

# Grissom Band Parents Association, Inc. Newsletter

August 2003

Editors - Cynthia Brooks & Mitzi Crawford



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Of course we all know that school started August 6th, but for our students school began much earlier. Many of our students were at practices, workshops, and just working on band stuff throughout the summer getting ready for another banner year. Full band practice began in earnest July 23rd !!! The Grissom Band is fortunate to have such a great group of kids (and parents) giving it their all. It takes everyone to make this successful program work.

Our first football game is Friday, **August 22nd**. Please make plans to attend to show support for the band and the school. If you haven't had the opportunity to watch the students practice, you are in for a real treat. I also encourage you to drop by practices throughout the marching season and watch them excel!

Just a reminder - the sectional carwashes held at Advance Auto MUST have an adult present at all times. This adult will be responsible for getting the collected donations to our treasurers or the directors. Also, students need to make certain that the hoses are drained and "tools" are put away properly. At one of the most recent car washes, the way materials were stowed caused a mess for the Advance Auto people to clean up. They have generously donated the use of their facilities each year and we certainly do not want to jeopardize it. We have done fairly well in donations for the Max Hammond Memorial Instrument Fund. We only have a couple of carwashes remaining so let's keep the momentum going!!

If you haven't visited the website lately you are missing a great source for information. Ron Lewis has done a wonderful job in posting newsletters, spirit products, etc., and new additions seem to be occurring daily. Be sure to visit the site at [www.grissomband.org](http://www.grissomband.org) regularly for the most up-to-date information.

Our first band parent's meeting will be held **August 25th** at 7PM, but plan to come early. The PTSA president has notified us that Governor Bob Riley will be discussing the upcoming tax proposal beginning at 6PM in the auditorium. This portion of the meeting will be short as the Governor has other commitments that evening. Please plan to attend, with the band meeting immediately following. Among our topics of discussion at the band meeting will be the operating budget for the 2003/2004 school year, introduction of committee chairs, and the director's comments for the upcoming year.

Please take a few moments and read the newsletter thoroughly each month. It contains important information pertaining to your child and their activities with the band. I am looking forward to renewing relationships with returning band parents and building new relationships with the incoming parents.

Sincerely,

Teresa Montgomery  
President 2003/2004

## GRISSOM BAND PARENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2003-2004

**Teresa Montgomery**, President  
881-9387; [tdmont@HiWaay.net](mailto:tdmont@HiWaay.net)  
**Greg Harris**, 1st Vice President  
880-7564; [harris4au@knology.net](mailto:harris4au@knology.net)  
**Karen Parker**, 2nd Vice President  
883-4622; [parker23@knology.net](mailto:parker23@knology.net)  
**Doris Lewis**, Secretary  
881-3154; [dslewis@knology.net](mailto:dslewis@knology.net)  
**Julie Ashcraft**, Treasurer  
650-5043; [julie22@ashcraft.net](mailto:julie22@ashcraft.net)  
**Kathy Francica**, Treasurer  
883-7132; [KFrancica@bellsouth.net](mailto:KFrancica@bellsouth.net)  
**Bill Connell & Theo Vernon**, Directors  
881-1075 (bandroom)

## Committees

### Chaperones

**Debbie Rose**: 882-9694; [ROSEDJSCJ@aol.com](mailto:ROSEDJSCJ@aol.com)  
**Loren Foster**: 885-0743; [LBF8887@hotmail.com](mailto:LBF8887@hotmail.com)

### Color Guard

**Joyce Amos**: 883-0168; [joyce.amos@comcast.net](mailto:joyce.amos@comcast.net)

### Concerts

**Nan Kirk**: 881-3690; [Kirk195@comcast.net](mailto:Kirk195@comcast.net)  
**Monica Geiss**: 881-4314; [MGeis@juno.com](mailto:MGeis@juno.com)

### Fruit Sales

**Lisa Johnstone**: 881-6453

### Hospitality

**Janet Wade**: 880-8116; [JWadeSews@aol.com](mailto:JWadeSews@aol.com)

### Newsletter

**Cynthia Brooks**: 880-6669; [brooks1981@knology.net](mailto:brooks1981@knology.net)  
**Mitzi Crawford**: 882-2115; [mitzi.crawford@adtran.com](mailto:mitzi.crawford@adtran.com)  
\*Please send email corrections to us!

