



# GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## NEWSLETTER

March 2006

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 (Send addresses corrections to us!)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Parents,

Thank you for all your support with State Competition. The bands performed beautifully!

Spring trip plans to San Antonio are progressing. Please be sure that your dues, rentals, and trip fees are paid in full. These must be paid before the trip! If you have any questions about your balance, please contact Mary Setzer. She will be happy to assist you.

Please take a moment to read this newsletter and mark the upcoming dates on your calendar.

See you at the band parent meeting on March 27th.

Cherry Hovik  
 President, 2005-2006

### DIRECTORS' NEWS - March 2006

#### State Concert Assessment

All three bands from Grissom made **straight superior ratings** at the recent State Concert Assessment. We were very proud of the students and their level of performing abilities at this event. It is truly an accomplishment for a school to have 3 bands make all superior ratings at this contest. The students worked very hard to achieve this level and we hope you were able to come out to Huntsville High to hear them. If not, you missed three truly spectacular performances. This type of performance assessment serves to provide the opportunity for program improvement, instructional guidance, and accountability for learning.

### Executive Board, 2005-06

**Pres** Cherry Hovik [cjhovik@comcast.net](mailto:cjhovik@comcast.net)  
**1st VP** Jim Gatherer [hsvjim@yahoo.com](mailto:hsvjim@yahoo.com)  
**2nd VP** Laura Mollere [lady4lsu@aol.com](mailto:lady4lsu@aol.com)  
**Secretary:** Rex Simmons [rasimm@knology.net](mailto:rasimm@knology.net)

**Treasurers:** Teresa Montgomery  
[tdmont@hiwaay.net](mailto:tdmont@hiwaay.net); and Mary Setzer  
[TubaJrsMom@hotmail.com](mailto:TubaJrsMom@hotmail.com)

**Committees:**

**Marching Exposition:** Jeff Brewer  
[jjgbrew@knology.net](mailto:jjgbrew@knology.net)

**Chaperones:** Luann Holloway and Debbie Krenn  
[dlkrenn@comcast.net](mailto:dlkrenn@comcast.net)

**Publicity:** Kristi Fugit [kristi.fugit@ngc.com](mailto:kristi.fugit@ngc.com)

**Color Guard:** Alice Searcy [searcy@hiwaay.net](mailto:searcy@hiwaay.net)  
 and Doris Lewis [dslewis@knology.net](mailto:dslewis@knology.net)

**Stadium Setup:** Jim Krenn  
[jdkrenn@comcast.net](mailto:jdkrenn@comcast.net).

**Spirit:** Avi Swain [swainjad@msn.com](mailto:swainjad@msn.com)

**Concerts:** Sharon Keffer, Laura Hardy, Karen Allison  
[sharonkeffer@knology.net](mailto:sharonkeffer@knology.net)

**Transportation:** Paula Dickerhoff and Valerie Anderson  
[dickerhoff@knology.net](mailto:dickerhoff@knology.net)

**Fruit Sales:** Jim and Sheila Kirsch  
[jckirsch@knology.net](mailto:jckirsch@knology.net); Jan Baker, Manpower  
 Scheduling, [janqueenbee1@knology.net](mailto:janqueenbee1@knology.net) 650-0915

**Script:** Nelson and Karen Parker  
[parker23@knology.net](mailto:parker23@knology.net)

**Trucks:** Rick Cornelius [RHC@knology.net](mailto:RHC@knology.net)

**Raptors:** Jerry and Liz Potter  
[jpotter@knology.net](mailto:jpotter@knology.net)

**Uniforms:** Tiffeny Hubbard and Linda Craft  
[uniformfairy@msn.com](mailto:uniformfairy@msn.com)

**Historian:** Susan Field [fielddocs@knology.net](mailto:fielddocs@knology.net)

**Ways and Means:** TBA

**Hospitality:** Lynn Dowling and Rachel Rawls

**Webmaster:** Ron Lewis  
[webmaster@grissomband.org](mailto:webmaster@grissomband.org)

**Newsletter:** Judy Hardwick and Erin Gaston  
[judhrdwk@knology.net](mailto:judhrdwk@knology.net);  
[erin\\_gaston@bellsouth.net](mailto:erin_gaston@bellsouth.net)

**Bill Connell and Theo Vernon, Directors**  
 881-1075 (band room)

## Directors' News, continued

### March 2006

#### All-State Band

The Alabama All- State Band Festival will be April 20-22 in Auburn. Those students who tried out in January will be attending this clinic. We will leave at 7am on that Thursday and return by 9pm Saturday night. The cost of the trip is \$135.00. A complete itinerary will be given to the students after spring break.

