



# GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

August 2006

Editors: Judy Hardwick and Penny Irelan

[judhrdwk@knology.net](mailto:judhrdwk@knology.net) ; [wmsghsaumom@comcast.net](mailto:wmsghsaumom@comcast.net)

(Send addresses corrections to us!)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

If you weren't able to make it to the tailgate party you missed quite an event. The kids sounded great and Avi Swain and her Spirit team put together an awesome event for us all. Thanks to all of them for putting so much effort into the tailgate party, it was great and I am already looking forward to the next one. Thanks also go out to Tiffany Hubbard and her group and all the parents that helped out during uniform fittings, what an awesome job they did for us all!

Please make sure you make note of the upcoming events mentioned throughout this newsletter and in the Charms database. In the next couple of weeks we have our first full band parents meeting, evening practices begin, and the jamboree game. It is important that you are aware of the dates and times of all these events.

A quick thanks to all the parents of our incoming band members that were able to attend the freshman parents meeting. It was good to see that so many were interested in meeting us all and getting an idea of how the band operates and what their opportunities to help us out are. It was a pleasure seeing you all there and I am looking forward to seeing you again at the first full parents meeting on August 28. Please make sure that you take a moment and log into the Charms website and update your contact information, in particular your email addresses. There are many occasions that we send out mass emails to the parents of all the students regarding important information or last minute changes they need to be aware of. If we do not have a correct email address for you it is entirely possible that you may miss something.

Don't forget football season officially begins with the jamboree game on August 24 at Milton Frank. Please make plans to come out and attend our games and support the school, our children and the directors and applaud the hard work and dedication they put into this years show.

And finally we will soon begin looking for volunteers for the day of the Expo. Jeff Brewer and his committee leads are hard at work putting together the preliminaries and will be sharing some of the details of what is currently happening and how you can help out during the August band parents meeting. I hope to see you all there!

Jay Simcox  
President 2006-2007  
[cjsimcox@comcast.net](mailto:cjsimcox@comcast.net)

## Executive Board: 2006-07

**Pres** Jay Simcox [cjsimcox@comcast.net](mailto:cjsimcox@comcast.net)  
**1st VP** Jim Gatherer [hsvjim@yahoo.com](mailto:hsvjim@yahoo.com)  
**2nd VP** Becky Lash [beckylash@epictrends.com](mailto:beckylash@epictrends.com)  
**Secretary:** Mary Setzer  
[mary.setzer@comcast.net](mailto:mary.setzer@comcast.net)  
**Treasurers:** Julie Ashcraft [julie12@ashcraft.net](mailto:julie12@ashcraft.net)  
Tonya Hayes [tonya.hayes@knology.net](mailto:tonya.hayes@knology.net)

## Committees:

**Marching Exposition:** Jeff Brewer

[jigbrew@knology.net](mailto:jigbrew@knology.net)

**Chaperones:** 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 Margaret Haack [Haack05@comcast.net](mailto:Haack05@comcast.net)

**Stadium Setup:** Jim Krenn

[jdkrenn@comcast.net](mailto:jdkrenn@comcast.net).

**Spirit:** Avi Swain [AMadanSwain@peds.uab.edu](mailto:AMadanSwain@peds.uab.edu)

**Concerts:** Sharon Keffer and TBA

[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

[fruitsales@knology.net](mailto:fruitsales@knology.net); Jan Baker, Manpower

Scheduling:

**Script:** Nelson and Karen Parker

[parker23@knology.net](mailto:parker23@knology.net)

**Trucks:** Jim Kirsch [jkirsch@knology.net](mailto:jkirsch@knology.net)

**Vipers:** Cherry Hovik [cjhovik@comcast.net](mailto:cjhovik@comcast.net)

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

**Uniforms:** Tiffeny Hubbard

[uniformfairy@msn.com](mailto:uniformfairy@msn.com)

**Historian:**

**Ways and Means:** Karen Parker

[parker23@knology.net](mailto:parker23@knology.net)

**Hospitality:**

**Webmaster:** Rex Simmons

[webmaster@grissomband.org](mailto:webmaster@grissomband.org)