### Webmaster

**Ron Lewis**: 881-3154; [RCLewis@knology.net](mailto:RCLewis@knology.net)

### Publicity

**Kristi Fugit**: 881-1072

### Stadium Setup

**Colleen Toth**: 880-5852; [drummom13@aol.com](mailto:drummom13@aol.com)

### Transportation

**Karen Ivey**: 881-5291; [KarenI@HHSYS.org](mailto:KarenI@HHSYS.org)

### Trucks

**Rick Cornelius**: 650-5955; [RHC@knology.net](mailto:RHC@knology.net)

### Uniforms

**Tiffeny Hubbard**: 880-3669; [UniformFairy@msn.com](mailto:UniformFairy@msn.com)

## Practice! Practice! Practice!

It is very important that ALL students practice outside of class time. We understand that some students cannot practice an hour every day, but it is vital to the individual player's improvement to consistently spend QUALITY time on the instrument outside of band class. Failure to do so will result in your child not improving on their instrument. As others improve and your child does not, the resulting problems are obvious and can lead to the child dropping out of band.

THIS IS THE LAST THING THAT WE WANT TO HAPPEN!! KEEP THEM INTERESTED! KEEP THEM PRACTICING!!



## We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do!!



Show your support for the Grissom Marching Tiger Band by wearing your band apparel. We are taking orders for T-shirts, polo-shirts, windbreakers, sweatshirts and hats.

The items can be ordered with either **Grissom Band** or **Grissom Band Parent**, logo so please indicate your choice for each item. Check the samples out at the Band parent meeting or on the band website under **Spirit**. You may browse and place a Spirit order over the web, but we do need payment in advance so we can pay when we pick up our order. Please make your check out to **Grissom Band Parents** and indicate on the memo line **Spirit** and also put your student's name, then just drop your payment envelope in the band treasurer's box. We will set up dates for pick up at the band room (after practice) once we determine when the order will be ready.

## Rechargeable Gift Cards

If you have not done so already, why not buy a rechargeable gift card (for a national grocery chain) from the band, and use it to earn a 2% rebate of what you spend on groceries for your student's band account?

We have cards on hand (the old cards from about a year ago will not earn credit). Each gift card has a \$5 value and you decide how much and when you recharge it. If you spend \$600/month on groceries (buying them with your card), you could make \$12/month or about \$144 per year for your band account! If you sign up other families to do the same and credit your student, you earn even more!

Contact Karen Parker for details:  
883-4622 or [parker23@knology.net](mailto:parker23@knology.net)



## \$ Treasurer's Box \$

THANK YOU to everyone who paid their band dues during uniform fitting! *Whew!* Tell yourself, the worst of it is over! The largest portion of our expenses occurs during marching season (now!), so your promptness is necessary and appreciated.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, do it NOW to avoid the 20% penalty that will be applied to all unpaid dues after **September 1st**. Special arrangements can be made. Please contact us to work out the details.



### Band Fees for the 2003-2004 School Year

Marching-\$300 plus fair share credit hours equal to \$200 or a cash equivalent

Concert Only-\$245 plus fair share credit hours equal to \$200 or a cash equivalent

Guard Only-\$270 plus fair share credit hours equal to \$100 or a cash equivalent

Jazz Only-\$150

Students who are exempt from school fees based on their family income are also exempt from band dues, *but not from fair share hours*. Half of the fair share portion is due by the end of the first semester and the second half by the end of March 31, 2004 (or before Senior Trip).

If your student rents a band instrument or is in the percussion/pit section, your \$45 rental fee for fall semester is due now.

According to the Grissom Band Student Handbook:

"NO UNIFORM WILL BE ASSIGNED UNTIL ALL DUES ARE PAID OR A PROMISSORY NOTE IS SIGNED ARRANGING FOR PAYMENT OVER TIME."

### Show Me The Money!!

1. Make checks payable to **Grissom Band Parent Association** -or **GBPA**- and put purpose of check and student's name (especially if you don't share the same last name) in the note section. Then, do one of the following:
2. Place fee (or have your reliable student do it) in the Treasurer's Box located in the Band Room, right outside the Director's office.

*or*

Mail payment to:

*Grissom Band Parent Association*

*P. O. Box 4335*

*Huntsville, Al. 35815*

*or*

Pay fees at the Band Parents Meeting (4th Monday of each month @ 7:00).

Yes, we all agree it is a lot of money. And, yes, we all feel equally strongly that this is the elite group of dedicated, self-disciplined, hard-working, smart, talented, and successful young people that we want our child to be a part of. And so, as parents, we do our part...

