



# GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

April 2007

Editors: Judy Hardwick and Penny Ireland  
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(Send address corrections to us!)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

As you read this the nomination committee is hard at work preparing the proposed slate for next years Grissom band Parents Association Board of Directors. Remember we will be voting on that slate at the April meeting the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are also looking for volunteers to fill a wide variety of committee positions so if you want to help out there are plenty of opportunities to do so.

You would think that as we move into April and beyond we would be slowing down but that just isn't our style! With state and district assessments, the Grissom and MTSU jazz festivals and the Winter Guards SCGC Championship all behind us it is time to look forward to winding down the year. There are still several opportunities for all of us to see our young men and women perform over the next few weeks; the Dixie Classic Festival on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Jazz Bands Spring Concert on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, and the Spring Concert on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure not to miss out on these opportunities to show your support for our children and the band.

Also, in case you missed the news the Hollywood Christmas Parade was canceled due to financial reasons so we will not be going there. The directors are working with Florida Festival Tours on a trip to Philadelphia/New York City to march in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Parade and to see the sights of the Big Apple! Please see the Directors news for more information and start making your plans now! We would absolutely love to have each and every student make this trip if at all possible.

In closing this month please don't forget the band banquet on May 18<sup>th</sup>. A huge thanks to Kathy Francica, Avi Swain, Teresa Montgomery and all that are helping out on this great event. This is our last chance to honor all of our senior students that have given so much to the band and to their classmates. This will be a special occasion that shouldn't be missed. **Please remember that in order to attend the banquet your students band fees MUST be paid in full.**

There is more information on the band banquet from the directors and Teresa Montgomery elsewhere in the newsletter. Please be sure to read it. I hope to see you all soon at one of the events listed above!

Jay Simcox  
GBPA President 2006/07

## 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: [sharonkeffer@knology.net](mailto:sharonkeffer@knology.net),  
Laura Hardy: [lhardy@knology.net](mailto:lhardy@knology.net), Karen Allison  
[klallison129@aol.com](mailto:klallison129@aol.com)  
**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);  
**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 [jwpotter@knology.net](mailto:jwpotter@knology.net)  
**Uniforms:** Tiffeny Hubbard, 880-3669;  
Patti Preston, [ppreston@knology.net](mailto:ppreston@knology.net)  
**Historian:** Dave Montgomery, [jdmont@hiwaay.net](mailto:jdmont@hiwaay.net)  
**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 Ireland [wmsghsaumom@comcast.net](mailto:wmsghsaumom@comcast.net)

## Directors:

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

## Directors' Newsletter April 2007

### State Assessment

Congratulations to all three concert bands for receiving, and earning straight superior ratings at State Assessment in March. We are very proud of the work they put in and as a result it paid off.

### Jazz Festival

Thank you to those parents and all students of both jazz bands for assisting with our jazz festival. We had 3 bands perform along with our "A" Jazz band and it was a successful day. All three directors, students and adults in attendance were very complimentary.

### MTSU Jazz Festival

Both "A" and "B" Jazz Bands traveled to Middle Tennessee State University on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> to participate in the MTSU Jazz Festival. Both bands received an overall superior rating with several outstanding soloist awards handed out. Daniel Sweat, Melody Hovik, Parker Anderson, Chris Call, Harrison Wise, Ross Wall, and Christian Clark. Congratulations!

### Jazz Bands Spring Concert

The jazz bands spring concert is scheduled for Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at **7:00pm** 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.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Audition Info

In May 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!! It's not too late to sign up.**

### 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 26<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to write your child(ren)'s name on the check and what it is for. The schedule for this day is posted on the band's website and Charms. A copy is posted here too:

## DIXIE CLASSIC FESTIVAL / APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>

### SYMPHONIC BAND 2 AND TRUCK CREW

7:30am Symphonic Band 2 and truck crew meet in band room for role check.

7:45am Depart for Chattanooga.

#### **EASTERN TIME ZONE**

10:45 EST Arrival at performance site  
Memorial Auditorium  
399 McCallie Avenue  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402  
Telephone 423-757-5156

10:45-11:25 Change into uniform, truck crew unload at dock.

11:45am Prepare for warm up

11:55 Sym 2 warm up

12:30pm Sym 2 PERFORMS! Truck crew be ready to set up risers and percussion equipment on stage. Help the Dixie Classic staff with set up.

1:05pm Sym 2 CLINIC!

1:35pm Go back to buses and change to go to lunch.

When Sym 2 returns from lunch we will go in and listen to bands

#### **SEE BELOW FOR REMAINDER OF DAY**

### SYMPHONIC BAND 1 AND CONCERT BAND

9:30am Meet in band room for role check.

9:45am Depart for Chattanooga.

#### **EASTERN TIME ZONE**

12:45pm Arrival at performance site  
Memorial Auditorium  
399 McCallie Avenue  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402  
Telephone 423-757-5156

12:45-1:25 Concert Band Change into uniform. Sym 1 go into auditorium to listen

1:50 Prepare for warm up

2:00 Concert Band warm up

2:30 Concert Band PERFORMS!

