



Grissom Band Parents Association, Inc. Newsletter

September 2004

Editors - Mitzi Crawford & Judy Hardwick

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Football season is in full swing; I hope you have been able to attend some of the games. I want to thank the truck crew, stadium committee, uniform committee and the chaperones for their dedication to our band. Now that we are wearing uniforms, we will need even more volunteers. If you see us rolling out stadium cushions, or handing out plumes or water, don't be bashful, just jump right in and help. If you want to help and don't know where to jump in at, holler at me and I'll point you in the right direction. Believe it or not, you will have fun. It is also a great way to meet some of the other band parents.

Our first marching competition is **Saturday, September 25** in Columbia, TN. Our kids have worked many hard hours in their rehearsals and will amaze you with their performance. I urge you, if at all possible, to attend this event. More information is available on the website.

Unfortunately, "Stormworks" has impacted our fundraising for this year. Hurricane Frances affected our fruit sales (see Karen Parker's article) and Hurricane Ivan blew our chance to work the Toyota Picnic. The band board has met and voted on a contingency budget plan, but I want to make sure that all parents realize that the fruit sale loss will impact the amount of credits that are available to earn towards your fees. The fundraising committee is busy reviewing other opportunities, and we will hope for the best in our fruit sale situation.

I want to encourage you to read all of this newsletter, and bookmark our website (www.grissomband.org) on your home computer because it contains valuable information. Many times the handouts from the directors never make it out of your child's instrument case until after the event. However, our webmaster does a great job of posting all handouts and general information and band needs on the website. Our students work hard, and it is up to the parents to provide support, guidance and encouragement throughout the year.

Thank you for the great turnout at the August band parent meeting. What a fabulous showing of support for the kids! The next band parent meeting is **September 27**. At that meeting, we will also provide more information on the **October 14** Parent/Alumni Band. Hope to see you there, and maybe you will be the door prize winner this month.

Sincerely,
Cherry Hovik
President 2004/2005

GRISSOM BAND PARENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2004-2005

Cherry Hovik, President
882-6190; cjhovik@comcast.net
Greg Harris, 1st Vice President
880-7564; harris4au@knology.net
Karen Parker, 2nd Vice President
883-4622; parker23@knology.net
Doris Lewis, Secretary
881-3154; dslewis@knology.net
Julie Ashcraft, Treasurer
650-5043; julie23@ashcraft.net
Kathy Francica, Treasurer
883-7132; KFrancica@bellsouth.net
Bill Connell & Theo Vernon, Directors
881-1075 (bandroom)

Committees

Chaperones

Debbie Rose: 882-9694; ROSEDJSCJ@aol.com
Loren Foster: 883-5643; LBF8887@hotmail.com

Scrip

Nelson and Karen Parker: parker23@knology.net

Hospitality

Lynn Dowling: 881-5058; lynnddowling@yahoo.com
Rachel Rawls: 881-3263; brawls@hiwaay.net

Concerts

Monica Geiss: 881-4314; MGeis@juno.com
Colleen Toth: Drummom13@aol.com

Fruit Sales Scheduling

Jan Baker: 650-0915; janqueenbee1@knology.net

Newsletter

Mitzi Crawford: 882-2115; mcrawford1@knology.net
Judy Hardwick: Judhrdwk@knology.net
*Please send email corrections to us!