**Newsletter:** Judy Hardwick

[judhrdwk@knology.net](mailto:judhrdwk@knology.net); and Penny Irelan

[wmsghsaumom@comcast.net](mailto:wmsghsaumom@comcast.net)

**Bill Connell and Theo Vernon, Directors**

**881-1075 (band room)**

## **Director's Newsletters Info August 2006**

### **Max Hammond Memorial Concert**

#### **Trombonist Harry Watters to Play at September 11 Tribute Concert**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Max Hammond Memorial Concert will be held Saturday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Grissom High School auditorium. Sponsored by the Grissom High School Band, the program will pay tribute to 1982 Grissom High School graduate, Max Hammond, who was a victim of the World Trade Center attacks, as well as, the countless others who died on September 11, 2001. Internationally renowned trombonist, Harry Watters, a Grissom graduate who played in the GHS Band with Max, will be the featured guest at the concert. He will be joined by the Grissom High School Band, as well as, choral and dance departments, in a program that encompasses a patriotic theme and music relevant to the occasion. Admittance to the concert is free, with donations accepted to go toward the Max Hammond Memorial Instrument Fund, which helps to purchase badly needed instruments for the GHS Band.

While he has enjoyed success both in the United States and abroad, Watters currently is the solo trombonist with the U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble. He is also a member of the Army Brass Quintet, the group that played in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington as President Reagan's body was lying in state. "It is an honor to welcome Harry Watters to this year's Max Hammond Memorial Concert," said GHS Band Director Bill Connell, continuing, "It is very fitting that someone of Harry's musical caliber and prestige would remember Max Hammond and the other victims of September 11 at this special event."

With the permission of Max's family, a special memorial fund was established upon Max's death by the Grissom Band Parents Association, Inc. (GBPA) to purchase replacement instruments for current and future Grissom Band students who, at times, are using 40-year-old instruments. The Grissom Band Program receives no funding support from the Huntsville City School System, with the exception of the band directors' salaries and an empty classroom. All operating expenses are covered by the band students and their families through fundraising activities of the GBPA. These expenses include instruments, uniforms, transportation, music, equipment, such as music stands and chairs, telephone, copier and office supplies. Without fundraisers and donations, the cost of participating in the band program would be prohibitive for many students. The sole purpose of the GBPA is to fund all operating expenses of the Grissom Band Program, with 100 percent of all raised funds directly benefiting the band program.

#### **Max Hammond Dress Rehearsal/Concert**

All three bands will have a dress rehearsal on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> directly after school until approximately 4:15pm. The Contest Band will have rehearsal that night from 6:30-8:30 as scheduled. All students must wear dress clothes to the concert on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The concert starts at 7:30pm. Report times will be announced soon. Usually the students are required to be here between 6:45 and 7:00 for a 7:30pm concert. We may have to come in a little earlier to rehearse with Harry Watters since he will not be in town for any rehearsals with us before the concert. This concert is so special and very well attended. We look forward to presenting this concert and are so honored to have Harry Watters perform with us.

#### **Marching Band Coordinates**

Coordinates for the Pre-Game and Contest band shows are now posted in the Charms Handout section. Remember you need these at EVERY Marching Band rehearsal until the end of the season. You will be responsible for keeping up with it all season. If you forget it for a rehearsal you will be charged \$2.00 to get a new one. It would behoove you to print out your own copies and have several to use during the season.

**Marching Contests and EXPO 2006 – October 21st** We will again be sponsoring a marching contest this fall on October 21 at Milton Frank Stadium. We want to make this a truly positive experience for all participants including us, the Grissom Band Family. We will also participate in two marching contests this fall. The first one will be September 30<sup>th</sup> Midsouth Marching Band Invitational- Gadsden City High School (new Gadsden high school that combines Gadsden, Emma Sansom and Litchfield).and the second one October 7<sup>th</sup> Vanderbilt Invitational Marching Contest- Vanderbilt University- Nashville, TN. Neither of these contests will be an overnight trip. Itineraries will be handed out and posted on Charms a couple of weeks prior to each Saturday. These performances are required for all marching band members and are fabulous opportunities for fun and adventure.

