

Grissom Band Parents Association, Inc.

Newsletter

April 2005

Editors - Mitzi Crawford & Judy Hardwick

President's Message

Dear Parents,

Wow, it is hard to believe that the school year is almost over. Our students have worked hard and it is evident in their accomplishments. However, we still have several band engagements, and I'd like to encourage you to attend the upcoming concerts and festivals. I would like to extend a welcome to all the 8th grade parents who are reading this newsletter. Grissom Band Parents is a great organization to be involved with, and we are working to make band a wonderful experience for your child. We have plenty of opportunities for you to get involved and would love to have you. Please come to our band parent meeting on April 25 in the GHS auditorium and learn about our upcoming summer activities. I am looking forward to meeting you there!!

I would like to issue a special "thank you" to all the parents that answered the volunteer call at meetings and in the newsletters for help with the banquet. It takes a lot of parents and students working together to make the banquet successful year after year. Kathy Branick and Tammy Tackett have done an outstanding job leading this group. This banquet is sure to be a treat for all with many happy memories for our departing seniors and students.

Just a few reminders:

RAPTORS - You may contact Jerry & Liz Potter to schedule times to work if you are interested. Hours worked will help earn credits towards your band fees, and 8th grade parents are welcome to jump in and get involved now!! Contact Liz by phone at 883-2752 or by email at jpotter@knology.net. A special thanks to Jerry and Liz for answering my desperate calls for Coordinators. More information concerning the games is included in this newsletter.

REMINDER - Be sure your fair share, dues and rentals are paid. These must be paid to allow your child to participate in the Chattanooga trip or the band banquet. If you have questions regarding your account status please contact Julie Ashcraft. She will be happy to provide this information to you.

BAND PARENT'S MEETING - Our last band parent meeting for the 2004/2005 school year will be Monday, April 25th. Officers will be elected for next year. Please be sure to attend. I encourage you to take a moment to read the newsletter. It contains important information for the remainder of the year as well as for the upcoming summer!

Sincerely,

Cherry Hovik

President 2004/2005

cjhovik@comcast.net or 882-6190

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 and Theo Vernon, Directors

881-1075 (Bandroom)

Committees

Chaperones

Debbie Rose: 882-9694; ROSEDJSCJ@aol.com

Loren Foster: 883-5643; LBF8887@hotmail.com

Script

Nelson and Karen Parker: parker23@knology.net

Hospitality

Lynn Dowling: 881-5058; lynndowling@yahoo.com

Rachel Rawls: 881-3263; brawls@hiwaay.net

Concerts

Monica Geiss: 881-4314; MGeis@juno.com

Colleen Toth: Drummom13@aol.com

Raptors Fundraiser

Liz and Jerry Potter: 883-2752; jpotter@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

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; Karen1@HHSYS.org

Trucks

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

Uniforms

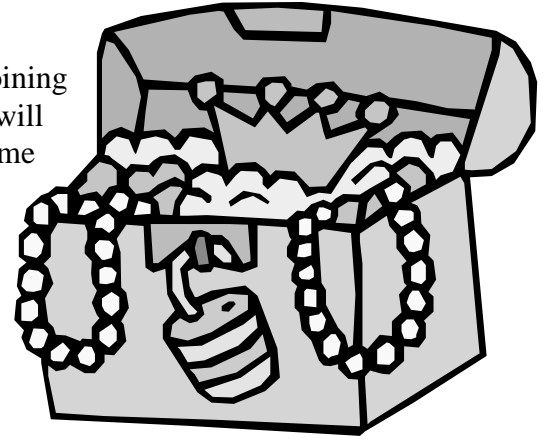
Tiffany Hubbard: 880-3669; UniformFairy@msn.com

Historian

Susan Fields: fielddocs@knology.net

\$\$ TREASURER'S BOX \$\$

We extend a special WELCOME to all the 8th grade parents who are joining us for the first time! Welcome to the family that your son or daughter will love the most, second to yours, of course! This *is* the group that will come to **define** high school to your child. To be part of this group they will work harder, study harder, and do things you'd never have thought they could do. And this is the group that they will shed tears to leave behind in four years. Just ask our graduating seniors! We are thrilled to have you join our family!