Webmaster

Ron Lewis: 881-3154; RCLewis@knology.net

Hawaii Coordinator

Jim and Sheila Kirsch: jckirsch@knology.net

Publicity

Kristi Fugit: 881-1072; kristi.fugit@ngc.com

Stadium Setup

Jennifer Todd: 656-3802; jendav5@yahoo.com
Jim and Debbie Krenn: 883-7811

Transportation

Karen Ivey: 881-5291; KarenI@HHSYS.org

Trucks

Rick Cornelius: 650-5955; RHC@knology.net

Uniforms

Tiffeny Hubbard: 880-3669; UniformFairy@msn.com

Historian

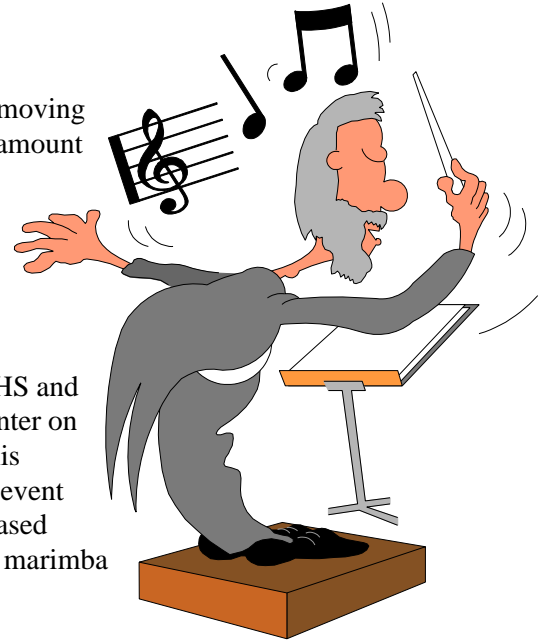
Susan Fields: fielddocs@knology.net

Director's Notes

Max Hammond Concert

Hopefully you and yours were able to attend this concert. It truly was a very moving evening. All the students performed wonderfully, especially considering the amount of time they had to prepare! We certainly want to thank Concert Choir and Images Dance Company for their most meaningful contribution to the concert. It just would not be the same without them! The collaboration between everyone in the Fine Arts Department is very important. This is just one example of that work together.

To give you a little background about this concert: Max was a graduate of GHS and a member of the band. He was on the second plane to hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. His family has graciously agreed to allow us to honor his memory by having this concert annually and by using the proceeds from this event and others to purchase instruments in his name. To date, the band has purchased several instruments through this fund including sousaphones, mellophones, a marimba and a vibraphone.



“B” Jazz Band Performance at meeting

The “B” Jazz Band will perform at the beginning of the band parent meeting right at 7:00pm so please be there to hear them. They are working very hard to learn the language of JAZZ!

Marching Band Contests

Our two marching contests are here!! All the students have been working very hard to try and perfect this year’s show. We realize we have kept the students a little late at times for these evening rehearsals but we just had stuff to announce and do to get them as prepared as we can with the limited amount of marching rehearsals we have had over the past few weeks. We appreciate your understanding of us working with 220+ students to prepare them to perform up to their potential as best they can. We know you want them to be the best they can be and so do they.

I think we are jinxed by the title of this year’s show “Stormworks”. Next year we will name it “Sunshine of My Life”. :)

We finished the show last Tuesday night so everyone will see the finished product during our post game show after the Huntsville game on **Sept. 24th**. Please plan on staying and watching your students perform the contest show in its entirety.

The Color Guard has had some extra rehearsals because their performance requires much more intricate marching, equipment work, and dance movements. It takes longer to perfect these aspects, so please be sure to thank them for working those extra hours to help bring about the “Color” to our marching band performance. Just wait until you see the new uniforms and new flags!!! They are going to look GREAT!!!!

We will have maps to both contests available in the band room the week of that contest. Please come and support our band!!

September 25th Marching Band trip to Columbia, TN

Saturday, September 25 the marching band will travel to Columbia, Tennessee, to compete in the first of two contests this year. A detailed itinerary has been passed out to the students and it is posted on the website.

Basic schedule is listed here:

12:15pm - Band room opens.

12:45pm – Check role in the band room. Get hats off carts for rehearsal.

1:00pm – Rehearsal begins.

3:00pm – Rehearsal ends.

4:00pm – Depart for Columbia.

8:00pm – Warm-up.

9:20pm – PERFORMANCE!!

10:15pm – Awards Ceremony.

1:30-2:00am – Approximate arrival back to Grissom.

We certainly encourage you to travel to Columbia not only to see our band but the others that are participating. There will be bands there from Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. If you have never been to a marching band contest before IT IS QUITE A SPECTACLE!!! You will certainly enjoy it!! Columbia will be hosting a festival for the bands in Middle Tennessee during the day and then hosting the contest that evening. Festivals have rating only (superior, excellent, etc.) while the contest has 1st, 2nd place, etc. Both events are open to the public.