## Medical Forms

All students, whether returning or new, are required to have a notarized medical form on file to be able to participate in band activities. All veterans must fill out a new form each year! Please take care of this prior to July. A form is included in this newsletter or you can download a form from the website at: <http://www.hsv.k12.al.us/dept/forms/Outoftown.doc> You will also need the insurance addendum attached to the back of this form. You can download this form from [www.charmsmusic.com](http://www.charmsmusic.com) site.

## BAND CALENDAR 2006-2007

Please refer to [www.charmsmusic.com](http://www.charmsmusic.com) for the 2006-2007 Band Calendar of events, which includes rehearsals, football games, competitions, concerts, trips, etc. All of the events posted are required attendance for all members. Login to the Parent/Student Login using school code: grissomhsb You will also need your password to access all the handouts now. A change with Charms. Email the directors if you cannot access your account. Click the Event List icon and you can print out the entire 2006-2007 Band Calendar. There are many other things posted in the hand out section too!

### \*Rehearsal Attendance.

Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals (full band and sectionals) and performances is required of all members of the band program. Unexcused absences or frequent tardiness will lower your grade and hinder you from performing. It is your responsibility to notify the band director in advance (**at least 2 weeks**) with a signed note from your parent if you will miss a rehearsal. You must make up all missed rehearsals (excused or unexcused) by staying after school, making up the lost time, and passing off music with the director. Failure to do so within one week will result in your grade being lowered 10 pts. per missed rehearsal during that 9-week period. We request that **2 weeks prior** to a performance no rehearsal is to be missed; no excuses except family emergencies. The student will not be allowed to perform with the band and as a result they will receive a failing grade for that 9 weeks. This is why we hand out activity calendars at the beginning of each school year and post on the web site in late June or early July.

**Excused absences** included the following reasons:

(Must be made up within one week)

1. sickness – must have signed note from parent/guardian
2. death in the family
3. pre-arranged conflict -- must be cleared in advance (**at least 2 weeks**)
4. emergency doctor's appointment.

**Unexcused absences** include the following reasons:

(Cannot be made up)

1. skipping
2. forgetting

3. employment conflict

4. babysitting

5. birthday

6. club meeting

7. make-up test that could be scheduled at a different time

8. doctor and other appointments that could be scheduled at a different time

9. trip made in disregard of band commitment

10. any other conflict not cleared in advance with the band director

11. any conflict that is not school related

## Grissom Marching Band Rehearsal Schedule

August 9 to October 20, 2006

**REVISED AUGUST 17TH**

**Monday:** Guard: 6-9 pm. Percussion: 5-7pm

**Tuesday:** Performance Band: 6:30-8:30 pm Football Band: 6:30-7:30 pm through September 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday:** No after school marching band practice except for the weeks when there is a Thursday night game. During those weeks Performance Band will rehearse 3:30-5:30. Football Band will not rehearse.

**Thursday:** Performance Band: 6:30-8:30 pm. Football Band will not rehearse. When we have a Thursday night football game, there will be a rehearsal for both bands: 3:30-4:00 after school.

**Friday:** Both bands rehearse after school 3:30-4:00 the days of home games.

**Saturday:** Two marching contests- September 30 and October 7. Grissom Band EXPO- October 21.

**Football Games:** Home games-Report at 6pm at Milton Frank. Meet in sections at 6:15 to check attendance and line up to march into stadium. The football schedule is posted on Charms.

**Football Band:** All first year band students and all upper classmen who are participating in marching band including Performance Band (see below). **You will be performing during pre-game of home football games.** Football Band students will attend marching contests and will participate in the EXPO by working a shift. More info later on the EXPO. See schedule above for details on rehearsals and performances.

**Performance Band:** Select marching band taken from upperclassmen and first year students who auditioned to participate. Performances at football game halftimes, marching contests and exhibition performance at the GHS Band EXPO are required. Work shifts at the EXPO are also required.

**Private Lessons**

We encourage all our students to take private lessons on their instrument. Not only does it improve your child's playing (which makes it more to play) it improves the band too!! Contact the band directors for teachers and their phone numbers or email addresses. ~ Band Directors

\*\*\*\*\*

Just 15-30 minutes of your time can raise significant money for the band---and get advertising for a company. We need to raise \$ 15,000 this year to keep our band dues as low as possible. Please encourage your favorite restaurant, retail store, or place of employment to make a tax-deductible donation to the Grissom Band Corporate Sponsorship Program. Companies will get extensive advertising in return.