The following is a brief summary of the cost of the Band program.

	CASH PORTION	CASH OR EARNED CREDITS	TOTAL BAND DUES
MARCHING	\$300	\$200	\$500
Concert only	\$245	\$200	\$445
Guard only	\$270	\$100	\$370
Jazz only	\$150	\$0	\$150

We encourage ALL PARENTS to begin making payments on the 2005-2006 Band Dues IMMEDIATELY. You may make a lump sum payment or spread payments out over the summer months. The CASH PORTION must be paid *in full* by the day of your child's uniform fitting – July 27-28.

More information on dues will be presented at the Band Parents Meeting and in the next newsletter.

Statements have been sent out to those with an outstanding balance. If you have misplaced it or you want to double-check on your balance, please call or email Julie. Thank you for your prompt response. If you have not yet cleared your account, please do so quickly, as we need to close out the books for this school year. *Thank you!!*

Credit for Scrip will continue to be posted throughout the summer and will be applied to your student's account. Raptors (Vipers) credits will be posted in the fall, after all the games have been worked and credit amount determined. Any credit remaining in your student's account will automatically roll over to next school year. Credits for scrip will be posted throughout the summer.

Parents of Seniors! Any credits in your senior's account can only be applied to the account of a younger sibling in the band, according to the Band Bylaws. Be sure to let us know if you want to transfer credit to a younger brother or sister. We don't always know who's related to whom! Any extra credits will go to help our wonderful yet needy band program. As always, we thank you for passing on the gift of music to those you leave behind!

(Continued on next page...)

Thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you!

Many thanks to all the wonderful parents who have worked so hard, sacrificed so much, volunteered countless hours, and gotten all those dues and fees paid on time! You make this Band program possible. Remember, we do it all for our kids. You are the ***BEST!***

As always...

1. Make checks payable to **Grissom Band Parent Association** –or **GBPA**- and put purpose of check and student's name in the note section. Then do one of the following:
2. Place fee 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

Call or email us if we can help you in any way!!

Julie Ashcraft

650-5043

email: Julie23@Ashcraft.net

Kathy Francica

883-7132

email: KFrancica@bellsouth.net

Chaperone Committee Thank You's

We want to thank the following folks for chaperoning with our students in the month of April: All State band-Nan Kirk; MTSU Jazz Festival-Fran Holder and Bill Hovik; Chattanooga Trip-Midge and Jim Gatherer, Marylynne and Tim Dowling, Tiffeney Hubbard, Mitzi Crawford, Laura Mollere, Erin Gaston, Tammie Tackett, Karen Allison, Kathy Lane, Debbie and Jim Krenn, Stacey Whitley, Rhonda Salib and Teresa Montgomery.

We would also like to thank everyone that helped to chaperone this year. You are AWESOME. This is our last year in the GHS band. It has been a great experience for our children and for us. The years go by so quickly, but the memories will last a lifetime.

This isn't good-bye, just "see you later!"

