



GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

September 2006

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(Send addresses corrections to us!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone!

If you missed the Max Hammond Concert you missed quite a show. Not only did all three bands put on wonderful performances but the dance and choral groups were awesome as well. Obviously there isn't anything I can say about Harry Watters that hasn't already been said. We were truly blessed to have him here to help make this such a fitting event.

Well, now it's time to put things into high gear! The two competitions we will be attending (Gadsden and Nashville) are just a couple of weeks away and the Expo is looming large on our horizon. This is the time of year that the band needs your help the most. Please make an effort to volunteer to chaperone a trip to a football game or competition and to work a shift or three at the Expo next month.

With reference to away football games please make sure that you visit the band website (www.grissomband.org) for important information on the Buckhorn game formerly scheduled for the 21st of September. That game has been rescheduled for the 22nd **AT** Buckhorn. It is possible that by the time you read this we may still need chaperones for this trip. If, by chance we don't, please try and make the trip and support the band and football team. They certainly deserve our support for all their hard work.

Also coming up is another opportunity to work off some of your band fees by volunteering to work for the VBC at Big Spring Jam (as well as many other events). Make sure you read Cherry Hovik's message regarding this opportunity, the benefits for working are pretty good and you'll not only meet some new faces but have some fun as well.

There are so many other things going on I could ramble for another page but won't, I'll leave you to your reading. Please take note of some of our upcoming events and mark them on your calendar. We have the alumni band making a return appearance, band pictures coming up, and fruit sales just around the corner. Like I said, it's time to put it in high gear!

Thank you and I hope to see you at a game or competition soon. As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to shoot me an email or give me a call.

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

Director's September Notes

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 \$5.00 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 30th Midsouth Marching Band Invitational- Gadsden City High School (new Gadsden high school that combines Gadsden, Emma Samson and Litchfield).and the second one October 7th 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.

Schedules for the contest Saturdays will be handed out the week of the contest. Basically we will meet mid morning, have a rehearsal then load the buses to go. We will be gone ALL DAY and return after midnight each Saturday after the contest is over. Detailed itineraries will be posted on the websites the week of the contest.

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! These were due in July. 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 site.

BAND CALENDAR 2006-2007

Please refer to 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.**

We have had several students that have missed every Football Band rehearsal since school began. Their grade in band will be affected. We also have a few students that have not shown up for any football games. We also have some students that missed rehearsals without any kind of notification to the directors and their grade will be affected. It is too late to bring an excuse now so don't even try. We have had the rehearsal attendance policy in this newsletter all summer.

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 SEPTEMBER 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 5th.

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 5:45pm at Milton Frank. Meet in sections dressed in uniform at 6:00pm to check attendance and line up to march into stadium. The football schedule is posted on Charms.

CHANGE IN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE BUCKHORN GAME

Due to the Graduation Exam schedule next week the Buckhorn football game has been moved to Friday, September 22nd at Buckhorn. We know this is not convenient and we do not like to change our schedule but we have no choice. We will run the same schedule that we ran on Friday, September 15th for the Sparkman game. We realize that some of you may have tickets to a Big Spring Jam event that evening. We will allow those students that present us with a copy of their purchased ticket to that event leave after half-time with a signed Bus Exemption Form which can be found on the band's website under FORMS. A student may only leave with a parent or guardian. Since we will be one week away from our first contest we need this performance very badly. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. You and your student put a lot of time and money into the band program and we hope you understand that this change is not our fault and that you and your student will honor your commitment to the band program.

Band Group and Section Picture Scheduled

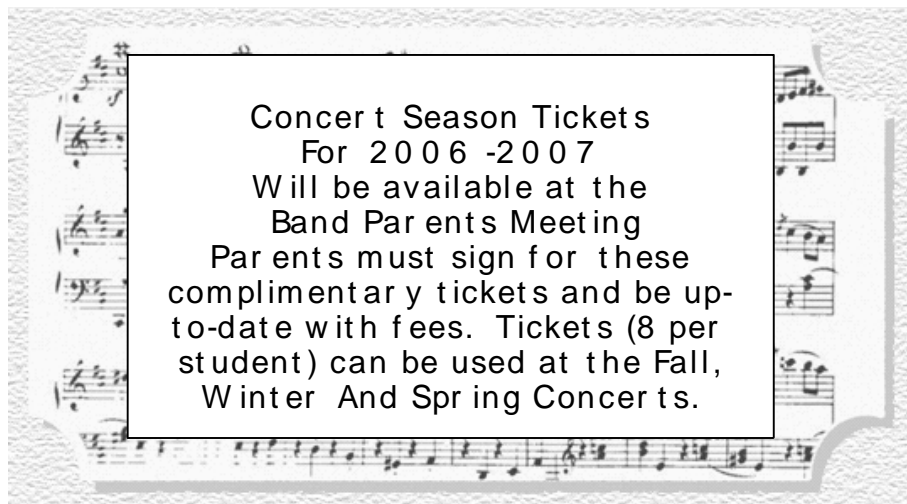
September 29th will be the date for our Big Band Group Picture and section pictures. We have to have a nice picture for the EXPO program and we will use these for the yearbook also. We are hiring a professional photographer to take these pictures prior to the beginning of the September 29th football game at Milton Frank. We will **NOT** have an after school rehearsal that day. We will meet at Milton Frank by 4:45pm to get dressed in uniform and get on the field for the picture by 5:00pm. We will load the trucks immediately after school so they can get there with the equipment and uniforms.