The bands are adjudicated in three separate areas to make up the final score. The first area is MUSIC. Each band is judged not only on how well they play their music, but also on their tone quality, musicality and ability to play while marching. The second overall area is MARCHING AND MANEUVERING. This area covers everything that they do visually and how well they do it. Things such as how well the shapes are formed and how well those forms are controlled while moving is judged. The judges also look to see if everyone is ‘in step’ (on the same foot at the same time) and on the beat. The third and final area is GENERAL EFFECT. This is basically how well the music and marching are done together, how well the show fits together (whether there is continuity/flow) and what kind of impact this overall package has or doesn’t have. Some of these areas are somewhat subjective as you can imagine, but most is objective for the most part.

October 2nd Marching Band Trip to Marietta, GA

The marching band will travel to Marietta, Georgia **October 2nd** to compete in our last marching band contest of the year. We will be spending the night in the Atlanta area that night after the competition is over. Transportation is paid from your band fees, but we must ask you to pay \$25 per student for lodging. Students may stay 5 to a room in this particular hotel. There are two oversized double beds plus a queen pullout sofa. The \$25 also includes breakfast at the hotel before departure. It is not a continental breakfast with just fruit juice and muffins, but a full breakfast in a private dining room. This was due on **September 3**. **The students who have paid will be able to sign the room lists. Be sure all debts to the band are paid or your child will not travel with us to either contest. Call Julie Ashcraft to check your account.** Remember, checks are made out to Grissom Band and placed in the treasurer’s box by the directors’ office. **NO CASH PLEASE!!** Thanks!

We do not have a schedule for this contest yet. We may have it by the meeting and we will post it on the website. Since it is a prelims/finals contest (we have to make a certain score in the afternoon show to qualify for the finals competition that evening) we plan on meeting early Saturday morning, no later than 8 am. Sunday, we plan on returning to Huntsville by early afternoon, between 1-2 pm. Specifics to be announced as soon as we get the schedule from Atlanta.

**AmeriSuites-Galleria Hotel
2876 Spring Hill Parkway
Smyrna, GA 30080
770-384-0060**

Wish List

Throughout the year the band needs items that really add up in costs. If you feel that you can help us out by sending in some of these items, it will be very helpful.

- Copier paper (both letter and legal sizes)
- Color Copier paper (for concert programs)
- Legal Size (no. 10) white envelopes
- White Address labels (Avery # 5160) for computer use
- 9 volt batteries
- AA batteries
- Duck tape
- Black Sharpies
- Inkjet printable blank CDs
- CD cases either slim or regular

Master Classes and Private Lessons

We will have several professional musicians that will be working with our students during the school year. They will be teaching master classes and private lessons. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER TAKE PRIVATE LESSONS ON THEIR INSTRUMENT!! THIS VASTLY IMPROVES THEIR INDIVIDUAL PLAYING, THUS MAKING IT MORE FUN! AS A BY PRODUCT, THE BAND ALSO IMPROVES!! IT IS WELL WORTH THE TIME AND MONEY.** The band directors can make recommendations for available private teachers

Smart Music

We have available for the students to purchase a software package called Smart Music. It is an all- inclusive package that includes accompaniments for hundreds of solos, warm-up exercises and etudes (studies that focus on different aspects of your child's playing) that will actually adjust to the tempo (speed) that the person is playing, plus a built-in tuner and metronome! The cost is \$20 for the software and \$10 for the microphone. You would pay that for just a metronome alone! Orders can be placed with the directors. Delivery usually takes less than 14 days. Please take advantage of this school discount. Buying the program on an individual basis would cost \$100. Take advantage of this marvelous teaching and learning tool. Not only is it beneficial, it is also FUN!!!

