



GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

March 2007

Editors: Judy Hardwick and Penny Ireland

judhrdwk@knology.net ; wmsghsaumom@comcast.net

(Send address corrections to us!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's that time again; we are slowly winding down with just a few big events left before the end of the year. The banquet is in the planning stages, nominations for next years board are in the works and will be announced at the next band parents association meeting, the Hollywood trip is in the initial stages and much, much more.

Don't forget that we have a couple of very important events coming up within the next month. The SCGC Championships for the Vivace` Winter Guard will be held in Chattanooga March 30 – 31. If at all possible please plan to attend and support this wonderful group of students and the parents who have put in many hours supporting them. We also have the Jazz festival here at Grissom scheduled for March 31st, the Jazz Bands Spring Concert scheduled for April 27th here at Grissom and the Dixie Classic Adjudicators Invitational Festival in Chattanooga on April 28th. Please make an effort to attend as many of these events as possible and show your support for our children.

In addition to nominations for next year being announced at the March band parents meeting there will be information regarding next years Expo as we get that planning started and the Vivace` Winter Guard will be doing a dress rehearsal after the meeting in the gymnasium to prepare for the SCGC Championships the following weekend. You are all invited, and encouraged, to attend.

In closing for this month I would like to comment on something that has been bothering me for some time. The Grissom Band Parents Association is here to support our children, not my child and not this persons child or that persons child. It is here for OUR children and as such it is our responsibility to do all we can to do all we can to make this community work. Over the past few months I see the same core group of faces at the monthly band parents meeting, working fruit sales, volunteering to work the VBC opportunity, driving trucks and chaperoning trips or working the concerts. I realize that many of us are two income families where both parents work or one parent travels regularly but you know what? A lot of that core group of folks that are always among the first to volunteer whenever we need help are in the same boat, yet they manage to find the time to help. If this organization and band are to continue to operate at the level it has for the last 30 years or so your time and assistance are greatly needed. I don't think showing up for one hour a month to a band parents meeting or working a two hour shift selling fruit or at some other function is asking a whole lot of our members.

Don't forget, band parents meeting March 26th at 7 pm in the auditorium followed by the Vivace` Winter Guards dress rehearsal in the gymnasium.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jay Simcox

Executive Board: 2006-07

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

Committees:

Marching Exposition: Jeff Brewer
jjgbrew@knology.net
Chaperones: Debbie Krenn dlkrenn@comcast.net
Publicity: Kristi Fugit kristi.fugit@ngc.com
Color Guard: Alice Searcy searcy@hiwaay.net and
Margaret Haack Haack05@comcast.net
Stadium Setup: Jim Krenn jdkrenn@comcast.net.
Spirit: Avi Swain AMadanSwain@peds.uab.edu
Concerts: Sharon Keffer: sharonkeffer@knology.net,
Laura Hardy: lhardy@knology.net, Karen Allison
klallison129@aol.com
Transportation: Paula Dickerhoff and Valerie
Anderson dickerhoff@knology.net
Fruit Sales: Jim and Sheila Kirsch
fruitsales@knology.net;
Script: Nelson and Karen Parker
parker23@knology.net
Trucks: Jim Kirsch jkirsch@knology.net
Vipers: Cherry Hovik cjhovik@comcast.net
Jerry and Liz Potter jwpotter@knology.net
Uniforms: Tiffeny Hubbard, 880-3669;
Patti Preston, ppreston@knology.net
Historian: Dave Montgomery, jdmont@hiwaay.net
Ways and Means: Karen Parker
parker23@knology.net
Hospitality:
Webmaster: Rex Simmons
webmaster@grissomband.org
Newsletter: Judy Hardwick judhrdwk@knology.net;
and Penny Ireland wmsghsaumom@comcast.net

Directors:

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

Directors' Newsletter **March 2007**

State Assessment

We hope that by the time you read this the bands will have racked up a Superior ratings at State!! The bands have worked extremely hard to prepare all the music the way we asked them to. Hopefully all that hard work will pay off. At any rate, we tell the students to play their best at that particular point in time. If they do that, the rest is really immaterial.

Jazz Festival

We have 4 bands registered for our jazz festival this year, which is scheduled for Saturday March 31st. 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 will run 10am-2:15pm with bands performing for adjudicators and the concert/awards ceremony from 1:15pm-2:15pm. Both "A" and "B" Jazz Bands are required to be here for this activity to help with logistics. The "A" Jazz Band will perform on the concert beginning at 1:15pm.

MTSU Jazz Festival

Both "A" and "B" Jazz Bands will travel to Middle Tennessee State University on Saturday, April 14th to participate in the MTSU Jazz Festival. The festival will begin at 9:00 am with performances by high school jazz ensembles running at thirty minute intervals throughout the day. The evening concert, featuring world renowned trumpeter **Snoopy Young** with the MTSU Jazz Ensemble I, is scheduled for 7:30 pm. We will leave after the ACT test that morning and return approximately 12:00 midnight. We will take a charter bus which will cost each student \$15.00. They will need money for dinner too. We have room for a few chaperones so if you are interested in going please contact Debbie Krenn.

Dixie Classic Adjudicators Invitation Festival

The two Symphonic Bands and Concert band will participate in the Dixie Classic National Adjudicators Invitational Concert Band Festival in Chattanooga, TN on Saturday, April 28. The bands have been invited again this year due to their superior performances at District and State Festivals. This will be a one day trip and will cost \$50.00 per student which includes festival entry fees and transportation on charter buses. Final payment was due February 26th. Be sure to write your child(ren)'s name on the check and what it is for. Please mark this date on your calendars. We will need every individual to participate to perform at our very best! Schedule and itinerary will be posted ASAP.

