line up to march into stadium. We will publish the football schedule when it is completed. We don't know which games are on Thursday night.

Football Band: All first year band students and all upper classmen who are participating in marching band including Performance Band (see below). **You will be performing during pre-game of home football games.** Football Band students will attend marching contests and will participate in the EXPO by working a shift. More info later on the EXPO. See schedule above for details on rehearsals and performances.

Performance Band: Select marching band taken from upperclassmen and first year students who audition to participate. (Audition requirements forthcoming. This will include Marching and Playing) Only a preset number of students will be taken. Performances at football game halftimes, marching contests and exhibition performance at the GHS Band EXPO are required. Work shifts at the EXPO are also required.

Requirements by Class (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12)

9th Grade (and all first year GHS Band Students): Symphonic/Concert Band required. One year experience in Football Band. You may audition for Performance Band.

Grades 10-12: Symphonic/Concert Band required. Football or Performance band optional. You will sign an agreement if you choose to participate in one of the marching bands each spring.

FROM THE TREASURER'S CORNER

NEW BUSINESS

While we still have MANY activities in the works, it is hard to believe that we have almost completed another year. We will have our budget meeting at the end of May which will determine what final dues are for the upcoming year. We have tried to maintain a constant rate from year to year but with expenses on the rise (gas especially) and the loss of a great portion of our fundraising income this will have to be addressed. We have hopes with some changes and a stronger participation of the band parents supporting the fundraisers, the dues can continue to remain at the current \$500 mark.

Payment for 3/5 of your dues (or \$300 if dues remain at \$500) will be due June 1st. We do allow a payment option of 1/3 due June 1st, 1/3 due July 1st and the balance due at uniform fitting. While this is familiar to the "veterans" many of the incoming parents may not be aware of the payment structure. It is important that payments be made beginning June 1st as working capital is needed during the summer months. If you have ANY questions, please contact Mary or me. We will be happy to assist you.

CURRENT BUSINESS

BANQUET - Remember that ALL dues must be paid in full/current for your student to be eligible to attend the banquet. Statements were available at the band parent's meeting on Monday, March 27th. If you are uncertain if you are "up to date" please contact Mary Setzer. Her email address appears below, on the first page of this newsletter as well as on the website. (You will be receiving order forms for additional tickets for family members from the banquet committee. While your student's ticket is covered with paid dues, the cost of non-band member tickets will be additional).

Due to prior situations, payments for dues made after April 24th will need to be by cashier's check or money order to allow us process time before the banquet deadline. Thank you for your assistance.

RETURNED CHECK FEE - There is a \$30 fee for checks returned by your bank. Payment of the check amount plus the returned check charge must be made by cashier's check, money order or cash. Cash payments must be hand delivered directly to one of the treasurers. NO CASH IN TREASURER'S BOX PLEASE. Cashier's checks or money orders can be dropped in the treasurer's box in the band room or mailed to the post office box. Partial payments cannot be accepted. We regret that we have had to institute this policy but the band can no longer cover bank and collection fees associated with returned items. Thank you for your understanding and insuring funds are available when your check is presented for payment.

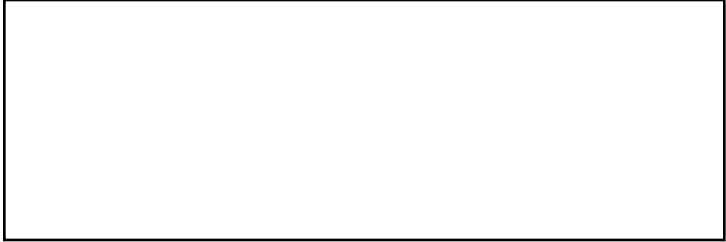
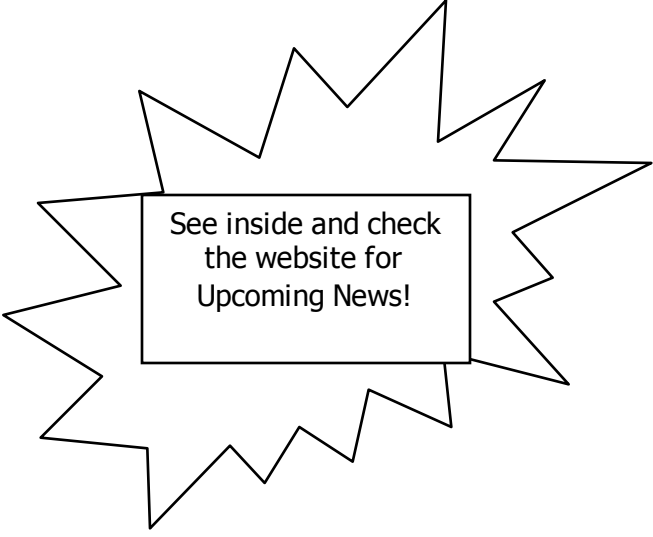
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NOTE: The board of directors (including treasurers) is an all volunteer group and all members currently work outside the home. Answers to your questions may require a little time for research and response. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated!!

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GHS TIGER BAND NEWSLETTER