Congratulations to the following students:

Allison Potter – Patrick Cornell – Ellen Field – Amelia Lane – Shibli Rahman – Rusty Clark – Deanna Swain – Michael Montgomery – Melody Hovik – Matthew Parker – Matt Keffer – Corey Sherman -

#### Jazz Band

Both jazz bands will travel to MTSU on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to perform in their jazz festival. We will depart after the ACT since we have a few students taking it that day. Students will need to be here at 12:30pm and we will return close to midnight. There will be a \$20.00 bus fee so please get that in and make checks out to Grissom Band.

#### Auditions

Yes it is that time of year once again. We will hold semester auditions the week after the Spring Concert May 8-12. The audition music will be handed out after Spring Break. These auditions will be band placement for the fall semester as well as part of the student's final exam grade for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. The requirements will not be as much music as the fall auditions but will still require preparation. All of the music will have Smart Music Accompaniments that the students can practice with to help them.

Jazz Band audition material will also be handed out after Spring Break. All students interested will need to record their audition onto a CD or cassette tape and turn it in to Mr. Vernon at a date TBA before school is out. If you signed up and do not make one of the bands then you will need to get a schedule change. Also if you did not sign up and wish to audition and make it then your schedule will need to be changed to add you to a jazz band class.

#### End of Year Calendar

We have several activities coming up before the end of the year that everyone needs to be aware of. Please refer to the calendar posted on Charms.

Jazz Bands Spring Concert 7:30pm	Friday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>
Annual Band Spring Concert 7:30pm	Thursday, May 4 <sup>th</sup>
Annual Band Banquet 6:30pm	Friday, May 5 <sup>th</sup>
Semester Auditions (Final exam)	May 8-12
Color Guard Clinic/auditions	May 8-12 3:30-5:30pm
Graduation (all underclassmen)	May 18 3:00pm
Rookie Camp	May 22-26 8am-12pm

#### Summer Schedule

Color Guard Camps:

June 5-9 8am-11am 12pm-3pm

July 3-7 8am-11am 12pm-3pm

(Frontline only) July 24-27 5-8pm

Percussion Rehearsals and Camp TBA

Uniform Fittings (fee payment) July 24-27 TBA

Band Pre-Camp July 26-28 8am-12pm

DCI show at MTSU (optional) July 28 3pm-midnight

Band Camp July 31-August

TBA

#### 2006 EXPO Date

Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> is our date for the 2006 Grissom Marching Exposition, better known as the EXPO. Committees are already working towards improving from last year's. We will need everybody's help to have another successful EXPO and hopefully earn bigger funds for the band program. More info will come soon!

#### 2006-2007 Band Calendar

The 2006-2007 band calendar should be posted on Charms by mid June. Please refer to this calendar to make plans. You can print out the calendar if you wish also. To access Charms go to [www.charmsmusic.com](http://www.charmsmusic.com) and enter grissomhsb in the Parent/Student login, School Code box to see the calendar and download other forms in the handout section. All new freshmen will be able to access the Grissom Charms site to see your individual account information in July once we have all finished our end of year activities and transferred everyone one over.

## 2006 Marching Band

The directors have spent the last several months mulling over the past marching season and have come to some conclusions that you probably arrived at too. This past fall marching band was not a very fun activity. Mr. Connell especially put lots of pressure on the band and himself to 'raise the bar' so to speak with the marching band where they could compete with anyone. Unfortunately, the music and drill was too hard and we were not able to get the show to a level where the band was comfortable with it.

As a result, we will make some changes with the marching band starting next fall. The content will be easier, both in music and drill. We will concentrate on performing at a level comparable to the past, but since the music and drill is not quite so complex, the end result will not take as much rehearsal time. You probably will not be able to tell the difference in our performances, but hopefully you will see many more smiles on your children's faces.