Go check out their website for more information: <http://www.dixieclassic.com/>

Jazz Bands Spring Concert

The jazz bands spring concert is scheduled for Friday, April 27th at 7:30pm in the auditorium at Grissom. Please come out and hear all the different styles of jazz that the students are preparing. It will be a fun evening of jazz. Tickets can be bought at the door and are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and senior citizens.

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 5th period as opposed to 7th period this year. There were more class conflicts this year than we have had in many years due to Concert Band 7th 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 9th graders is 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.

8th 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 9th 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 8th 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 8th 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 9th 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!!**

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 26th. 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 sometime after Spring Break. We will have all students have their picture taken. Cindy Hornsby will again be taking these portraits.

Summer Band Schedule

Please refer to the band website for summer rehearsal schedules. www.grissomband.org

Winter Guard Exhibition Show

Our 2 winter guard groups will present their Championship Shows after our general parent meeting in the new gym at Grissom. Please be sure you stay and watch their performances and wish them luck for their Championship performance on March 30 and 31 in Chattanooga.

Spring Concert

The Grissom Band will be presenting two World premier performances at the Spring Concert Saturday, May 5th. One will be a piece commissioned by the GHS Band, written for solo soprano saxophone with band accompaniment. This is being written by Brian Balmages, an up and coming composer. The other is a lost manuscript by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) that has been edited by local retired band director Wayne Blackwell. We are so excited to present these two monumental works that will be added to the library of band literature!!

Band Banquet News Alert!

The celebration of another great year, *THE GRISSOM BAND BANQUET*, is fast approaching! Mark your calendars for Friday, May 18, 6:30pm at the North Hall of the VBC. For the uninitiated, the banquet is a celebration of the accomplishments, hard work, incredible successes and the life-long friendships and memories of the Grissom Band 2006-2007. We'll also take the time to honor the seniors and bid them farewell.

Ticket reservation cards will be mailed in early April. Reservations **MUST** be received by April 28.

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

Band Pictures Needed!

The historian needs your pictures to use in the slide show! Did you snap a picture of your child looking like a pro in the field or on stage? Making faces and laughing in the stands? Hanging with friends in the bandroom? If so, please send your photos to school and *have your student put them in the*

Slideshow Box in the bandroom. A CD is preferred but Dave can also handle printed photos and floppies. Please put your name on your photos or media so that we can get them back to you. Questions? Contact Dave Montgomery at 881-9387 or jdmont@hiwaay.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 or really embarrassing shots. We also need their senior picture (or any recent, nice photo) and a Baby/Toddler picture. Put the names on the back of all of these. We'll scan them for the slideshow and we'll hang them on the 'Then and Now' wall.

Please put the pictures in 2 cheap, lightweight plastic frames (think Wal-Mart). The frames need to be lightweight because they will be hung on the fabric folding wall of the VBC. Senior pictures can be any size, from a wallet to a 8x10. Baby / childhood pictures should be 5x7 or smaller. Jim Gatherer (650-0843, hsvjim@yahoo.com) will be collecting the photos and putting the senior slideshow together. Contact him with any questions.

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)

Bonus! ~ Coming at our Spring Concert...
a silent auction.

Come prepared to bid on some GREAT gifts!

Cancelled ~ The Pancake Breakfast for March that was on our band calendar has been cancelled.



With around 6 months to go before the 2007 GHS Marching Band Expo, there is a lot of work to do! And I REALLY NEED YOUR HELP! I still need volunteers to lead the following committees:

- Facilities
- Sponsorship
- Equipment
- Publicity
- Public Health and Safety
- Hospitality
- Band Logistics

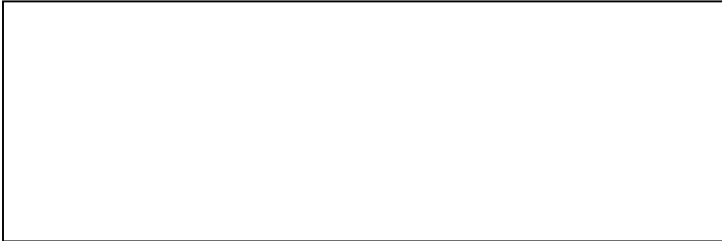
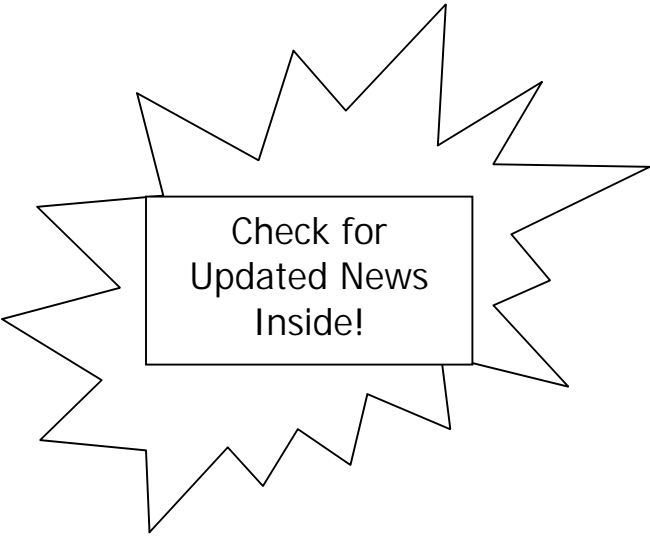
If you would like additional information on any of these committees' responsibilities, please contact me. This event has the potential to be a HUGE fundraiser for our kids and our band. With one year under our belt (and many of the kinks worked out!), we are primed to make this event a big success. But it takes a bunch of folks helping out to make it work, so please help if you can.

Thanks!

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

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

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GHS TIGER BAND NEWSLETTER