Thanks for everything,

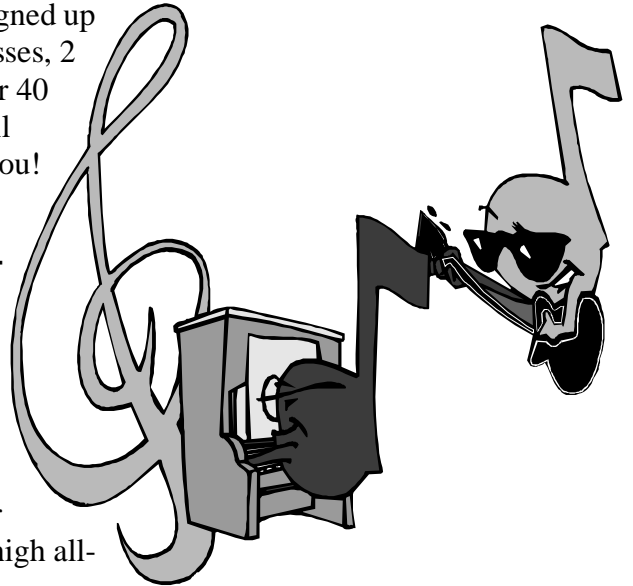
Debbie Rose and Loren Foster

Director's Notes

We certainly want to welcome next year's FRESHMAN class entering Grissom High School Band!! You are now a member of one of the most elite and well known bands not only in Alabama but the entire United States!! The hard work and dedication to excellence of previous band members is the reason this band is as good as it is. There are 297 students signed up for all band activities next school year, including the 3 band classes, 2 jazz bands, color guard and instrumental ensemble. That is over 40 students more than this school year. We certainly hope you will enjoy your time in band and that it will be most rewarding for you!

There is a great deal of information in this newsletter that you need to be aware of. Enclosed in this newsletter is a calendar of band activities from now until school starts. The activities that include you between now and the end of school are highlighted below. They include:

1. 8th grade auditions at the middle schools will be April 25 through May 6. The specific dates will be arranged with your middle school director. Auditions will be over all your major and chromatic scales/rudiments, the Alabama junior high all-state etudes and sight reading.
2. Percussion clinics are April 25-28 from 5-7 pm at the GHS band room. This will include **all** present 8th grade percussionists and any double reeds that are interested in playing mallet instruments.
3. Color Guard workshop and auditions are May 9-13 from 3:30-5:30 pm in the GHS band room. Anyone interested in trying out for flags/rifles etc. must come to this workshop. You will be taught everything you need to know during the Monday through Thursday workshop. Auditions for placement are Friday 3:30-??
4. Rookie Camp for all incoming 9th graders is May 23-27 from 8am-noon in the GHS Band room. This is a required activity for all students who have not marched with the Grissom Band previously. You will meet next year's student leadership and be introduced to the marching fundamentals that need to be mastered. **You will need to bring with you a completed and notarized Huntsville City Schools Medical Form the first day of camp. This is required of all school organizations that have activities outside the school day. A copy of this form is enclosed in this newsletter. It is also on the Huntsville City Schools web site and the Grissom Band website. Our website address is listed in every newsletter.**
5. We encourage you to begin paying your fees as soon as possible. It makes it MUCH easier to spread the payments out over a period of time. More info concerning fees in the treasurers' report.



Band camp and pre-camp dates are listed in the calendar included in this newsletter. Also color guard and percussion camps are listed. Please make every attempt NOT to miss any of these dates. Students that are not at rehearsals/camp have a difficult time keeping up and will have a difficult time earning and retaining a spot in the field show. All students will play in the stands at all varsity football games, perform in pre-game activities and travel to the marching band contests, but not all students will perform in the contest band. Those positions will be determined by the student's performance at camps and rehearsals once school starts. If you have a conflict, please notify the band directors as soon as possible.

Other summer activities to be announced at a later date are **section car washes**. All proceeds go to the Max Hammond Memorial Fund used to purchase new instruments. Max Hammond was a 1982 GHS graduate and



band member who was killed during the 9/11 attack in NYC. Max was on the second plane to hit the World Trade Center.

We will go to the **DCI show** in Murphreesboro, TN the evening of July 29. More details later.

Fall Schedule

Traditionally, the band attends **two marching contests** during football season. The dates for those two shows are **September 23 and October 8**. Homecoming is Thursday, September 29 with the Homecoming dance Saturday, October 1. The October 8 contest will be the Saturday that starts fall break and might be an overnight trip. We would return to Huntsville Sunday the 9th. Fall break dates are Monday- Friday, October 10-14.