Evening rehearsals once school starts will be 6:30-8:30 as opposed to 6-9 in the past. Pre-camp times will be the same, but we will shave some rehearsal time off band camp, the final schedule to be announced later.

The biggest change however involves all first year GHS Band members, which includes freshmen (9<sup>th</sup> grade). *All first year members will be required to participate in marching band, but that participation will be limited to performing the pre-game show and playing in the stands at football games- with the following exception: **Only those first year marchers that choose to and pass the audition will have a position in the performance band.*** This performance band will march at halftime at the varsity football games, compete at the marching contest that we choose to attend and march in exhibition at the marching band expo the GHS Band sponsors. Those students with one or more years experience in the marching band may continue to choose each year whether they will participate in Symphonic/Concert Band only or march and perform in Sym./Concert Band.

The rationale is complex, but at the same time quite simple in the minds of the students in the Grissom Band. Coming to Grissom High School from middle school or transferring in from another school is quite a challenge for EVERY student. The demands in the past by the **marching** band for rehearsal/performance time and the pressure to perform at such a high level of proficiency has taken its toll on the number of students signing up to continue band from middle school to high school. That is not even mentioning the significantly higher academic demands put on these young people moving from middle school to high school. This situation simply has gotten to the point where something has to be done. There are too many fine musicians in the middle schools not signing up for GHS Band because they fear all the demands of the marching band. This is simply not acceptable.

The quality of the GHS Marching Band will not decline. As a matter of fact, it will improve and like we said earlier in this section, you will not be able to detect any decline in the performance of our band. The performance expectations of the Symphonic and Concert Bands will not change. We will continue to be one of the finest Symphonic/Concert bands in the United States, carrying the tradition forward that has been established since the school's inception.

## *Scrip Update*

February was one of our best months yet in terms of the Scrip fundraiser! Let's help this growth continue by continuing to use your rechargeable grocery cards and buying scrip for graduation and other gifts but especially for routine things you'll purchase anyway like spring clothes, yard services, eating out and summer travel (gas cards, hotels, restaurants....).

When you use scrip, both your designated student and the band win!

Deadlines for the next few orders are:  
March 27 (band parent meeting)

April 10  
April 24 (band parent meeting)

Thanks for supporting this fundraiser! Nelson & Karen Parker [parker23@knology.net](mailto:parker23@knology.net)

# Grissom High School Ornament

## Hand Painted, Limited Edition, Commissioned Pieces



Argosy Gifts and Collectibles (which is no longer in business) commissioned an exclusive hand-painted, resin 3-dimensional keepsake ornament of GHS to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school as part of its Huntsville Landmark series. This limited edition collectible is 4" in diameter and comes in its own gift box for \$20 or for \$25 you can order an ornament with a small display base (that blends into the landscaping on the ornament) for year-round display.

This is a special, very unique reminder of all the wonderful memories of Grissom High – excellent **graduation gifts** or mementos for alumni!

Grissom Band has made special arrangements to sell these ornaments **while supplies last**. Be sure to get yours before we sell out and they are gone forever!

To buy an ornament, contact Karen Parker at [parker23@knology.net](mailto:parker23@knology.net) or call 883-4622.

## FROM THE TREASURER'S CORNER

**REFUNDS** – First, we want to thank you for your patience as we get the refunds for the trips distributed. This has been an overwhelming task, but I think we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

If you were at the band parent's meeting, you should have already received your refund. For those not in attendance, we anticipate all remaining refunds to be mailed by Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> (some have already mailed, so if you have received it, kindly disregard).

**BANQUET** - Just a reminder that ALL dues must be paid in full/current for your student to be eligible to attend the banquet. Statements were mailed a couple of weeks ago. If you are uncertain if you are "up to date" please contact Mary Setzer. Her email address appears on the first page of this newsletter as well as on the website. (Order forms for additional tickets for family will be available shortly from the banquet committee. While your student's ticket is covered, the cost of non-band member tickets will be additional).

We are always looking for a “few good men & women” to help with the band program. There are so many jobs and we have so many qualified people. I would encourage becoming an active part of this wonderful organization. If you are interested in throwing your hat into the ring for treasurer, please send your information to one of the directors. Thank you.

