

Grissom Band Parents Association
Freshman Parents Meeting
July 31, 2006, 6:58 pm called to order by Jay Simcox, President

Board Members Present:

Jay Simcox, President
Bill Connell, Director
Jim Gatherer, 1st Vice President
Becky Lash, 2nd Vice President

Tonya Hayes, Treasurer
Julie Ashcraft, Treasurer
Mary Setzer, Secretary

Jay Simcox
Welcome to the Band Family
Introduce Board members

Jim Gatherer

1st VP provides people for the directors & band

2nd VP provides money for the directors & band

- Lots of volunteers needed for various kinds of activities
- Committee leads include:
- Chaperones – Debbie Krenn
- Stadium setup – Jim Krenn
- Uniforms – Tiffeny Hubbard
- Transportation – Paula Dickerhoff
- Trucks – Jim Kirsch (Drivers needed! It's fun)
- Color Guard
- Hospitality (provide meals @ various functions)
- Concert (tickets, etc. at concerts) – Sharon Keffer

If you want to do something to help, do it! There is no wrong way to help.

Debbie Krenn, chaperones:

- Medical forms needed to go to football games, and all trips
- Turn in form with insurance information on back
- Form is downloadable from web site
- Students with asthma need Asthma Action Plan, band needs a copy
- Mr. Connell adds that if students use inhalers, they should bring in on all activities no matter what they are
- Bus exemption form is required if parents will pick up student instead of returning to school *via* bus, 24 hours advance notice, chaperones must physically see student with *parent* and parent must sign student out.

Bill Connell, Director:

- ASK, there are no “dumb” questions
- Lots of demand on students from all their teachers
- Upper classmen will help the freshmen ☺
- Asthma form gives parents' permission for student to self-medicate

- Physical conditioning needed, get some exercise on the weekends etc... walk, swim, whatever
- Students will get lots of breaks on the hot days, need to drink at all breaks
- It's a good idea to bring a bath towel to camp, they can dip it in ice and wear it around their neck to cool
- Drink water or Gatorade, nothing carbonated, low or no caffeine... these don't digest well and can lead to dehydration
- Adults are present to help
- Rehearsals are very important part of class grade. Tues & Thurs 6:30, Guard on Mondays
- All 1st year students in football band playing patriotic pieces and national anthem before games, then form tunnel for football team, rehearsal T & Th 6:30-7:30 may not be outside the whole time.
- Contest band will do pregame show and half-time show, rehearsal T & Th 6:30-8:30
- Let the directors know if a student will miss rehearsals, 24 hour notice. If student is sick they need to know that also. **Call the band room 881-1075.** This protects the kids and the directors
- Band doesn't leave any venue until all students are accounted for, so it is important for the directors to know who is supposed to be there.
- Once school starts, time management is a major responsibility, students should set up and follow a schedule

Questions from parents for Mr. Connell:

Q When does GBPA meet?

A The 4th Monday of the month, no December or May meeting, October meeting is 1 week early due to Marching Exposition

Q Does the Football Band go to competitions?

A Yes, all students go, this allows them to get the experience, see the bands, and see the venue, etc. This years competitions will be:

✓ Sept 30 Gadsden Midsouth Invitational, and old, well-established show 25-30 bands from MS, GA, TN, AL

✓ Oct 7 Vanderbilt

Q If students have a schedule conflict, who needs to know?

A Call or email the directors.

Q What do they wear to the early games?

A Band t-shirt, khaki shorts, white tennis shoes

Q What constitutes *khaki*?

A It can be within a reasonable range, not white... not brown

Q Is the Performance Band the same as the Competition Band?

A Yes

Q Can oboe players rent the instrument they'll need (like a flute) in order to march?

A Yes, a variety of instruments are available for rental from the band (\$50 per term)

Q Do percussion players attend Monday rehearsals *and* Tuesday/Thursday rehearsals?

A Yes

Q Follow up... What about football band only percussionists - Monday too?

A Yes, for the first hour

Q What do students do with their instruments when they come in to school in the mornings?

A The band room will be open and provide secure storage for their instruments

Q Can they leave band for orientation?

A Yes, each of the classes (Sr., Jr., Soph., Fresh.) are scheduled by hour. Students will be excused from band 10-15 minutes early for their scheduled orientation time.

Mr. Connell also noted to parents that they can go to www.grissomband.org for more information, email addresses, etc.