MARK THESE  
DATES:  
APPLEBEES  
PANCAKE  
BREAKFASTS!  
February 10<sup>th</sup> and  
March 31<sup>st</sup>!

Please take the Corporate Sponsorship form included with this newsletter. You can then personally meet with the person who is responsible for charitable donations at the company and explain the program.

Important: If a company has already donated to the band this year, please do not approach them about the Corporate Sponsorship program. A list of companies who have already donated are: Kroger, LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, Rosie's Cantina, Lee's Magic Tunnel, Advance Auto Parts.

Thank you for your help. For questions: 881-7558 or [beckylash@epictrends.com](mailto:beckylash@epictrends.com). Best regards, Becky Lash

\*\*\*\*\*

**2006 Marching Show "LATIN FANTASY"**



The theme for this year's show is "LATIN FANTASY". We are excited about the possibilities for this year's theme! Our drill for the performance band and Pre-Game show will be written by Jeff Fackler founder of Creative Solutions. <http://www.crsolutions.biz/index.cfm> )This company will have our shows posted on a special website created just for the Grissom High School Band. As soon as the pre-game show and performance band show are posted we will provide information on how to access this new and exciting addition to our marching band program. Mr. Bryan Barley and Sean Womack will be our percussion instructors and Mr. Stan Gillispie and Courtney Doering will be our color guard instructors. We look forward to working with all of these fine talented people to help us put together wonderful shows for the fall.

**Calling all truck drivers!!** It's that time of year again.

Football games, marching contests, and parades - what do all of these band activities have in common? Equipment trucks!

We are looking for drivers for two trucks for the first few games And then drivers for three trucks by the middle of September when we start taking the uniform carts. The trucks generally need to at the school no later than 4:00 on game day (sometimes depending on game location). If you are interested in driving please email me at [fruitsales@knology.net](mailto:fruitsales@knology.net) and I will send you the list of dates. I will also have the signup list available at the first band parents' meeting. We do have one game prior to the meeting so let me know as soon as possible if you would like to drive on August 24. Even if you cannot drive, we need help during pre game and halftime to move equipment on and off the field. See you on the truck! ~Jim Kirsch

Get rid of your old cell phones and ink cartridges--raise money for the band!  
  
Place them in a box in the band room throughout the year. We can get money back on every donation.  
  
Help raise over \$ 1,000 for our band  
  
Our goal is to raise \$ 15,000 this year through various fundraisers.

## Grissom Marching Expo

The preparations for the 2006 GHS Marching Band Expo are now in full stride! Thanks to all that have stepped forward to lead the committees and to help out.

Our big news right now is that we have a **newly designed Grissom Marching Expo website**, thanks to Rex Simmons. Rex has worked very hard the past few weeks to get this running for us and he has done a great job! Here is the website address: [www.grissommarchingexpo.org](http://www.grissommarchingexpo.org). Go and check it out!!!!

There continues to be much work to do so if you want to help out in the planning / pre-event phase of the Expo, it is not too late. Also, we are now beginning to solicit shift-work help for the day of the event. So, there are many ways to help and, believe me, **the only way for this to work is for everyone to chip in**. So, please consider helping out! Here's how you do it:

- Go to the Grissom Marching Expo website
- Click **Volunteers**
- Enter User Name – *volunteer* Enter Password – *ghsneedsme*
- Click **Enter**
- To work in the planning phase, click **Pre-Event**
- To work on the day of the Expo doing shift work, click **Event Day**
- The **Shift Review** button is if you need to review the shifts you have signed up to work thus far.
- If you selected **Pre-Event**, you'll go to a page that has a list of the committees and their work responsibilities and an e-mail link to sign up.
- If you selected **Event Day**, you'll go to a page with a pull-down menu that will



show ALL areas with shift assignments.

- Clicking on any given area will display the shift needs for that area.
- Select the “Sign me up!” box for as many shifts in as many different areas as you like (the system should keep you from “double-shifting”).
- Click **Submit Request** and you'll be prompted to enter your name and e-mail address (the list of shifts you selected will be displayed here).
- Once entered, click **Confirm** and you're done! A confirmation e-mail will be sent to you.