Let us know what we can do to help you!

**Julie Ashcraft**

650-5043

**julie22@ashcraft.net**

**Kathy Francica**

883-7132

**KFrancica@bellsouth.net**

## Director's Notes

Please be sure to check the calendar and web site for all band activities. This calendar has been published since mid-July so everyone can make arrangements to fulfill their Grissom Band commitment. Thank you for looking ahead and making arrangements to attend all activities.

Band Camp went extremely well and the start of school is going well too! We are very proud of what the students have accomplished so far and look forward to an exciting marching season. Please note that all students must have their band fees paid before a band T-shirt can be issued for the first game on **August 22nd**. We will wear the band T-Shirt, khaki shorts and white tennis shoes for the first few games. We will announce when we will wear full uniforms.



## Band T-shirts

We will take additional orders for the band T-shirts at the band parent meeting. Once you see them you will all want one! Cost is \$10 per shirt and \$12 for XXXL shirts.

## Reminder for "Out of Town" Football Games

For all "out of town" football games we hire a police officer to sit in the parking lot to watch our vehicles. A long time ago we had some vandalism to cars while we were gone. This is why we provide this service. The cost is \$2.00 per car. If you will be chaperoning or a student leaving their car in the parking lot until we return, please pay the \$2.00 the day we depart. Only vehicles in the South parking lot by the band room will be watched. There will be an envelope next to the director's office to sign your name, give your \$2.00, and get a parking ticket to put in your car window.



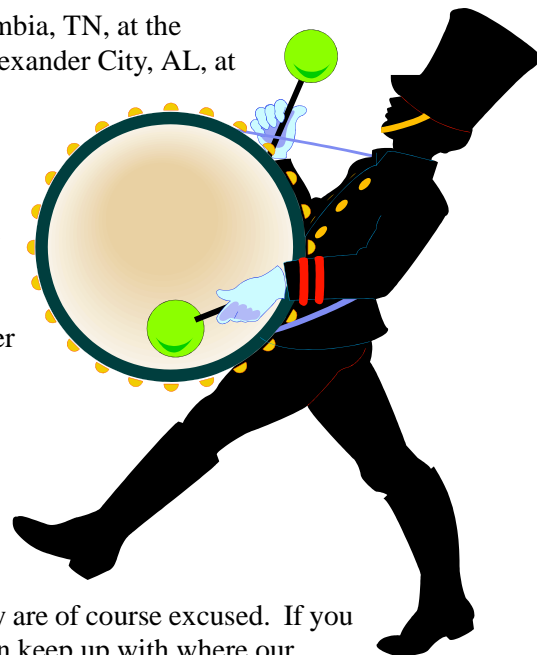
Our first "out of town" football game is on September 4th in Montgomery, AL. We will be taking one bus for a pep band with senior and section leader volunteers. We will only have room for 40 students so first come first served. We will leave school Thursday probably after lunch and return Friday morning between 1 and 2AM! Thursday afternoon will be an excused absence but Friday will not.

All other "out of town" football games will involve all marching band members leaving after school and returning between 10:30- and 11:30pm.

### MARCHING CONTEST SCHEDULE

Make plans to attend our two marching contests: **September 27th** (in Columbia, TN, at the Columbia Central High School Invitational Contest) and **October 4th** (in Alexander City, AL, at the Lake Martin Invitation Marching Contest held at the Charles E. Bailey Sportsplex). Itineraries will be handed out the week of each contest once we receive performance times.

We will be spending the night in Birmingham on **October 3rd** since we have a game at Shades Valley High School that night. Saturday morning we will travel to Benjamin Russell HS for a 2-hour rehearsal prior to attending the contest activities. There will be a charge for the hotel that night of \$20.00 per student. Please make checks out to Grissom Band Parents.



### MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS

Please understand that attendance at ALL marching rehearsals is *mandatory*. Your child's 9 weeks grade will include attendance at each rehearsal. Students who have unexcused absences from rehearsals will have points deducted from their grade. Please do not ask students to miss rehearsals for birthdays, baby sitting, etc. Family emergencies such as a death in the family are of course excused. If you do have an emergency, please try to let us know as soon as you can so we can keep up with where our students are.

We have a limited amount of rehearsal time, so those students that are absent create major problems for the others who do attend. We waste time teaching the same material over and over to those that are absent. To put it in perspective, if everyone missed one rehearsal we would have 200 absences from 16 full rehearsals (Tuesday and Thursday evenings) during August and September. That's 12 to 13 people absent from each rehearsal! Imagine a performance with that many people missing. It would look like a person smiling with half their teeth missing!! YUCK!!

