



# GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

February 2007

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(Send address corrections to us!)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

I hope this finds everyone doing well and recovering from what has been a very busy month. I'd like to start off by thanking Becky Proaps, Sharon Keffer and their teams of volunteers for the awesome jobs they did with Sym camp, the pre-districts and District Assessments. Your help as always is truly appreciated!!!

Fruit sales for this year have finished and while we did have approx 25 cases of grapefruit left over from this last sale we did exceptionally well this year. This would not have been possible without the hard work of everyone that helped in any measure with sales, setup and/or distribution. I don't have the final numbers yet but I do know we far exceeded our expectations.

In addition the directors have received the formal invitation to Hollywood. We are still waiting on sample itineraries and costs from Florida Festival Tours but hope to have them soon. Regardless the board suggests that you start making plans now and take advantage of those fund raising opportunities that will allow you to work off any portion of those costs.

And a final reminder: if you have outstanding band fees, that final payment is due March 1.

Once again, thanks to you all for your continued support!!

Jay Simcox  
GBPA President 2006/07

## Executive Board: 2006-07

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

**Directors' Newsletter**  
**February 2007**

**District Assessment**

We are very proud of all three bands for making all superior ratings during District. The bands performed at or very near their ability level, which is all that we ask them to do. We would also like to thank all the students and parents that helped to run this event. Things went very smoothly due mainly to your hard work. Special 'coo does' to Becky Proaps and her folks who helped with the food and snacks.

**State Assessment**

Since all three bands received superior ratings, they have qualified for State. This will be hosted by Huntsville High School March 12- 14. We have applied to play Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, all our bands will be scheduled close to what we requested. The schedule for State probably will not be available before March 1. As soon as we receive it, we will prepare a handout with all the necessary info on it. As with District, the public is invited to any/all performances without charge.

**District Honor Band**

Congratulations to the following students who made the District I Honor Band:

**Junior High Band**

FLUTES

- 1. Jinie Yang – Grissom
- 5. Hyun Ju Nam – Grissom
- 6. Hayley Lawson – Grissom

OBOES

- 1. Eric Clark – Grissom

CLARINETS

- 2. Katie McNichol – Grissom
- 5. Mobolaji Salako – Grissom

BASS CLARINETS

- 1. David Sampson – Grissom

HORNS

- 1. Chris Willuhn – Grissom
- 2. Tyler Dickerhoff – Grissom

TROMBONES

- 1. Daniel Day – Grissom

EUPHONIUMS

- 1. Tyler Daugherty – Grissom

**High School Band**

OBOES

- 1. Allison Potter-Grissom

BASSOONS

- 1. Patrick Cornell – Grissom
- 2. Annie Moody – Grissom

CLARINETS

- 8. Kelli Vogel – Grissom
- 14. Monica Kruse – Grissom
- 19. Shibli Rahman – Grissom

CONTRA CLARINET

- 1. M. G. Proaps – Grissom

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

- 1. Chris Allison – Grissom

HORNS

- 7. Phillip Peek – Grissom

TROMBONES

- 3. Michael Montgomery – Grissom
- 5. Josh Altonji – Grissom
- 7. Calvin Cochran – Grissom

EUPHONIUMS:

- 3. William Dickerhoff – Grissom
- 4. Matt Keffer – Grissom

TUBAS

- 1. Alex McCool – Grissom
- 2. Corey Sherman – Grissom

STRING BASS:

- 1. Joel Keene – Grissom

## **Jazz Festival**

Hopefully we will have at least 6 bands to register for our jazz festival this year, which is scheduled for Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>. This will run sort of like District Assessment but on a smaller scale. We will need parent volunteers and students to work the festival to make it a success. The timeline usually runs 10am-5pm with bands performing for adjudicators and the concert/awards ceremony from 6:15pm-8:00pm. Both "A" and "B" Jazz Bands are required to be here for this activity since both bands will perform on the concert that evening. More info after March 1<sup>st</sup> which is the registration deadline.

## **Registration for Next School Year**

It seems this starts earlier every year, but it is now time to start looking at classes for next year. Band classes will remain the same as this year, although we plan on having Concert Band back during 5<sup>th</sup> period as opposed to 7<sup>th</sup> period this year. There were more class conflicts this year than we have had in many years due to Concert Band 7<sup>th</sup> period.