Calendar

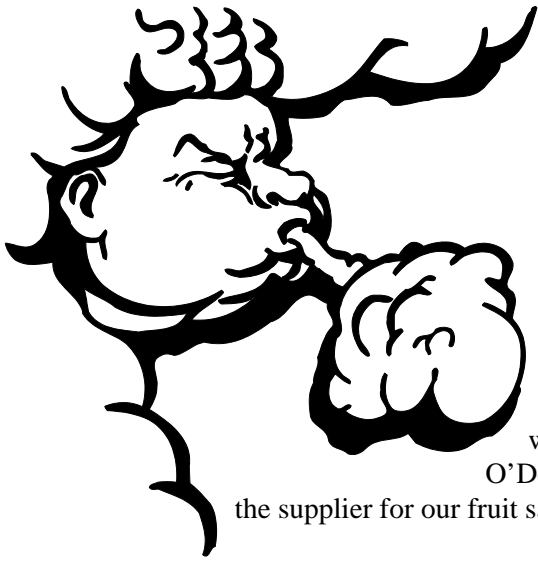
Your son/daughter should have gotten home with a calendar of the year's band activities. If you haven't seen one yet, ask your child. We will have plenty of copies at the band parent's meeting on the 27th. Until then, all these dates are listed on the band web site. Please refer to this calendar to avoid conflicts. ***Please remember: all band performances are required. Students with an unexcused absence from a performance will not receive a passing grade for the grading period in which the absence occurs. The directors need to know as soon as possible if there is a performance date conflict. We can be reached by email or by phone-881.1075. Rehearsals after school are also required and the attendance at these rehearsals is taken into account when grades are calculated. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal results in 10 points being deducted from the student's 9-week grade. Please try to avoid conflicts with doctor's appointments etc. on days that we have after school rehearsals. These dates are posted on the web site and are listed on the calendar that was handed out to the students.***

Band Banquet Date

The date for the annual band banquet is **Friday, April 29, 2005**. Site to be announced. This is a great culmination of the year's activities and we hope everyone will attend. More details later.

Final Note...

There is an interesting article in the September 13th Newsweek that is entitled "How to Say NO to Your Kids." We found some useful and interesting information.



Fruit Sale Update (or Is Our Fruit Gone With the Wind???)

As we are all painfully aware, this has been an exceptionally active hurricane season. Charley did not seem to directly impact our crop, however, Frances was another story. We have remained in regular contact with our supplier (the O'Dells) to assess status since the storm struck Florida. The O'Dells have been the supplier for our fruit sales for many years so, in a way, they are a part of our band family.

The O'Dells own a beach house near Ft. Pierce, which sustained extensive damage. The storm surge deposited about 3 feet of mud inside and around their house. They have salvaged very little of the contents. They have been without power, gas, gasoline or water for quite some time. The nearest hotel with a roof (and suitable for habitation) is a 90 minute drive, so they are staying with family members and friends. The O'Dells have been great supporters of Grissom Band during the years we have sold their fruit. Several members of our band family have asked how we can help them. I have conveyed this to Mr. O'Dell. I have also discussed with one of the owners of the trucking company that handles our citrus fruit and he agreed that if the O'Dells identify items they need, the band can collect what we can and the trucking company will deliver it for us. We are waiting for the O'Dells to let us know what they need and we will start collecting. Please help us help these wonderful people when the opportunity comes.

The citrus groves are located several miles away from the beach-house and with gasoline in such shortage, the family has not been able to fully assess the situation (at the time this article was written). Although we do not yet know the actual extent of the damage or the impact on our citrus supply this year, we expect to hear more very soon. We do anticipate to see the greatest loss by far to be grapefruit. The board members have already started contingency planning. We must also consider that if a reduced crop is available, prices will probably be higher and we just don't know how our customers will respond. At this point all is speculation until we get definite information. We are anticipating reductions in our income from fruit sales this year and also reductions in the number of "credits" that may be available for working the sales, in the event we have fewer sales and/or less fruit for the sales. Due to Hurricane Ivan, we also have lost the Toyota Picnic fundraiser, which we had hoped to help us offset expected shortages in fruit sale profits this year. Please keep this in mind. We will keep you posted as information becomes available.