The photographer will take two large group pictures. 1. On the field picture of one of the sets of the pre-game show. 2. In the stands picture; sitting. He will also take individual section pictures. We will do those after the large group pictures. Please make arrangements to be at Milton Frank Stadium on Friday, September 29th by 4:45pm! You may want to have someone bring you dinner or bring it with you to eat after the pictures are done. We will also have the 8th graders there that night too and do the Pre-Game show so that will be a busy time before the game so we will need everyone there on time and ready to hustle to get things done in a timely manner before we have to warm-up and go do the Pre-Game Show.

An order form for these pictures will be made available the day of the pictures, at the band parent meeting on September 25th, posted on the website and hopefully in time to publish in this newsletter.

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 fun to play) it improves the band too!! Contact the band directors for teachers and their phone numbers or email addresses.





We are now entering the home stretch for the 2006 GHS Marching Band Expo!
October 21, 2006

Thanks to all that have stepped forward to lead the committees and to help out. Our big push now is to get our volunteer shifts filled to work the day of the Expo. We have a very user-friendly online sign-up process (thanks to Rex Simmons) and we need all of you to help out as much as you can for this big event.

Here is the website address: www.grissommarchingexpo.org. Go and check it out!!!!

There are many different areas in which you can work on the day of the Expo, so I'm certain you can find something to your liking. Remember, **the only way for this Expo 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 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 **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 pitching in.

Expo News continued: One other area with which we need help during this home stretch is securing some of the “stuff” that we need to make this event work. We will have a more complete list at the next band parent’s meeting, but here is an initial cut at some of the “big ticket” items that we need to borrow for the big day:

- “Gators”
- Four-wheelers
- Golf carts
- Flat-bed equipment trailers
- Open-sided tents (10'x10' or larger)
- RVs

If you own any of these items and will let the band borrow it for the day OR if you have a “connection” through which the band could request use of one or more of these items, please contact Gary Lane at james.g.lane@boeing.com and let him know what you have!

Thanks!!! Jeff Brewer, Chairman, GHS Marching Expo, 880-9754 jjgbrew@knology.net

FRUIT SALE NEWS

It's here! The new fruit order website is online! Just follow this link <http://www.fruitorder.com/orderFundraising.asp?orgId=338427> and you will see what we have to offer. Our new fruit supplier, Florida Indian River Citrus, put this website together for us to allow you and your neighbors, co-workers, and friends to pre-order online and pay with a credit or debit card. You will still pick up the fruit the Friday and Saturday of the sale and yes, we will have fruit you can buy onsite just like always.

We are really encouraging the website presales, though, because it reduces the risk of the band being stuck with unsold fruit. The prices on the website are the same as last year but prices off the truck will be higher. You will also notice a place on the website to credit an individual band member with the sale. We will be offering a \$1 credit on your band account for every full case credited to you. The names have not be loaded into the site yet but will be in the near future.

Our first sale will be Nov 17-18 and we will be signing up people to work that sale at our next band parents' meeting. We are also looking for someone to coordinate the volunteer signup for us this year. Please contact us if you can help in this manner.

Tom Mitchell, former band director at Challenger Middle School and band parent of Sara Mitchell, is requiring weekly medical trips to Cincinnati for cancer treatments. Tom's medical trips continue to work best through Frequent flier donations to Cincinnati. If you travel a lot and have excess frequent flier miles that you are willing to donate, please contact Frank Broyles (fbroyles@presby.org) or Rhonda Mitchell at rhondamitchell@comcast.net. Thank you.

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

Don't forget! Parent / Alumni Band October 5th!

VBC Workers Needed:

The VBC fundraiser is still ongoing and we need more adult and student workers. Please contact me if you think you can spare one evening a month to help this fundraiser. Your band fees will be credited \$5 per hour for each hour that you work.

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