First Annual Grissom Marching Band Classic

Grissom Band and the Band Parents Association will be hosting the first annual Marching Band Contest at Milton Frank Stadium Saturday, October 22. It will be a prelims/finals format, meaning that all the bands participating will perform during the day to see which bands will qualify for the finals competition that evening. **We will need everyone's help for this big undertaking including parents who have children who have already graduated.** Most of the work will be during the late summer and early fall, but there are some things that we will need help with before school is out. **This event will be discussed in detail at the April band parents meeting. Please make plans to attend.**

Jazz Band News

Students interested in jazz band as a freshmen, do not have to audition if you play saxophone, trumpet or trombone. All rhythm section players **MUST** send in an audition tape to Mr. Vernon by the last day of school. All audition requirements are posted on the band web site. To access this music you must enter a username: student and password: swing. Please email Mr. Vernon if you have any questions about the audition music. You will have to play-a-long with a recording that can be downloaded from the website and copied onto a CD. Please read all requirements carefully and make the best recording you can.

The Jazz Band Spring Concert will be Friday, April 22nd at 7:30 pm in the GHS auditorium. If you are an incoming freshmen, and would like a ticket to this concert please see your middle school band director. They will have tickets available.

Symphonic/Concert Bands Spring Concert

The Symphonic Band I & II and Concert along with the trombone choir and 2 percussion ensembles will present their Spring Concert on Friday, May 6th at 7:30pm in the GHS auditorium. Please come out and hear all the new music they have been working on since State Contest.

Percussion Ensembles (Symphonic Band I & II)

The percussion sections from the 2 Symphonic Bands will travel and compete in the Oak Mountain High School Concert Percussion Festival on Saturday, May 7th. Percussion parents are asked to help with transportation to and from this festival. We will not need to take any equipment with us. The students will just need to take their sticks, mallets and music. More information will follow.

Come to the Banquet!

The Band Banquet will be held on Friday, April 29, at 6:30 P.M. in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center. All families should have received a postcard invitation and everyone planning on attending needs to return the card and a check for any guest tickets to the treasurer's box in the band room by April 22. Please make sure that you have checked the meal choices desired. All students whose fees are paid in full are banquet guests. Students with outstanding fees may not attend. This applies to everyone, including seniors. The various committees have worked hard to make this a special evening and we look forward to this festive culmination of the band year.

Kathy Branick, Banquet Committee

Concert News

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to the efforts of the Concert Committee this year. I have always said that calling for volunteers is the hardest part of any job, but the response from the parents of the GHS Band is always tremendous and we never lacked for willing hands and smiling faces. I enjoyed meeting and working with each one of you. Many blessings on you all.

I have a graduating senior, and so this is my final year with the GHS Band. (Well... officially anyway... I bet I'll be working for the Marching Festival in October!!) I will always reflect with amazement on the past six years. It has been hard work, but so much more fun, and I enjoyed being with everyone I ever worked with or met. I am proud to be a GHS BAND MOM!

With that in mind... wouldn't YOU like to be Concert Committee Chairperson? It's a vital committee, but easy to do...and I will help you get started! I have even volunteered to print next year's tickets! If you're interested, contact the Nominating Committee or call Monica Geis @ 881-4314

The most heartfelt thanks to the GHS Band Parents,
Monica Geis, Concert Committee Chairperson

Raptors (Formerly Vipers) Fundraiser

Grissom band parents (and others who are at least 18 years old) have the opportunity to earn credits toward their 2005-06 band fees by working at the Raptors Arena football games at the VBC. Workers sell souvenirs and/or programs. The games are on Saturdays. The approximate work hours are 5:30 pm-10:30 pm.

The Raptors have a new person, Lauren Corlew, who is in charge of marketing and sales. She has agreed to pay the GBPA after each game. This will expedite our receiving credits for working at the games. If you would like to participate, please contact us ASAP. Also, we need names for a "Call-As-Needed" list. We still need workers for the following dates:

April 30	June 18
May 21	July 9
June 11	July 16

Working at the air conditioned Raptors games is a great, painless way to get a head start on band fees for next fall. **On-the-job training will be provided!**

Liz and Jerry Potter

Grissom High School Limited Edition Ornament

To celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Grissom High School, a popular gift shop (which is no longer in business) commissioned an exclusive, limited edition, hand-painted, resin 3-dimensional ornament which is about 4" in diameter. It comes in its own gift box for \$20 or for \$25 you can order an ornament with a display stand/base for year-round display. What a unique reminder of all the wonderful memories of Grissom High – also an excellent graduation gift!