Nelson & Karen Parker
Fruit Sales Coordinators

\$ Treasurer's Box \$

Our chief source of funding for the Band program (second only to fees) is the 8 or so FRUIT SALES of the lovely citrus fruit from Florida. Our customers love it, our band program counts on it, and many parents rely on it to help pay for fees and extras, such as trips. We are all watching VERY CLOSELY to see how the rash of hurricanes will affect this year's crop. **** (SEE KAREN PARKER'S ARTICLE on page 5!) **** Be assured that plans are already in the works for some financial "belt-tightening" to offset loss of income, should this become necessary. We may also need to look at some limited fundraising. This year, perhaps more than ever before, it will be **vitaly important** to pay all fees in a timely manner. If we lose any portion of the Fruit Sale fundraiser, we will **need** all remaining sources of income to be fully funded in order to sustain our Band Program at the level you have come to expect. Come to the Band Parent Meeting and watch the newsletters for updates on this situation.



Thank you to all those who have paid their band fees. Fees are now past due. A 20% penalty will be applied to the unpaid dues, in accordance with the bylaws, if prior arrangements for payment have not been made.

If your student is renting an instrument from the band, or is in the percussion or pit section, rental fees of \$45 for the fall semester are now due.

“How/Where Do I Pay?”

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.
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)

Feel free to contact us with any questions. We'll do our best to help!

Julie Ashcraft

650-5043

Julie23@ashcraft.net

Kathy Francica

883-7132

KFrancica@bellsouth.net

Stadium Setup Committee

Yes -- we are still collecting water!! Please don't forget us when you go to the store. Debbie or I will be at Thursday night practices to collect the donations. Thank you to those who have donated your wheeled coolers.

We will be wearing uniforms for the rest of the season. Look for us starting Friday (Sept. 24th) to help roll out seat covers. We ask that anyone who comes early help roll out, and the same with rolling up. Many hands make light work.

Go Tigers!

Jennifer Todd (c: 656-3802; w: 876-4458)

Jim & Debbie Krenn (h: 883-7811)



Scrip News

Scrip gift certificates and rechargeable grocery K-cards provide an easy way to earn credits and help the band at the same time. The trick is to think ahead about what you plan to buy anyway and buy/order scrip to use for payment. A list of participating merchants is available on the band website.

We sell scrip and K-cards at concerts (except Max Hammond) and band parent meetings. Why not stop by and see what we offer? If we don't have "on hand" the scrip you need, just place an order and we'll get it for you. We order scrip about every two weeks, based on response. We maintain a "deadline" date for the next scrip order on the band website. To place an order, turn in your order form along with payment (either a check to "Grissom Band" or cash) directly to the Parkers. If you would like to place an order, just send us an email or give us a call and we'll work out details. Please also let us know if you have questions.

We also have the \$5 rechargeable grocery cards available anytime. These are by far our easiest way to earn credits if you happen to shop at that store chain. You might consider buying these rechargeable grocery cards for friends, co-workers or family (even out of state) who agree to recharge them to help your student. You could receive your \$5 investment back in short order, particularly if they are regular shoppers. Remember although the card looks just like the ones they sell at the store, but your card MUST be purchased from GRISSOM BAND for your student to receive credits from the recharges.



Thanks for continuing to support Grissom Band!

Nelson & Karen Parker
parker23@knology.net
883-4622

From the Chaperones . . .

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be a chaperone for the band. We have completed our list for the football games and competitions. There will be more opportunities after the first of the year with State band competition, All State, and Jazz band activities, so we will be calling!

Please don't forget to fill out a bus exemption form if your child **will not be riding the bus home from a football game or band competition.** This form can be found on the band web site. **The forms must be turned in before we leave the school on these trips.** The student is to be signed out with the chaperone from their bus. The chaperone will be waiting at the bus to help get you on your way in a speedy fashion. This is all being done for the safety and well being of your child.