<b>Rehearsal Schedule</b>		
<b>Percussion</b>	<i>Monday</i>	4-7PM
	<i>Tuesday</i>	7:30-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM
<b>Color Guard</b>	<i>Monday</i>	6-9PM
	<i>Tuesday</i>	7:30-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM
<b>Woodwinds and Brass</b>	<i>Tuesday</i>	6-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM

**\*\*\*\*The week of the marching contests (September 27 and October 4), Percussion and Guard will be at the full Tuesday evening rehearsal from 6:00-9:00pm for last minute preparations.\*\*\*\***

**After the marching contests (fall break), marching rehearsals will be only the day before each game from 3:25-4:30, immediately after school. No other marching band rehearsals will be scheduled.**

## PROPOSED BUDGET

<b>Income</b>	
Band Fees	64,000.00
Carryover Income	1,000.00
Concerts	1,750.00
Contributions	0.00
Fair Share	42,000.00
<b>Fund Raisers</b>	
Fruit Sales	20,000.00
Misc. Fund Raisers	<u>2,000.00</u>
<b>Total Fund Raisers</b>	22,000.00
Instrument Rental	5,000.00
Interest Income	250.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00
Resale	<u>2,000.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	138,000.00
<b>Expense</b>	
Awards/Graduation	1,500.00
Band Banquet	3,500.00
Clinician Fees	10,000.00
Competitions (Non-Marching)	4,000.00
Copier Expenses	4,500.00
Directors' Related	19,000.00
Guard Related	3,500.00
Instrument Maintenance & Repair	6,000.00
Instruments & Equipment	12,500.00
Insurance	3,000.00
Jazz Band Related	1,000.00
Marching Program	39,000.00
Miscellaneous Expense	2,500.00
Music	10,000.00
Resale Items	1,000.00
Supplies	1,250.00
Telephone / Internet	1,750.00
Uniform Fund Annual Contrib.	10,000.00
Uniform Related	<u>4,000.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	138,000.00



## WISH LIST

The following is a list of needs for the band office throughout the year. We are trying to cut our costs for supplies and miscellaneous items from our budget. If any of you feel so inclined to donate any of these items to the band it will be greatly appreciated. We use these items throughout the year so anytime you can get them to us would be great!! We will have an updated list for each newsletter.

Thank you!!!



- Copier paper - letter and legal size
- Color copier paper for concert programs
- 9 volt batteries
- AA batteries
- 4 Motorola, or similar, 2 Way radios with head-sets (Trips, District Contest, Jazz Festival)
- Legal size white envelopes
- Printer Cartridges  
    HP 15 Black  
    Canon BC 02 Black
- Blank CD-R discs and cases - Good Quality
- CD labels - plain white
- Balloons 16-inch helium quality LOTS!!! Any color.
- Socket wrench set
- Duck Tape
- Black Sharpies
- White address labels for computer use (Avery #5160)

## CONCERT NEWS

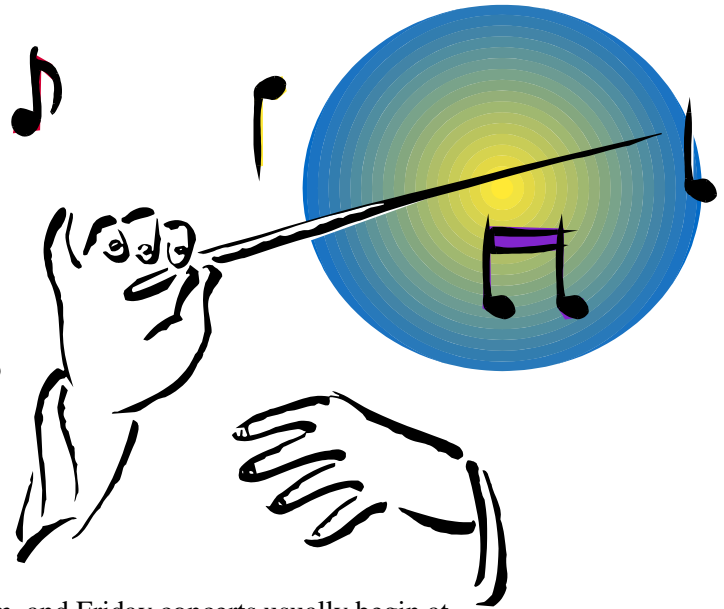
### Max Hammond Concert

The second annual Max Hammond Concert will be held at Grissom on **September 12th** to honor the Grissom Band alumnus, Max Hammond, who died in the terrorist attacks of 9/11. All money raised at this benefit concert will go into the fund set up in his name to purchase new instruments for our band. Donations to the Max Hammond Instrument Fund are always welcome.