3:00 Concert Band CLINIC!

3:30 Concert Band change and come back in auditorium to listen

4:15 (after Comeaux HS) Sym 1 go change into uniform

5:15 Prepare for warmup

5:25 Sym 1 warmup

6:00 Sym 1 PERFORMS!

6:30 Sym 1 CLINIC! Truck crew not in SYM 1 load truck please!

6:30 AWARDS CEREMONY

??? Depart for Huntsville after awards ceremony

Stop for dinner after awards ceremony

11:00pm APPROXIMATE arrival at Grissom.

#### Stuff to bring:

- Uniform parts
- Instruments, reeds, mutes, etc.
- Sack lunch for bus ride.
- Extra food for before awards ceremony
- Money for dinner
- **NO PIXIE STIX AND OR KIND OF GARBAGE AT ALL!**
- Truck crew decide who is working each band.
- **LEAVE ALL INSTRUMENT CASES ON BUSES OR TRUCK**

## **Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade!!**

We now have the official letter of invitation to the 2007 Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade November 21-25. We will spend a day or so in Philly then head over to New York City for touring and sightseeing. We hope to have three Broadway Shows to choose from. (Lion King, Phantom of the Opera, and Tarzan). It will be easier to get tickets to three rather than try getting us all in one show. We have not confirmed an itinerary yet with Florida Festival Tours but hope to have some more information ASAP.

**THE FIRST DEPOSIT OF \$200.00 IS DUE MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> WITH MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$200.00 JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER. ONCE WE HAVE FINAL BALANCE WE WILL LET YOU KNOW. MAKE CHECKS OUT TO GRISSOM BAND PARENTS. BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT'S NAME ON THE CHECK AND WHAT IT IS FOR. YOU CAN MAIL THEM TO:**

**GRISSOM BAND PARENTS**

**P. O. BOX 4335**

**HUNTSVILLE, AL 35815-4335.**

**WE MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 150 BAND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THIS PARADE OR WE WILL NOT TAKE THIS TRIP. WE WILL NOT TAKE A "MAKE SHIFT" BAND TO PERFORM ON NATIONAL TELEVISION AND REPRESENT OUR BAND PROGRAM.** 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 Philadelphia and New York City.

## **Thanksgiving Day Parade Rehearsals**

Rehearsals for the Thanksgiving Day Parade will begin after fall break with one evening rehearsal a week. More details TBA.

## **Pictures**

Due to time constraints we will not have individual band portraits made this year. Sorry ☹

## **Summer Band Schedule**

Please refer to the band website for summer rehearsal schedules. [www.grissomband.org](http://www.grissomband.org)

The summer and fall football schedule are posted in the Charms calendar.

## **Spring Concert**

The Grissom Band will be presenting two World premier performances at the Spring Concert Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. 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**

The annual Band Banquet is Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the VBC North Hall. All students who are "debt free" of and band debts go for free! Please check your Charms account and see that you are paid in full before you send in your reservation cards. Please see the article in this newsletter about reservation cards and procedures.

### **Robert Watkins Scholarship**

We hope that each and every senior band student will apply for the Robert Watkins Scholarship which will be awarded at the annual Band Banquet Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the VBC. Robert graduated from Grissom in 1987 and was tragically killed in a car accident the day before he was to leave for Band Camp at Mississippi State University. Robert's parents and the Grissom Band parent Association started a scholarship in Robert's name to be awarded to a graduating senior which represents the spirit and the love of the Grissom Band that Robert possessed. The applications were made available to all seniors the week of April 9-13 and are due on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your senior to apply for this scholarship.

### **Eric Obermann Scholarship**

The Eric Obermann Scholarship will be awarded at the annual band banquet. This scholarship started last year and is awarded to the most improved Grissom Band senior student. Eric was a Grissom Band member and now has ALS and his wish with his newly formed foundation was to give a scholarship to a graduation Grissom Band Member. Applications went out before Spring Break and the committee is reviewing these now.

### **Graduation Band**

All non-graduating members of the Grissom Band will perform at the graduation ceremonies on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Wear dress clothes and report at 6:45pm at the VBC Arena.