Another reminder, for the overnight trip...
If your child is on any medication, you must fill out a medication sheet, which can also be found on the band web site. The form and medication must be turned into the medication nurse prior to the trip. The only medications that the student can have to self medicate are asthma inhalers and diabetic medications. Everything else must be given to the medication nurse to dispense.



***Marietta competition chaperones** you will need to pay \$10 for the hotel. Please send the money to the treasurer's box ear marked-GA competition.*

It's time to start thinking about Hawaii!! In case we need to contact you about your student while we are there, please e-mail us any information/phone numbers of where you will be during the Thanksgiving holidays. This also includes any parents that will be in Hawaii but are not with the tag-a-long group.

Thanks for your support,
Loren Foster and Debbie Rose
Head Chaperones
lbf8887@hotmail.com
ROSEDJSCJ@aol.com

Friendly Reminder!

CONCERT TICKETS can be picked up at this month's Band Parents Meeting. Parents must sign for their 8 tickets and have up-to-date fees.

Marching Season Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsal Schedule		
Percussion	<i>Monday</i>	5-7PM
	<i>Tuesday</i>	7:30-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM
Color Guard	<i>Monday</i>	6-9PM
	<i>Tuesday</i>	7:30-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM
Marching Band	<i>Tuesday</i>	6-9PM
	<i>Thursday</i>	6-9PM

Other Dates to Remember

Sept. 25	Marching Contest Columbia, TN.
Sept. 27	Band Parents Meeting @ 7PM
Oct. 2-3	Marching Contest Marrietta, Georgia.
Oct. 25	Band Parents Meeting @ 7PM

Grissom Tigers 2004 Football Schedule

Sept. 24	Friday	Huntsville (8th graders invited)	MF
Oct. 1	Friday	Sparkman	Away
Oct. 7	Thursday	Bob Jones (Pep Band)	MF
Oct. 14	Thursday	Austin (Family Night)	MF
Oct. 22	Friday	Florence	Away
Oct. 29	Friday	Pelham (Homecoming)	MF
Nov. 5	Friday	Johnson (Senior Recognition)	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)
- Knology
- Ruby Tuesday (Airport Rd)

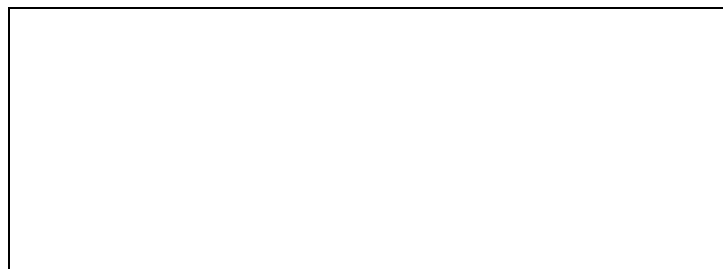
And a special thank you to the Publix Supermarket charities for their grant of \$500 for the Max Hammond Instrument fund.

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

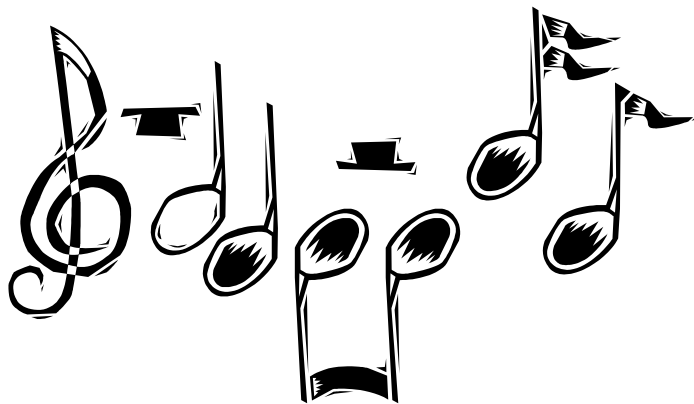
**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HUNTSVILLE, AL
PERMIT NO. 495**



**BAND PARENTS
MEETING
MONDAY
September 27
7PM - AUDITORIUM
See you there!**



***GHS Band Parents Association
September Newsletter***



www.grissomband.org