We will talk to the students about which band to register for, but a general rule is to sign up for the next higher band than you are in presently. That is, if your son/daughter is in Concert Band they should sign up for Sym. II next year. We will do auditions for all students presently in grades 8-11 in the spring and schedules will be adjusted accordingly. Audition material for jazz bands for current 9-11 grades will be available after spring break. More info for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders below.

Please be careful not to overload your child with so many high level classes that they can not cope with the work load. Every year we have students that are miserable because they can't do all the work required for so many upper level classes and as a result ALL their grades suffer, not to mention their health. We are certainly not saying that your child shouldn't take upper classes, but just don't schedule every class as a 'killer' class. We all must remember that these young people are still growing in many different ways, and they need a little time to figure out who they are and what they want to do with their lives.

Please make sure that you and your child follow all deadlines for registration. It is a very time critical process.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration Info**

Your child will receive a large packet of information for registration in the next week or so. There will be deadlines that you need to follow carefully. If you haven't read the info above about registration for the high school students please do so.

There will only be one band on your child's registration form. It will be for Intermediate Band 1101. This is the band that we register all rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders in to simplify the process for you and your child. In the spring we will come to your child's middle school and audition ALL 8<sup>th</sup> graders for high school band. This will be their semester exam for the middle school band directors. **The audition material is posted here <http://www.grissomband.org/freshman.html>** You can download the music and sound clips to practice with. This had been the policy for many years and has been one that is totally supported by the middle school band directors. After all the auditions are complete, we will place each student in the band that is appropriate for their ability level. The guidance counselors at GHS have taken good care of the band students for many years, helping them get the classes scheduled that they want and need. If your 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is interested in jazz band and plays saxophone, trumpet or trombone, they should sign up for Jazz Band, which does not require an audition for entrance with the exception of drums, guitar and piano players. If you are in jazz band you will have 2 band classes on your schedule which many freshmen have that now. Audition information for rhythm section players can be found on the band's website: <http://www.grissomband.org/JazzBands/jazzaudition.html>

We're sure you and your child have some reservations about going to high school, especially if this is your oldest child. Please be aware that every 9<sup>th</sup> grader entering Grissom High School is important to the school. Also be aware that these young people need somewhere and someone to identify with as rising freshmen. The band is the perfect place for that connection. Who else starts the first day of high school with 200+ new friends??!!

The Grissom Band is known throughout the United States as one of the finest high school bands in the country. That is all due to you, your child and the many that have gone through the band program in the past. It's hard work, it takes some time, but it is an experience that you and your child will remember for the rest of your lives. Make sure you **JOIN THE BAND!!**

### **Senior Trip!!**

The seniors' trip to Chicago is getting near. A copy of the itinerary is posted on the band website: [www.grissomband.org](http://www.grissomband.org) Final payment for this trip is due March 1. Total cost for the trip is \$540. Check your account on Charms for how much you have paid. Remit the balance by March 1.

### **Hollywood Parade!!**

We have the official letter of invitation to the 2007 Hollywood Christmas Parade November 21-25. We have not confirmed an itinerary yet with Florida Festival Tours but hope to have some more information at the meeting Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. We estimate \$1,200.00 per person for this trip and the first payment may be the largest due to acquiring airfares. Payments could begin as early as April so please be aware of this and plan accordingly. We want all members of the 2007-2008 Grissom Band to be a part of this opportunity so please save your dollars and be ready for a fun and exciting experience in southern California next November!

### **Pictures**

Individual portraits of your student in their band uniform will be taken during band class the week of February 26-28. This will be on a volunteer basis this year. Cindy Hornsby will again be taking these portraits. Order forms with prices will be available at the meeting.

### **Summer Band Schedule**

Please refer to the band website for summer rehearsal schedules. [www.grissomband.org](http://www.grissomband.org)  
We hope to have all summer rehearsals posted by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Pancake Breakfast**

The Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's was a great success. 127 folks gathered for an early breakfast---with huge plates of pancakes, eggs, and sausage. Several folks said they received more food than they could eat! The following band members showed up early to seat, serve, and clean up!