## **Band Banquet News Alert!!**

The gala event of the social season, ***THE GRISSOM BAND BANQUET***, is fast approaching! **Mark your calendars!** This year’s magical evening will take place on **Friday, May 5, 6:30pm at the North Hall of the VBC!** For the uninitiated, this is a celebration of the fantastic accomplishments, hard work, enormous successes, wonderful friendships, and life-long memories that comprised the **Grissom Band 2005-2006**. As the year draws to a close, we will also take this time to honor the *seniors* and to bid them farewell.

The *seniors* have chosen, as their theme for this year’s banquet, to look back to their wonderful freshman year, when they honored the great cities of America...and swept the “Jack State” Competition (storming the field, as those present will never forget!!) Their theme, **TOUR OF AMERICA...THE JOURNEY CONTINUES**, looks back, and forward to the new cities of America which will be their next destinations.

Ticket reservation cards will be mailed in early April. Reservations **MUST** be received by April 28 – *no exceptions!* Guest tickets will be \$20.

All band members’ tickets are already paid for (it was included in their band fees). Please be aware that in order for band members to attend, ***all fees must be paid in full, this includes seniors.***

### **PARENTS, WHERE ARE YOUR PICTURES?**

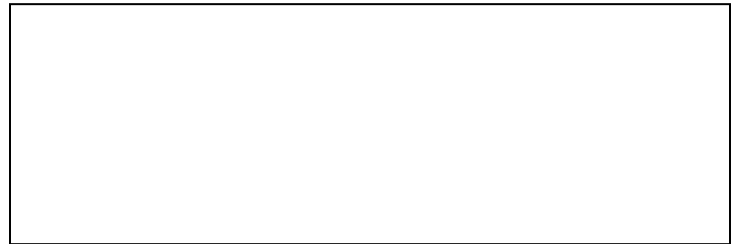
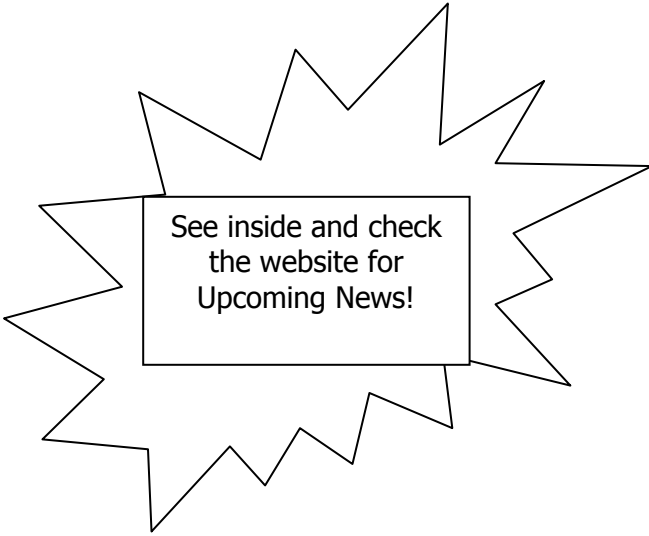
The band banquet committee is desperate for fun photos of the band for use in the slide show! Did you snap a picture of your child looking fabulous in the field? Making faces in the stands? Passed out in the heat? Primping before competition? Please!! Put your name on your photos and have junior place them in the slideshow box in the band room. You **WILL** get them back. Photos on cds or floppies are great. If you have a question, contact Susan Field, the slideshow guru, (883-7153 or [fielddocs@knology.net](mailto:fielddocs@knology.net)).

### **SENIOR PARENTS!!**

The band banquet committee needs your help to honor your seniors in the slide show. Please look through your photos from all 4 years and send in any good shots...come on, you know you have them. Go look! And also, we need their senior picture (or any recent, nice photo) and a **BABY/TODDLER** picture. Put their names on the backs of all of these. Susan will scan them for the slideshow and then they will hang on our “Then and Now” wall. Put these two pictures in 2 **cheap, lightweight** frames (think Wal-Mart), preferably no glass, because they will hang on the padded folding wall at the VBC. Senior pictures can be any size, from a wallet to an 8x10. Baby/childhood pix should be 5x7 or smaller. Lisa Steves (882-7967, [rowdysteves5@earthlink.net](mailto:rowdysteves5@earthlink.net)) is in charge of the “Then and Now” wall. Contact her with questions.

GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL  
GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
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# GHS TIGER BAND NEWSLETTER