### Concert Tickets

Again this year, each student will receive eight free Grissom Band concert tickets when his or her basic dues are paid (not to include FAIR SHARE hours). Once dues are paid, the parent/guardian will be given a set of eight concert tickets (per band student) which can be used at any of the three regular concerts of 2003-2004 -- the Fall Concert, the Holiday Concert, or the Spring Concert. The Winter Pre-District Concert with the Middle School bands will be FREE OF CHARGE again this year! (The free concert tickets are not accepted at the Max Hammond Concert, Potpourri, Hilaritas, or Jazz Concerts.) Each ticket admits one person (adult, student or senior).

The free tickets will be available for pickup, by a parent or guardian, at the September and October band parent meetings and at the first concert in November. To ensure timely delivery of these tickets, they will NOT be issued to the students. Tickets will not be replaced or refunded for any reason, and they do not carry over from year to year. Additional tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5.00 (adult) or \$3.00 (school-age children or senior citizens).



### Friendly Reminders

Remember that mid-week concerts usually begin at 7:00 pm, and Friday concerts usually begin at 7:30 pm! If you arrive late or must leave early, please enter/exit the auditorium only when the band has finished their piece (i.e., during the applause or between bands). Always turn your cell phones to the silent mode, and NO flash photography while the band is playing, please. Many of the concerts will be recorded, and CDs and/or videos will be available for purchase.

### Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to collect tickets and money and hand out programs at the concerts. Please consider signing up to help at one concert. Thanks!

Nan Kirk and Monica Geis  
*Concert Committee Co-Chairmen*

**Nan**  
881-3690  
[kirk195@comcast.net](mailto:kirk195@comcast.net)

**Monica**  
881-4314  
[Mgeis@juno.com](mailto:Mgeis@juno.com)

## Marching Season Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsal Schedule		
<b>Percussion</b>	<i>Monday</i>	4-7PM
	<i>Tuesday</i>	7:30-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM
<b>Color Guard</b>	<i>Monday</i>	6-9PM
	<i>Tuesday</i>	7:30-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM
<b>Woodwinds/ Brass</b>	<i>Tuesday</i>	6-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM

## Other Dates to Remember August/September

Aug. 25	Band Parents Meeting Grissom Auditorium @ 7PM
Sept. 11	Setup for Max Hammond Concert
Sept. 12	Max Hammond Concert Grissom Auditorium @ 7:30PM
Sept. 22	Band Parents Meeting Grissom Auditorium @ 7PM
Sept. 27	Marching Contest Columbia, TN. All day.

## Grissom Tigers 2003 Football Schedule

Aug. 22	Friday	Lee	MF
Aug. 29	Friday	Butler	MF
Sept. 4	Thursday	RE Lee	Away
Sept. 11	Thursday	Sparkman	MF
Sept. 19	Friday	Decatur	Away
Sept. 26	Friday	Huntsville	MF
Oct. 3	Friday	Shades Valley	Away
Oct. 10	Friday	Minor	MF
Oct. 17	Friday	Austin	Away
Oct. 23	Thursday	Bob Jones (HC)	MF
Oct. 31	Friday	Johnson	MF



### Thank You!!!

The GHS Band Parents would like to thank the following businesses in our community for their continued generous support of our program:

- Advance Auto
- Bruno's (Bailey Cove)
- Rosie's
- Rolo's
- Kroger
- Publix (Mountain Cove Xing)
- Staples

And a special thank you to the *Daniel Foundation of Alabama* for making a \$4000.00 contribution to the band for the Symphonic/Concert band camp held in January.

