

## Grissom Band Parents Meeting Freshman Parent Orientation May 26, 2009

President Chip Ledbetter welcomed everyone to the meeting and began introducing the different board members to the parents. A handout containing lots of information was passed out.

Kathy Francica is the first Vice-President in charge of several committees. The Uniform Committee is led by Lisa Steves and wanted to relay some information to the new parents. The summer marching uniform is khaki shorts, white socks, mostly white sneakers and a band issued t-shirt. The students will be fitted for uniforms during Pre-Camp that is July 29-31. The freshman fittings will be Thursday night. Mom or Dad should probably be there for the first time. There are forms to complete, fees to pay, and you just might want to see how it works. Your student needs to wear what he or she will be wearing under the uniform during marching season. This is usually a t-shirt and gym shorts or something similar. Marching shoes for the uniform are black dinkels. These will be ordered for your student and are an extra fee of \$32. We also need you to make sure that we have a valid e-mail address for you. We use this method of communications a lot. Your child may complain, but when they are in uniform they are not allowed to eat anything and can only drink WATER. Your first opportunity to help is with uniform fittings. There are two sign up sheets available – one for those who sew and one for those who do not sew. We also have sock and pillows for sale. The package of 3 pairs of Tiger socks is \$4 and the combination of a pillow and a package of socks is \$12.

Roy Malone is the second Vice-President in charge of the other committees. Roy shared with the parents that if you get your kids to rookie camp, the kids get hooked on band and will have a great 4 years at Grissom. Parent support makes a difference with our organization and the other organizations at Grissom.

Alice Searcy and Katrena Faddis are our treasurers. Alice deals with your students accounts. You can make payments by putting it in the box in the band room, mailing it to our P. O. Box or giving it to us at one of the band parent meetings. Alice then explain some about Charms and how we use it. Charms will always be up to date with your account fees and payments.

Christy Kindred is our secretary. The minutes from the band parent meetings are posted on the web site for your review.

Band Director Theo Vernon thanked everyone for coming and for making the changes to Rookie Camp. The Pre-Camp is in July so make sure that the kids are getting outside and will be better able to handle the heat. We need their medical release forms back by Rookie Camp. Kandi Mair, Chaperone Committee chairperson, stated that the medical forms must be notarized and there is a notary here tonight for anyone who wishes to

complete the forms tonight. Mr. Vernon continued by reminding parents that the students who rent instruments should see the rental agreement form this week. If your student plays French horn, they will march with a mellophone. Any uprising 9<sup>th</sup> grader interested in Jazz Band who plays a wind instrument, is not required to audition and will automatically be placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> jazz band. They will have to audition if they wish to play guitar or percussion in jazz. If they are in jazz, they will be in 2 band classes – concert band and jazz band. We have 5-9 freshmen in jazz.

Band Director Bill Connell recommended that you keep the lines of communications open with all of the teachers at Grissom. The schedule and dates are posted on the Charms web site so check the Charms calendar often. The band is a performance band and is split into classes based on performance. All students are required to be in a performance class. The performance dates will be posted on Charms in a week. Marching band is a very physical activity. Students should stay active during the summer. They should exercise several times a week. There will be information about the camps in the newsletters in June and July. For the Rookie Camp on Thursday and Friday, please be sure your student eats something before coming. They should avoid carbonated drinks as they do not go well with the heat. The kids will complain about aches and pains, but they will survive. Our e-mail and phone numbers are on the website. The password and id that you used for Charms in middle school will work with ours once the middle schools have pushed your data to us. We should have this all in place before first of July. The show music will be posted on Charms for them to learn it before pre-camp in July. Again, we are glad to have you with us.

Chip Ledbetter then explained the fee structure for GHS band. Total fee is \$500. \$300 is due at uniform fitting, \$100 is due on November 1, and the final \$100 is due on March 1. We are a non-profit organization, but we are not a charitable organization. We need you to pay your fees. At uniform fitting you will be asked to update your information in Charms so that we an updated address and e-mail for each of you. Our budget is approximately \$150,000. We are given a student allocation for instruments from the state, but there is NO other funding from the state. We do a lot of fundraising. Our biggest is the Fruit sales that earned us about \$22,000 this year. When you work at the fruit sale, each person working receives \$5 credit for each hour worked. This credit is applied to your designated student's account and helps defray some of the fee you pay.

Monica Pacely explained the SCRIP program that is also a fundraiser. She likes to call the program Band Bucks. This program allows you to buy gift cards at face value, but part of the money you spend is credited back to your student's account and the band. We keep some of the gift cards/certificates in stock, but there are MANY others that can be ordered. It only takes a couple of days to get cards that have to be ordered. We give the treasurers a report once a month on the credits that need to go into your student's account. The amount will vary by merchant cards selected. Some merchants give only 3% back to us while others give 18% back.

Mary Fountain explained the VBC workers. This is another way to offset your fees and put money into your student's account. We work the concession stands at the VBC. We

are paid \$6 per hour worked. The money is split \$5 into the student's account and \$1 goes back to the band. You must be 16 or older to work at the VBC. We work anything in the arena. Just let Mary know you want to work and she will send you the schedule when she receives it from the VBC.

Spirit is being heading up by Cherry Hovik. She is a past band parent president and is returning to Grissom with a freshman.

Kandi Mair, Chaperone chairperson, reminded everyone again about the medical forms. We have 3 away football games on September 18, September 25 and October 16 this year. We need lots of volunteers and it is a great way to meet lots of people and meet the kids too. We will do a travel package again so that we can feed the kids at school before we travel to the football games.

Kate Jobczynski is our historian. She will ask for pictures, pictures and more pictures. She puts the slide show together for our band banquet.

The Band Parents meetings are always the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. There is not one in December and the last one of the school year is held in April with our band banquet in May. Our next band parents meeting in August 24.

Bill Connell explained to the parents that the band is an all-inclusive band. Everyone makes up the football band. A select group of the kids will make up the contest or performance band. The contest band will perform at the marching competitions and during halftime at the football games. The football band will perform a pre-game show when we are the home team and will perform in the stands at all of the football games. They will audition for the contest band in July. The football band will go to all of the competitions to watch and support the contest band. All freshman must participate in marching band. After freshman year, a student can choose to be just in concert band.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Kindred