

2009-2010 Grissom Band

8th Grade Parent Info

Welcome!! We are glad you are here!! Please do not hesitate to ask questions that we have not already answered during the evening or are not answered on this form. The only dumb question is the unasked/unanswered one.

***GHS Band Parents meeting-8th grade parents encouraged to attend: Monday, April 27, 7:00PM- auditorium

Here are some of the big questions that most everyone has:

- **How much does it cost?** : Our band fees at GHS haven't changed since the early 1990's. \$500 is our fee, with \$300 payable with installments during the summer. That \$300 is due the end of July during pre- camp when we fit everyone with a uniform. \$100 is due in December and the remaining \$100 in March. You are certainly welcome and encouraged to pay the entire amount before school starts. You receive 2 sets of free tickets for the band concerts that are given during the year (does not include jazz band concerts). *We have certain activities where you can earn \$\$ to go towards any expense with the band, such as fruit sales and a rummage sale. You are strongly encouraged to participate in these activities!*
Exceptions- Instrument rent per semester, uniform accessories (shoes, gloves, tights etc. for color guard). All-state trip (those that make all-state band), spring trip (if and when we go), any over night trip that we might take.
- **How much time does it take?** : The schedule from the beginning of school (1st week of August) to fall break (1st or 2nd week of October) is a marching band rehearsal on Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:30 pm. Percussion and guard will have a rehearsal on Monday evening approximately the same time. Please see Marching Band info below for more details. The marching band attends all home varsity football games and most of the away games. These are on Friday and occasionally Thursday night. We will go to 2 marching contests in September or early October. These will involve only Saturday, no overnight trips. After fall break, we have after-school rehearsals for symphonic/concert bands beginning in October. The schedule will depend on which band your son/daughter is in. The first band (Symphonic I) rehearses on Tuesday and Thursday after school from 3:30-5:30. Symphonic II rehearses on Monday the same time and Thursday evening from 6:30-8:30 (2nd semester only). Concert Band rehearses Wednesday after school from 3:30-5:30. These rehearsals will continue after school until the beginning of May.
Please note: All performances are required attendance. Failure to do so results in a failing grade for the 9 weeks in which the infraction occurs. Band in high school is a performance based class.
- **Can my son/daughter participate in other activities besides band?** : We have students that participate in sports, theatre, dance and many other things. If there is a conflict, we get with the coach, teacher etc. and work the conflict out. We will not put the child in the middle with other adults.
- **Do I have to be in Marching Band?** : We require all band students to march in the band their first year in band. After their first year, they have the option each spring of choosing to perform in concert band only or performing in marching and concert band the following school year. The reason: Having at least one year's experience in marching band gives the student some information to make a logical choice as to whether they want to march or not the following school year. Fall 2008 will be the second year that we will have 2 marching bands, one that encompasses all the students in marching band and a more select Contest Marching Band that will perform in competition. Everyone in marching band attends the varsity football games and will travel with us to the marching competitions. However, only the Contest Band will perform. You may choose which marching band you wish to participate in. The Contest Band is an auditioned group. The auditions are during pre-camp and band camp. See dates below. Any student not making Contest Band will automatically be in the Football Band, which performs a pre-game show at each of the home varsity football games.

- What about auditions?** : The Grissom Band Directors will come to your band class in late April/early May to hear you play. All of the requirements are posted on the Grissom Band Web Site. You can download the music and even sound clips to help you prepare. You may need a username and password to access the music and the sound clips.
Username: student **Password:** swing
<http://www.grissomband.org/freshman.html>
 You can also download some of the marching band's stand music by going to this page. Scroll down until you see Stand Music. Right now you can play whatever part you want to. Once we start marching band in the summer you will be assigned parts.
<http://www.grissomband.org/showmusic.html>
- What about Jazz Band?** : Grissom has two full jazz bands that meet during the school day. Any freshman that plays saxophone, trumpet or trombone can sign up without auditioning. All piano, guitar, bass, and drummers must audition for a spot. The audition music is posted on the web site. **Username:** student **Password:** swing.
<http://www.grissomband.org/JazzBands/JazzAudition/JazzAuditionMS.html>
- What about Color Guard?** : Color guard is made up of students that march with flags, rifles (fake, not real), sabers, and anything else that they could carry and toss around all over the football field. Auditions for color guard are in May on a Friday after school, with a week-long (Monday-Thursday) workshop preceding it. There is a week long color guard camp in early June and one in early July before school starts. Any high school or 8th grade middle school student may tryout for color guard during the May session. Students that are playing an instrument in band when they tryout for color guard must remain a playing member in band to be eligible for color guard. If they do not continue playing their instrument in band, they will not be allowed to remain in color guard. See schedule below for complete details.
- What about Percussion?** : Percussion students have a week long camp in mid-July to prepare their marching music for band camp. The concert percussion ensemble meets one night a week during late fall semester and during spring semester to learn music written for percussion ensemble. They play on concerts and usually attend one Saturday competition in May.
- How do we get in touch with the band directors?** :
 Band room telephone: 881.1075.
 Bill Connell- lennoc1@aol.com
 Theo Vernon- jtvjazz@knology.net
 Web site general address: www.grissomband.org
- Schedule of Events**
 GHS Band Parents meeting-8th grade parents encouraged to attend- April 27 7:00PM- auditorium
 Guard auditions clinic- May 4-8: 3:30-5:30. Open to anyone who wishes to try out for color guard.
 Rookie Camp- May 26-29: 8-noon Required for all first year GHS Band students
 Guard Camp - June 1-5: 8-11am, noon- 3pm. Required for those making color guard
 Guard Camp - June 29-July 3: 8-11am, noon- 3pm. Required for those making color guard
 Guard Camp - Front Line - July 20-24: 5-8pm.
 Pre-Camp July 29-31: 8am-12pm. ALL BAND STUDENTS
 Band -Camp August 3-7: 8am-12pm / 1:30-4pm / 6-9pm. ALL BAND STUDENTS
 School starts!! August 10: Yeah!!!!!!.....not

Please refer to the **Calendar** link on the GHS Band website for a complete schedule of events for the Grissom Band. Also, it would be worth your while to read the **GHS Band Handbook** that can be downloaded from the band website.