

# **Welcome to the Grissom High School Band Family!**



**Freshman Parent Orientation Meeting**  
**May 25, 2023**



# Why Are We Here Tonight?

- To provide an overview of the Grissom High School Band Program
- To cover the following key topics:
  - **WHAT IS GRISSOM BAND?**
  - **HOW MUCH TIME DOES BAND TAKE?**
  - **SCHEDULE**
  - **COST**
  - **FUNDRAISING**
  - **COMMUNICATION**
  - **VOLUNTEERING**
  - **UNIFORMS**
- To answer any questions you may have

**Please Ask  
Questions  
As We Go!**



# ABOUT GRISSOM BAND

## What is Grissom Band?

- A nationally-recognized Band Program, known for high standards of performance and the quality of experience given to its members
- A gold-standard program for other band programs across the county to model themselves after
- A program that prides itself on a tradition of excellence:
  - Numerous awards and national recognitions for marching, concert, and jazz bands
  - Students in band are scholars, athletes, SGA members, and Honor Society members
  - Many graduates receive band and/or academic-related scholarships and continue in band programs at college
- A program where members will:
  - Gain immense self-confidence
  - Develop a sense of pride in their work ethic and achieving high standards set by the Directors
  - Be accepted and be part of something great
  - Learn the importance of teamwork and camaraderie to achieve success
  - Have fun and gain numerous life skills

## The Importance of Band

- Band teaches important life skills – Dedication, Generosity, Teamwork, Communication, Trust, Responsibility, Accountability, Time Management, Respect, Discipline
- Academic Excellence
  - Band Students are usually top scholars at their schools
  - They average 62 points higher on SAT tests
- Studies show direct correlation between music and academic and personal achievement
- Requires students to shift from a “Me” focus to an “Us” focus for each rehearsal and performance
- Band builds positive self-worth



# ABOUT GRISSOM BAND (continued)

## Groups That Make Up The Grissom Band

**MARCHING BAND.** All students are required to participate in Marching Band their first year. Marching Band is comprised of two sub-groups:

1. Football Band. These students attend all football games, perform the pre-game show at football games, play in the stands during football games, and often time assist with or serve as cast members for the Contest Band
2. Contest Band. This group does everything that Football Band does, plus performs the full marching show at Half Time for football games and competes at 2 to 3 Marching Contents. Participation in Contest Band is via selection by the Directors. Freshmen can audition and be a part of the Contest Band.

**COLOR GUARD** is the part or marching band that provides additional visual aspects to the performance of the Marching Band. Members enhance performances through using various equipment such as flags, rifles, sabers, etc. ***Students who play an instrument in band and tryout for Color Guard must remain a playing member of the band in order to participate in Color Guard, otherwise they can not remain in Color Guard***

**CONCERT BANDS.** There are three bands in this category that increase in the level of difficulty of music as you progress through them.

1. Concert Band
2. Symphonic II Band
3. Symphonic I Band

All 3 bands perform for the MPA Competition and possibly other concert competitions.

They also perform 2-3 concerts every year.

**JAZZ BANDS.** There are two Jazz Bands at Grissom:

1. A Jazz Band—is for upperclassmen already enrolled at Grissom that have auditioned.
2. B Jazz Band is open to students of all grade levels.
  - Incoming freshmen playing saxophone, trumpet, or trombone may sign up for the B Jazz Band
  - Rhythm section instruments (piano, guitar, bass, and drums) must submit an audition recording

Audition Information for Jazz Band is found on the band website under Future Band Members

Both Jazz Bands perform 2 to 3 concerts per year. They may also have community performances and out-of-town festivals and competitions that they are invited to throughout the year.





# HOW MUCH TIME DOES BAND TAKE?

## Marching Band Rehearsals

### Football Band

Tuesdays Only from 6:00 – 7:00pm until the last rehearsal is announced.  
Usually in early September.

### Contest Band

Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00-8:30pm – From the start of school to the last marching contest in October  
When we have a Thursday Game, Contest Band will practice Wednesday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm

### Game Days - Everyone

Practice after school  
4:00-4:45pm on the band field

### Marching Band Percussion

An extra rehearsal on Monday evenings from 6:00-9:00pm

### Color Guard

An extra rehearsal on Monday evenings from 6:00-9:00pm

## Football Game Information

The marching band attends all home varsity football games and some of the away games. These are most often on Friday nights; sometimes on a Thursday night.

## Marching Contest Information

The Contest Band will attend 2 to 3 marching contests. These will occur on Saturdays.