### **Summer Band Schedule**

Color Guard Clinic/audition	May 7-11	3:30-5:30pm
Leadership clinics	May 8, 10 & 15	3:30-5:30
Color Guard Captain tryouts	May 21 <sup>st</sup>	1:00pm
Drum Mayor Tryouts	May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1:00pm
Rookie Camp (all incoming 9 <sup>th</sup> graders)	May 29, 30, 31, June 1	8am-12pm
Percussion Mini Camps	TBA Maybe 2 mini weekend camps before	
	the July full week camp.	
Color Guard Camp	June 4-8	8-11am / 12-3pm
	July 2-6	8-11am / 12-3pm
Alabama Sports Exhibition	July 13 <sup>th</sup>	evening TBA
(all section leaders and some upperclassmen	will perform in the stands at A & M)	
Color Guard Front Line Camp	July 16-20	5-8pm
Percussion Camp	July 16-20	8-11:30-1-4pm
Uniform Fittings and Fee payments	July 23-25	
Pre-Band Camp	July 25-27	8am-12pm
Band Camp	July 30-Aug. 3	
	8am-12pm EVERYBODY	
	1:30-4pm	Contest Band only
	6-9pm	Contest Band only
School starts	August 8	
Evening marching rehearsals begin	August 9 <sup>th</sup>	6-8:30pm
	Mondays - Color Guard (6-9pm) Percussion (5-8pm)	
	Tuesdays (6-8:30pm) All marching band members	
	Thursdays - (6-8:30pm) Contest band members only	
	Game Days - (3:30-4:00pm) All marching band members	

## Marching Band Contest Dates

September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> the band will compete in marching contests. Locations TBA  
October 6<sup>th</sup> we will host our own contest the Grissom Marching EXPO at Milton Frank stadium. All three of these events are required for ALL MARCHING BAND MEMBERS. ~ Directors

## BANQUET NEWS

The annual band banquet will be held at the Von Braun Center on Friday, May 18th. Reservation cards will be hitting the mail boxes in the next few days. Please remember the following -

(1) ALL band dues, rentals, trip, etc. charges must be paid in full. We cannot accept reservations (for your student or any other attendee) until this is taken care of. Please check your account on Charms. If you have any questions, contact Julie Ashcraft regarding your student's account. Her email address appears in this newsletter.

(2) Payment must accompany your reservation card. Your student's meal is covered by paid dues. Additional reservations must have payment accompany the reservation. If you are using account credits, please confirm you have adequate credits available to use and make a note on the bottom of the card with instructions to apply credits.

(3) We will again have a choice of a chicken meal or beef meal. We were able to hold the cost per meal to \$20 each.

(4) ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 7, 2007. Due to an extremely large class this year, we are limited on space. It is important that you get your reservations in early. We are hoping to accommodate all but due to fire marshal codes we are limited without exception.

A very special "THANK YOU" to Kathy Francica and Avi Swain for taking the lead in working with the seniors and assembling a stellar cast to get this production "on stage".

### \*PICTURES\*PICTURES\*PICTURES\*

We are busy working on the slide show presentation for the banquet as well as collecting "Before & After" pictures of the seniors. Please drop LABELED pictures in the box in the band room. The Before picture (usually 3yrs or younger) and the After picture (usually their senior picture) should be 5x7 or 8x10 submitted in a light weight, non-glass frame. Once these have been scanned in for the show they will be forwarded to the decorating committee for display in the banquet hall. We need these pictures ASAP.

You may email pictures for the slide show to [jdmont@hiwaay.net](mailto:jdmont@hiwaay.net). For the gallery, we need the actual picture in a frame. THANKS!!!!!!

## 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.

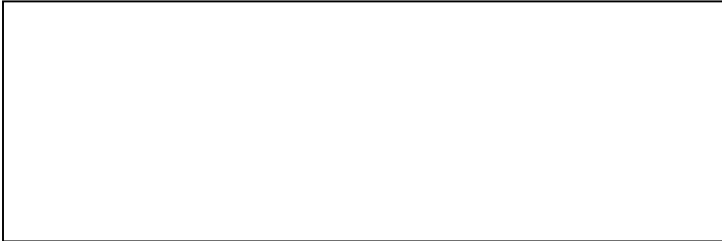
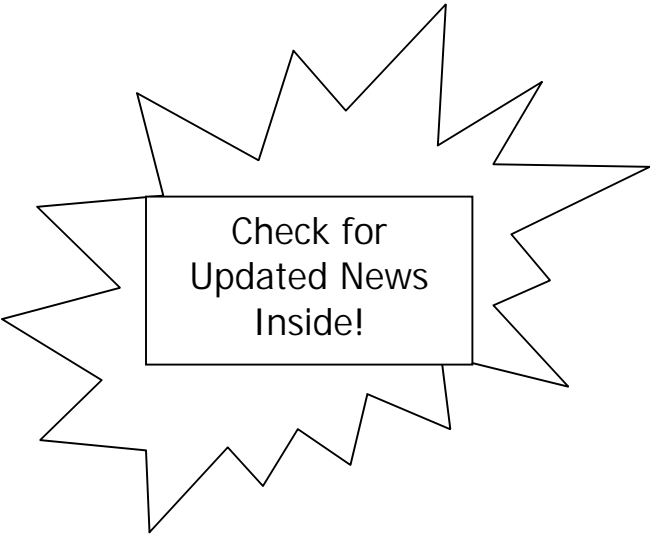
Cherry Hovik  
337-4848 (cell)



If you would like additional information how to be a part, 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  
[jjbrew@knology.net](mailto:jjbrew@knology.net)

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