\*\*\*\*\* Please note that this sign-up process is for the ADULTS and not for the students. Their sign-up will occur much closer to the Expo date and will likely not involve the website.

**Remember, this event has the potential to bring in big bucks for the GHS band but it takes EVERYONE doing their part.**

Thanks!!!  
Jeff Brewer  
Chairman, GHS Marching Expo  
880-9754  
[jjgbrew@knology.net](mailto:jjgbrew@knology.net)

**Fruit sales update:** We have been researching our options for citrus growers for the upcoming fruit sales season. We have found several possibilities that will be presented to the Board for consideration. There are some advantages to these alternatives including websites where people can pre-order fruit, pay with a credit card, and then just pick up their order during the sale. This option is available at no additional cost to us. The one drawback to all the options is that if we order, we pay for it. With our current supplier, we have not been responsible for unsold fruit, although he has pushed hard to change that in the last few years. All of the other suppliers operate under the model that we do a pre-sale and only order the fruit we have already sold. We expect to have a final decision ready to discuss with you at the August meeting. In the meantime, we are looking for two new volunteers to help with pre-sale activities. We need someone to takeover scheduling of the workers for the sales and we need someone to maintain our customer database. The manpower scheduling person is critical and requires someone willing to make phone calls and recruit workers for the actual sale dates. The customer database person is responsible for updating the address list with new customers and providing that address list for the mailings we do in October or November. If you are interested in either job, please email us at [fruitsales@knology.net](mailto:fruitsales@knology.net). We will be providing more details on the sales as we get closer to that season. This is a great way to earn credits that apply to your band dues and trip fees so be ready to sign up to work a sale (or two or three)!  
Jim & Sheila Kirsch

## Want to lower your band fees????

We are continuing to work at the Von Braun Center concession stands. This requires at least 12 workers per event (students must be 16 or older). The VBC pays the GBPA and you will earn \$5 credit per hour towards your band fees. That means, if you and your child work, in one evening you can lower your band fees by \$50!!! This is a fabulous opportunity for you. The required work is typical food service work. Several of us run the cash registers, some fill sodas and candy orders while our brave Band Parent Dads fry chicken fingers and French fries. The work load is busy but not too demanding.

Uniform is Grissom Band Shirt, Black pants (no jeans), closed toe shoes (preferably tennis shoes),

and hair must be pulled back. Shirts must be tucked in.

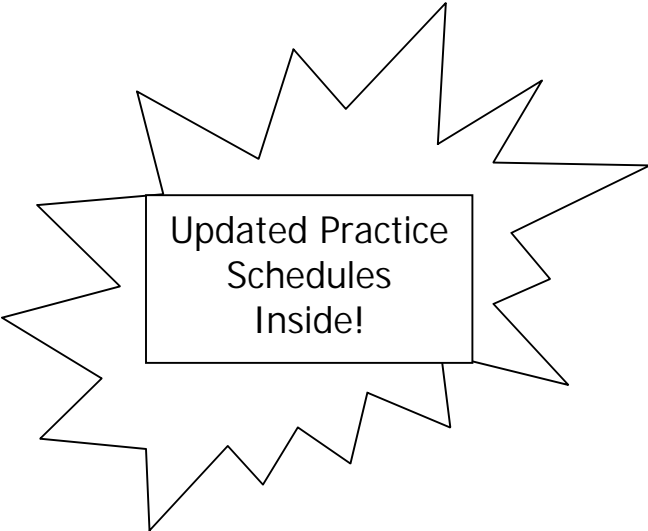
If you think you can work at a future event and would like to be on my on-call list, please contact me at [cjhovik@comcast.net](mailto:cjhovik@comcast.net) or you may call me at 882-6190. Also, please let me know if you are available to work during the weekdays. Our next scheduled event is the Big Spring Jam. If you do volunteer, please let me know if you have a Grissom Band shirt.

Thanks in advance for your willingness to help the band program. I look forward to hearing from you soon. ~

Cherry Hovik ~ co-chair, VBC concessions

GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL  
GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 4335  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35815

-----  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA  
PERMIT NO. 495  
-----



# GHS TIGER BAND NEWSLETTER