Jarod Wasson  
Sarah Harris  
Julia Stuckey  
Matthew Keffer  
Robyn Ciliax  
Carey Sherman  
Ray Preston

Michael Hayes  
Jaclyn Harmeyer  
Joey Simcox  
Calvin Cochran  
Morgan Snodgrass  
Angela Keffer  
Jordan Matthews

Matthew Parker  
Erin Woodsinger  
Brian Francica  
Jon Motts  
Jake Liu  
Adam Peterson

Thanks to everyone for their support!



The preparation for the 2007 GHS Marching Band Expo is underway! After having to cancel the 2006 Expo, a couple of changes are being made to this year's event. The most notable is that the date of the Expo will be moved up to September. This is being done in order to make the post-performance critique, which is a unique part of our Expo, more appealing to the competing bands, as they will have more time to incorporate the judges' suggestions into their show. The exact date for the Expo is still undecided; however, it will likely be either September 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Of course, with one less month to prepare to put this Expo together, we are going to have to do MUCH more before this school year is out than we have in the past. As such, I need to get our committees organized and ready to start their work. Several of our committees already have a committee lead ready to go, but there are also several that will need a new committee lead this year. *This is where I need your help!*

- I need volunteers to lead the following committees:
  - Facilities
  - Sponsorship
  - Equipment
  - Publicity
  - Public Health and Safety
  - Hospitality
  - Band Logistics

Please volunteer if you can. With one Expo under our belt, we are really looking to make this year's event even better and bring in even more funds for our band program. But, in order to do this, we need a lot of people to pitch in and it begins right here, right now!

So, if you can lead any one of these committees or want to know the details of responsibilities for any of these committees, please let me know. Remember, this event has the potential to bring in big bucks for the GHS band, so please help out if you can! Thanks!

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

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant  
Awarded to Grissom Band

The Grissom Band is a proud recipient of a 2006 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant in the very generous amount of \$4,000, which will be used toward acquisition of a greatly needed portable acoustic orchestra shell. This shell will enhance the quality of sound and will be used at the May 5 world debut of our commissioned composition "Apollo" and also at future concerts and ensemble performances. We sincerely appreciate this wonderful demonstration of support from Lowe's.

**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. This is a great opportunity to start saving for the Hollywood trip next fall.

Cherry Hovik  
337-4848 (cell)  
[cjhovik@comcast.net](mailto:cjhovik@comcast.net)

Treasurers News:

Everything should be paid by March first. This includes fees, instrument rentals, shoes, final trip payment, etc. Parents and students can check Charms to see what remains to be paid.

Thanks – Julie Ashcraft

**Got a new  
Cell Phone??**



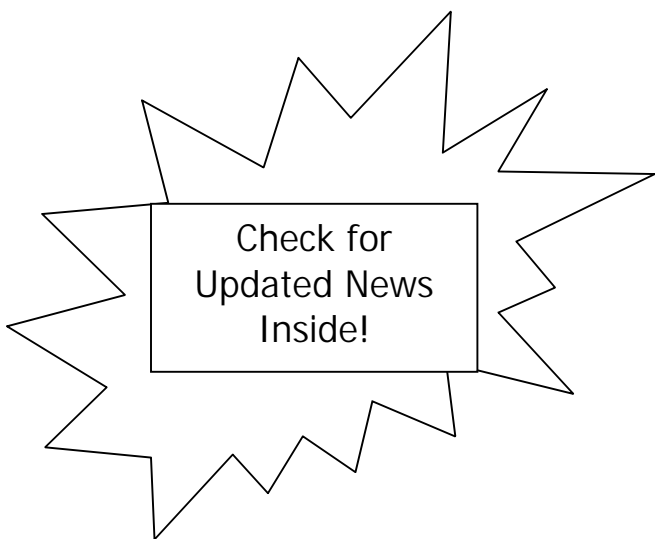
**Recycle the Old  
&**

**Benefit the  
Grissom Band  
Drop-off box in the  
Band Room**

We recycle print cartridges  
also!!

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# GHS TIGER BAND NEWSLETTER