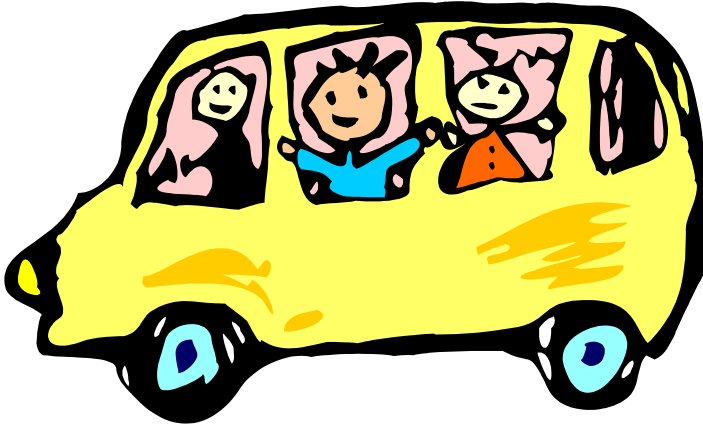
## Help Us Ease on Down the Road!

No, those busses don't just magically appear! There is "behind the scenes" action taking place to make it all happen! And if you've always wondered how we pull it off year after year, then today is your lucky day!! Because...we need volunteers to help Karen Ivey on the transportation

committee. This is a great way to get involved and help out our wonderful organization. To be honest, we just can't imagine getting those kids from Point A to Point B without you! :o)

If you are interested, please contact Karen. She can be reached by phone at 881-5291 or just drop her an e-mail (KarenI@HHSYS.org).

Thanks for your support!



## Hydration Donations

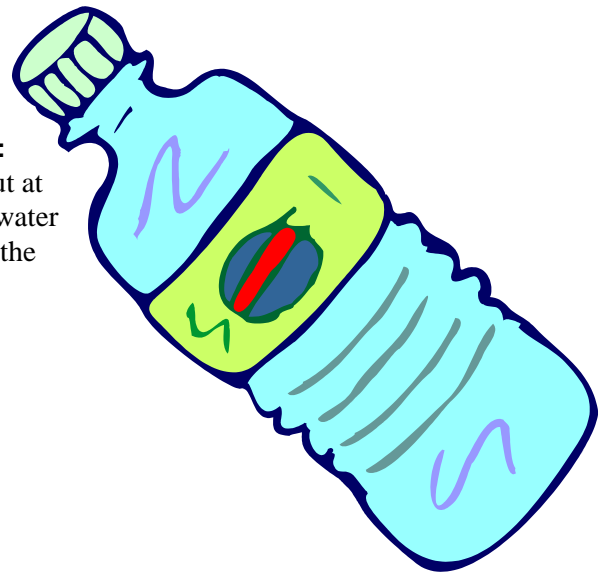
If you can, please make a cash donation *or* bring in one or two cases of bottled water to the bandroom. It will be *greatly appreciated!* If you choose to send money, make checks payable to **GHSBPA (attn: WATER DONATIONS)**. We currently have requests for donations out at various businesses in our area, BUT we still need *a lot* of water. This water is given out at halftime after the band performs. In the early part of the season, our students get very thirsty due to the heat.

Please help out in any way you can.

Thank You!

Colleen Toth

Stadium Set-Up Chair



## Keep On Truckin' ....

Here's a fun way to support the Band!! Join the Truck Team. No special training required. We drive trucks to band events and assist the band in getting equipment on the field.

If you're interested, please contact Rick Cornelius!

(H) 650-5955

(W) 650-5955

(C) 755-0035



**GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL  
GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 4335  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35815**

---

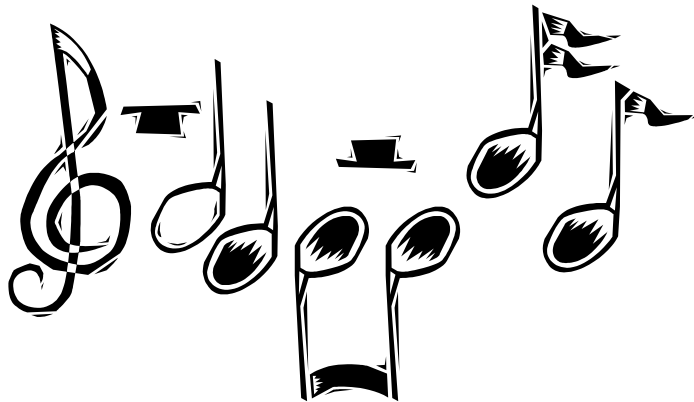
**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HUNTSVILLE, AL  
PERMIT NO. 495**

---

**BAND PARENTS  
MEETING  
MONDAY  
AUGUST 25  
7PM - BANDROOM  
See you there!**



***GHS Band Parents Association  
August Newsletter***



**[www.grissomband.org](http://www.grissomband.org)**