Grissom Band has made special arrangements sell these ornaments *while supplies last*. Note that supplies are limited and subject to early sellout.

We will be selling these ornaments at the April band parent meeting and the May band concert. If you'd prefer to place an order, fill out the form below and return with your check made to "Grissom Band" to:

Grissom Band Parents Association
P.O. Box 4335
Huntsville, AL 35815

You will be contacted to arrange pickup. If you have questions, contact Karen Parker at 883-4622 or email parker23@knology.net.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____ Check Number: _____

City, State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ GHS ornaments WITHOUT stand x \$20 each = _____

_____ GHS ornament WITH stand x \$25 each = _____

Order Total (no tax): _____

What is Scrip, Anyway?????

We'd like to extend a hearty WELCOME to our inbound new band students and your families! By now, you may have heard about something called "SCRIP". Scrip is just a dignified name for "Gift Certificates".

Did you ever have your eye on something in a store and plan to buy it when you had a little extra cash? Let's say about that time, your birthday rolls around again and you wind up with several gift certificates for that particular store. Have you ever taken several gift certificates and paid for an item in total? Well, that's the whole idea of using scrip! You just figure out what you will buy anyway, then buy gift certificates from the band and use them to buy the item(s). You don't spend anything you didn't plan to anyway, and the band makes money. The only catch is you have to buy the gift certificates through the band.

Now, for the part where the band makes money. The band buys gift certificates from many different stores, restaurants and service providers at discounted amounts. (To see details to go the band website at www.grissom-band.org and click on SCRIP on the left side of the page, then keep following the links until you find the merchants list. It shows each merchant, the denomination of the gift certificates that are available and a percentage). The percentage is the amount of discount the band gets. For instance, if the discount amount is 10% and you buy \$50 worth in gift certificates (you pay the face value), the band would make \$5.

It gets better – for the total amount you earn for the band, we split the amount and give 60% to the band and 40% to the band account of the student you designate. The first time you buy scrip you designate a student then we track it from there for your future scrip orders/purchases. Operating expenses come out of the band's portion. So, for the example above... the band earns \$5 then with the split, the band **KEEPS** \$3 of that amount and your designated student earns \$2 in credit toward band fees, trip expenses, etc.

You can also earn credits when you buy groceries by either buying a rechargeable gift card (the card must be purchased through the band to receive credit) or we also offer gift certificates for other popular grocery stores.

We sell scrip at every concert (except Max Hammond Memorial Concert on 9/11) and every band meeting. You may also order scrip by contacting us (the Parkers –contact information is below) Just let us know if you have questions!

Thanks to all of you who support the band program through SCRIP!

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

Tupperware Fundraiser

Our Tupperware fundraiser was a success – we don't have final numbers yet, but it appears we will make about \$400. Thanks to all of you who supported this effort

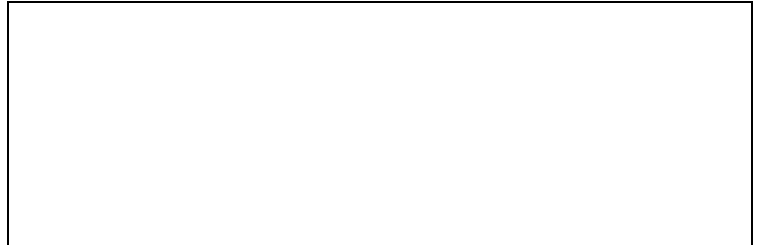
2005 Spring and Summer Dates for Grissom Band

Please arrange your schedules NOW for all Band activities coming this spring and summer. Handing out schedules this early helps us ALL arrange around our band commitments. Thank you!