### Saturday

September 23 - Madison Stadium

### Saturday

September 30 - TBD

### Saturday

October 14 - TBD

- The Contest Band will perform at all of these competitions.
- Football Band may attend at least one competition.

## Symphonic / Concert Band Rehearsals

*These rehearsals begin after football season and go through the beginning of May.*

### Symphonic Band I

**Tuesdays - 3:50-5:30pm**

### Symphonic Band II

**Thursdays - 3:50-5:30pm**

### Concert Band

**Mondays - 3:50-5:30pm**

**All rehearsals and performances are required attendance. Failure to do so results in a failing grade for the 9 weeks in which the infraction occurs. Band in high school is a performance-based class!**

# SCHEDULE

## Spring / Summer Camp Schedule

### **Attendance is required!**

New Member Orientation .....May 22-25 6-8:00pm  
 Color Guard Camp #1 .....June 5-9 - 8am-4pm  
 Color Guard Camp #2.....June 26-30 - 8am-4pm  
 Percussion Camp #1.....June 5-9 - 8am-4pm  
 Percussion Camp #2.....June 26-30 - 8am-4pm  
**(extra sectionals may be announced)**  
 Uniform Fittings.....August 13th -Times TBA  
 Pre-Camp.....July 17-21 - 8am-9pm  
 Band Camp.....July 24-28 - 8am-9pm  
**8am-12pm – Football Band and Contest Band**  
**1:30-4pm and 6-9pm – Contest Band Only**  
*This schedule is subject to change.*

## Band Family Picnic and Preview Show

Join us at the end of band camp week for the Grissom Band Family Picnic and Marching Program Preview Show.

- Friday, July 28, 6:00pm at Milton Frank or Grissom

## Football Games and Marching Competitions

8/25 (Fri).....@Russellville  
 9/1 (Fri).....Hazel Green @JD  
 9/8 (Fri).....Huntsville @MF  
 9/15 (Fri).....Bob Jones @JD  
 9/22 (Fri).....@Sparkman  
 9/23 (Sat).....Contest @Madison  
 9/29 (Fri).....No Game  
Contest Band rehearsal 4-5:30  
 9/30 (Sat).....Contest @TBD  
 10/6 (Fri).....Austin @A&M  
 10/13 (Fri).....@Albertville  
 10/14 (Sat).....Contest @TBD  
 10/20 (Fri).....Florence @MF (HC)  
 10/26 (Thu)....James Clemens@ MF  
 11/2 (Thu).....@Buckhorn

@MF = Milton Frank Stadium

@JD = Joe Davis Stadium

@A&M = Alabama A&M Stadium

## Marching Season Rehearsal Schedule

School Begins.....Wednesday, August 2  
 Color Guard .....Mondays, 6-9pm  
 Percussion .....Mondays, 6-9pm  
 Football Band .....Tuesdays, 6-7pm  
**until last rehearsal announced sometime in September**  
 Contest Band .....Tuesday and Thursday, 6-8:30pm  
 Contest Band.....Wednesdays\*, 3:30-5:30pm  
**(\*only on weeks with a Thursday night game)**  
 All Marching Band .....Game Days, 4:00-4:45pm

## Symphonic / Concert Band Rehearsals

After football season through the beginning of May

Symphonic I.....**Tuesdays - 3:50-5:30pm**  
 Symphonic II.....**Thursdays - 3:50-5:30pm**  
 Concert Band.....**Mondays - 3:50-5:30pm**

***All rehearsals and performances are required attendance. Failure to do so results in a lower grade for the 9 weeks in which the infraction occurs. Band in high school is a performance-based class!***



# COST

## BAND FEES - \$700 total; details below

Base .....	\$550
\$50 .....	Due during New Member Orientation
\$250 .....	Due at Uniform Fitting
\$140 .....	Due October 1 <sup>st</sup>
\$110 .....	Due February 1 <sup>st</sup>

## Transportation & Away Game Meals.....\$150

\$25 .....	Due at Uniform Fitting
\$75 .....	Due October 1 <sup>st</sup>
\$50 .....	Due February 1 <sup>st</sup>

## Instrument Rental Fees.....\$75 per semester (Summer, Fall, Spring)

Applies to all percussionists and to anyone else who rents an instrument from the band. Marching Band percussionists rent all 3 semesters; others may only rent one or two semesters

\$75, Summer Instr. Rental Fee .....	Due at Uniform Fitting
\$75, Fall Instr. Rental Fee .....	Due October 1 <sup>st</sup>
\$75, Spring Instr. Rental Fee .....	Due February 1 <sup>st</sup>

## Miscellaneous Information

- You may mail send payments to our PO Box. **GBPA. PO Box 4335, Huntsville, AL 35815**
- During the school year, there are 2 other payment options:
  - Pay using Paypal through your MyMusicOffice Account
  - Treasurer's Box in the band room. Envelope with name and payment explanation written.