Jeff Brewer, Marching Exposition Chair:

- Marching Exposition is October 21
- Last year was very successful because band parents worked so hard, 200-300 worker-shifts
- This is a big fundraiser potential, ~ \$6,000 last year
- Committees formed, always need more help
- Watch the web site, band parents meetings, etc. to volunteer
- On-line sign up will be available soon
- Sign up early for what you want to do

Jim Krenn, Stadium setup & water:

- Students need to show up to games at Milton Frank Stadium on their own (no transportation provided to get there)
- The stadium provides carbonated beverages for students, but when they are in regular uniforms they are only allowed to drink water. So parents provide water, we also give water to out-of-town bands.
- Seat covers provide protection for uniforms, help is always needed to rollout covers before games and collect them after. This is done at all games, at-home and away.

Questions from parents:

Q How do we donate the water?

A Bring it in to the band room anytime; during the band camp picnic there will be hand-trucks available to transport the cases. Monetary donations can also be made.

Q When do the football games start and end?

A Students need to be at the North end of Milton Frank Stadium by 6 pm. Early season games last longer because they take more breaks due to the heat.

Don't forget the Band Camp Tailgate Picnic Friday, bring dessert, drinks, watermelon according to section. Turn in RSVPs to Jay.

Karen Parker, Scrip:

- Ornaments of the school are available, from the former Argosy store, \$25
- Scrip email lists going around, sign up to get notices about Scrip opportunities
- FAQ list is available
- Publix cards are also going around, take one (marked Grissom Band), the give back 0.66% of purchases... adds up \$800-\$1000 per year to band
- Scrip = gift certificates, you don't have to spend anything extra, use for what you'd buy already and get money for the band and your student's account
- Kroger cards, start with \$5 gift card, recharge at any Kroger. Band gets 5% of your purchases (must use card from the band, not purchased at the store). This means if you spend \$200, \$10 goes to the band; this is split 40% to student account 60% to band.
- Other certificates available, Rosie's, Rave Theaters, more shown on Scrip List with the % that goes to the band.
- Use as gifts, or to buy gifts
- For sale at GBPA meetings, concerts (not at Max Hammond Concert), etc...
- Some in-stock for the very popular companies, others are ordered

Cherry Hovik, Liz Potter, VBC opportunities:

- Work at VBC concessions, \$5 per hour applied to band fees
- Must wear GHS band shirt (provided if you don't have one), black pants, closed-toe shoes
- Shifts are usually 4-5 hours
- Fun opportunity to meet other band parents
- Stand manager present to supervise
- Activities include
 - ✓ Opening inventory
 - ✓ Serve
 - ✓ Closing inventory
 - ✓ Clean up
- Can eat what's left afterward, but bring your own drinking cup
- Free parking under South Hall, then go to concession office
- Students can work if 16 or older
- Great opportunity for student to feel ownership & responsibility for band dues
- Students can be hired later by VBC as staff because of their experience

Becky Lash, 2nd Vice President:

- Corporate sponsorships as fundraiser, tax deductible
- Corporations can claim they are supporting GHS Band as sponsor for goodwill

- Take sponsorship form to the donation coordinator at your place of employment
- Corporations receive advertisement in exchange for donation, various levels of sponsorship & advertising opportunity are listed on form
- In-kind or cash donations accepted
- Company will be shown on GHS Band web site
- No minimum
- Pre-football season is the best time to get sponsorships because much of advertising will be associated with games
- The Marching Exposition is bringing in quality competition and money to the area, giving good exposure
- Other fundraisers
 - ✓ Two pancake breakfasts in the spring @ Applebee's
 - ✓ Fruit sales, hopefully this will return to being a good fundraiser
 - ✓ Cell phone & inkjet cartridges, talk to your companies about old cell phones and cartridges
 - ✓ Need parents to help with mailings

Julie Ashcraft, Treasurer:

- Band fees are due by uniform fitting (last week)
- Dues are \$500
- Send checks in envelope with student's name and what the payment is for
- Can be sent to PO Box or placed in the Treasurer's Box in the band room, NO CASH please

Tonya Hayes, Treasurer:

- If you are buying something for the band (pre-approved), reimbursement forms are available in the band room

Jay Simcox, President:

- Eight tickets are available for each student when band dues are up-to-date, these are good at Fall Concert, Holiday Concert, Spring Concert, are not for Max Hammond (donations), Hilaritas, Potpourri
- Volunteers are needed for concerts, district competition, see Sharon Keffer
- Carwashes at Lee's Magic Tunnel
 - ✓ WalMart ticket sales were not very successful
 - ✓ They will be on Sundays, but we'll work around church commitments
 - ✓ Next date uncertain, looking into some safety concerns
 - ✓ Tickets will be \$8, students/parents will sign out 4 tickets to sell
- Fruit sales used to be major fund raiser, but hurricanes have spoiled harvest for 2 years, hope to return to successful sales, have had 50% shortfall
- Open to all fundraising ideas or other ideas for improvement, just let Jay know any ideas you have!

Meeting Adjourned 8:35