at	Who	When	Where	Time
Parent Meeting	All band parents	March 28 th	GHS band room	7pm
Band Festival	ALL Jazz Band members	April 9 th	GHS auditorium	Most of the day
State Band Festival	Those who made All-State	April 14-16	Auburn Univ.	All Days
Band Spring Concert	ALL Jazz Band members	April 22 nd	GHS auditorium	7:30pm
Classic Concert Festival	Sym I, Sym II & Concert Band	April 23 rd	Chattanooga, TN	ALL DAY!
<i>\$45.00 fee is due March 11th. All other Band fees must be paid in full to participate.</i>				
Parent Meeting	All interested members	April 25 th	GHS auditorium	7:00pm
Leadership Workshops	All percussionists	April 26 & 28 / May 3 & 5	GHS band room	3:30-5:30
Perussion Clinics	All percussionists	April 25-28	GHS Band room	5:00-7:00pm
Band Banquet	ALL PAID IN FULL MEMBERS	April 29 th	VBC	6:30pm
<i>** All Band fees must be paid in full to participate **</i>				
Band & Ensemble	Those interested	April 30 th	Hartselle HS	ALL DAY
Spring Concert	Sym I, Sym II & Concert Band	May 6 th	GHS auditorium	7:30pm
Drum Guard Clinic/Auditions	All Prospective members	May 9-13	GHS Band room	3:30-5:30pm
Band Auditions	ALL band members	May 9-13	GHS band room	Band Class
Major auditions	All interested band members	May 16 th	GHS band room	1:30pm
Drum Captain auditions	All interested upperclassmen members	May 17 th	GHS band room	1:30pm
Band Rehearsal	Sym I, Sym II & Concert	May 19 th	VBC Arena	5:30pm
Band Camp	All new marchers	May 23-27	GHS Band room	8am-12pm
Perussion Weekly Clinics	Thursdays beginning	June 2 - July 28	GHS Band room	6-9pm
Drum Guard Camp	All guard members	June 6-10	GHS Band room	8-11am/12-3pm
Perussion Weekend Clinic	Thursday, Friday, Sat.	June	24 th - 6-9pm/25 th - 5-9pm/26 th - 2-7pm	
Drum Guard Camp	All guard members	July 4-8	GHS Band room	8-11am/12-3pm
Perussion Camp	All percussion members	July 18-22	8AM - 12PM and 1PM - 5PM	
Drum Guard Camp	Sabers/Rifles	July 26-29	GHS Band room	8-11am/12-3pm
Band Pre-Camp	ALL BAND MEMBERS	July 27-29	GHS Band room	8am-12pm
Band Camp	ALL BAND MEMBERS	Aug. 1-5	8-12/1:30-4:00/6-9pm	
Band Family Kick-Off/Cook-Out	All Band Family Members	Aug. 5 th	GHS Back parking lot	6pm
Band Rehearsal	All Guard members	August 8		
Band Guard Dates		TBA	GHS parking lot	6-8am

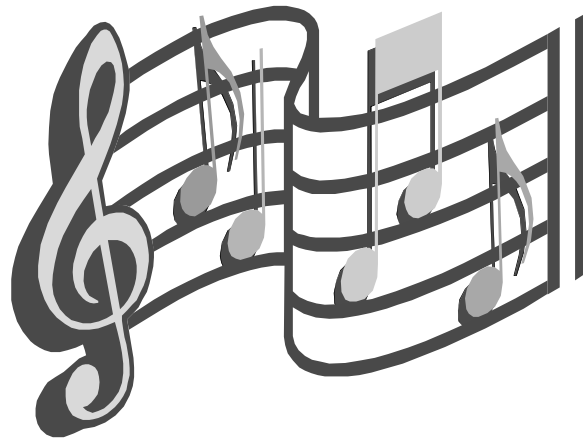
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**BAND PARENTS
MEETING
MONDAY
April 25
7PM - GHS Auditorium
See you there!!**



GHS Band Parents Association

April Newsletter



www.grissomband.org