## COLOR GUARD ONLY FEES - \$490 total; details below

Base .....	\$390
\$50 .....	Due at summer Camp#1
\$290 .....	Due August at uniform fittings for marching band
\$100 .....	Due October 1 <sup>st</sup>

## Transportation & Away Game Meals.....\$100

\$25 .....	Due at Uniform Fitting
\$75 .....	Due October 1 <sup>st</sup>

## Other Costs.....TBD

Marching shoes, practice flags, gloves, sweats, spirit uniform

## Other Costs for Band Members

In addition to the fees listed below, other minor expenses will occur throughout the school year for things such as gloves or fees for special events and performances. These are usually minor in value (\$20-\$40) and occur infrequently.

\$32, Marching Shoes.....Due at Uniform Fitting

**20% late payment fee will be applied for payments received after the deadline unless prior arrangements made**



# Fundraising

## Fundraising That Benefits Everyone!

Here is some information on our most common fundraising activities. All result in money for the band, and some result in credits applied to your student's band account. Credits can be applied towards band fees, trips, spirit wear, etc.

### Car Washes

- Participants earn band credits to their band fees through ticket sales and participation
- Dates: June 17, July 1, August 19 at Bryant Bank on Bailey Cove

### Grissom Fruit Sales

- Our single largest and most important fundraiser
- 3 fruit sales; monthly from November to January
- We will credit \$5 per hour for each hour worked by a student or parent to the student's band account
- Contact for more info: [fruitsales@grissomband.org](mailto:fruitsales@grissomband.org)

### Mattress Sale

- A great fundraiser for the band. Please help us get the word out!
- Sunday, October 23rd from 11am to 5pm in the band room

### Publix Partners

- Create an account on Publix.com and select Grissom Band from the choice of available charities
- When you check out at Publix, just enter the phone number that you listed in the account, and Grissom Band will receive a portion of your money spent

### Spirit Wear

- Grissom Band Gear – t-shirts, sweatshirts, magnets, etc.

### Scrip

- Buy gift cards at face value from restaurants or merchants you love
- A portion is returned to the band and a portion is credited to your student's band account.
- See "Scrip Merchants" on the GBPA website Contact: [scrip@grissomband.org](mailto:scrip@grissomband.org) for more info

### Von Braun Center (VBC) Concessions

- Parents and students age 16 and up can work concessions for events at the VBC.
- \$8 per hour credited student's band account.
- Contact: [vbc@grissomband.org](mailto:vbc@grissomband.org) for more info

### Socks

- A portion of every sock purchase is donated back to the band.

### Misc Fundraisers Throughout the Year

- Will do several more fundraisers throughout the year, both big and small
- These help to offset expenses that band fees alone do not cover.







# COMMUNICATION

## Stay Connected to the Band

MyMusicOffice -- **This is your lifeline to the band.** <https://mymusicoffice.com>

- Access to student's financial info with payment options
- Access to the band calendar with all rehearsals, major events, and meetings for the entire year. ***You can sync this calendar to your smartphone!***
- Emails sent from the band regarding trips, events, payments reminders, volunteer opportunities, etc.
- Contact any of the board members for assistance logging in or using MyMusicOffice.
- ***It is VERY IMPORTANT that we have correct contact information in MyMusicOffice for every student and parent.***
- Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be added to MyMusicOffice in June.

FACEBOOK -- [www.facebook.com/GrissomHighSchoolBand](http://www.facebook.com/GrissomHighSchoolBand) or search for "Grissom High School Band"

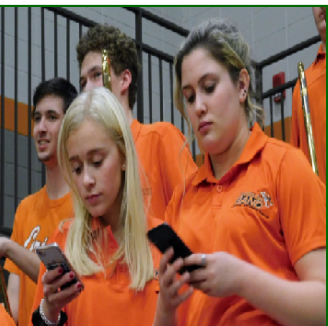
BAND WEBPAGE -- [www.GrissomBand.com](http://www.GrissomBand.com)

## GRISSOM BAND GROUP TEXT SERVICE

- This is a primary method for the directors to communicate with students and parents
- **To sign up, text @ghsb23-24 to this number 81010 from each phone that should receive band announcements.**
- In addition, each instrument section will have their own group text service for section-specific announcements.

## GBPA MONTHLY PARENTS MEETINGS

- Held the 4th Monday of most months at **7pm** in the Band Room or Auditorium. Not held in DEC, MAY, JUN, or JUL
- The first regular meeting of the 2023-2024 school year will be on August 28th. Mark your calendar!



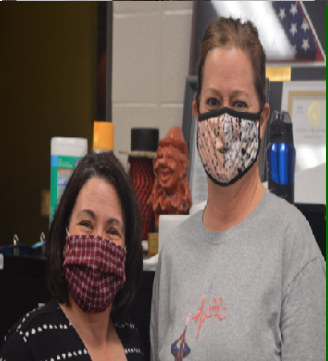


# COMMUNICATION (continued)

## Grissom Band Parents Association (GBPA) – Board Members

Here is the contact information for members of the GBPA Board. Don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything!

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
Band Director	Theo Vernon	john.vernon@hsv-k12.org
Band Director	Brent Harris	brent.harris@hsv-k12.org
GBPA President	Amanda Blount	president@grissomband.org
GBPA 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Tara Polsgrove	VP1@grissomband.org
GBPA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	David Lawrence	VP2@grissomband.org
GBPA Treasurer 1	Nicole Nix	treasurers@grissomband.org
GBPA Treasurer 2	Gina Gann	treasurers@grissomband.org
GBPA Secretary	Jenny McNees	secretary@grissomband.org

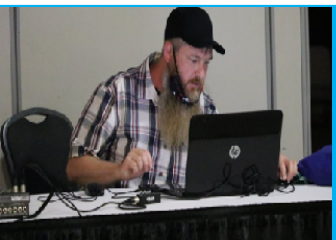


# VOLUNTEERING

## Join a Committee

- Contact any of the committee chairs shown below for information on how you can help.
- It takes a lot of work to keep the band running. Please help and be part of this family!

Committee	Chairperson	Email Address
Band Banquet	Carrie Howard	banquet@grissomband.org
Chaperones	Carrie Howard/Jennifer Ashburn	chaperones@grissomband.org
Color Guard	Chrissy Thrasher/Tina Rainwater	colorguard@grissomband.org
Concerts	Nicole Jackson	concerts@grissomband.org
Fruit Sales	Leah & Todd Stiles	fruitsales@grissomband.org
Historian	Kathleen Moore	historian@grissomband.org
Hospitality	Gina Gann/Michelle Boyd	hospitality@grissomband.org
Scrip	Brandi Burnham	scrip@grissomband.org
Spirit Wear	David Lawrence	spirit@grissomband.org
Stadium Setup	Tara Polsgrove	stadium@grissomband.org
Transportation	Holly Vesterfelt	transportation@grissomband.org
Trucks	Todd Stiles	trucks@grissomband.org
Uniforms	Jenny McNees/Ashley Dyer/Jen Forsythe	uniforms@grissomband.org
VBC Coordinator	Holly Vesterfelt	vbc@grissomband.org
Ways and Means	Brandi Burnham	waysmeans@grissomband.org
Webmaster	Theo Vernon	webmaster@grissomband.org



# UNIFORMS

## Marching Band Summer Uniform

All students must provide the following:

- **White** Tennis Shoes – for ALL marching band rehearsals and Summer Uniform. **Must have by Pre-Camp.**
- Khaki Shorts. Not short shorts. *(For first few football games)*
- Band Polo Shirt. The first polo shirt is provided by the band. *(For first few football games)* Additional or replacement shirts can be purchased.

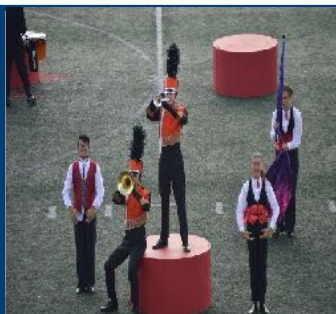
## Uniform Fitting – August 12

- Students get fitted for their marching uniform
- Buy your marching shoes, socks, gloves, etc.
- Add or update contact information in MyMusicOffice if needed
- Pay fees if you haven't already
- Detailed schedule for Uniform Fitting will be sent via MyMusicOffice
- Color Guard are usually fitted (measured) during summer camp #1

***We ask each family to donate two cases of bottled water by the Uniform Fitting. Please bring your water at this time if you have not already done so prior to Uniform Fitting.***

## Symphonic / Concert Band Uniform

- Ladies wear dresses and men wear tuxedos. These are provided by the band.
- Men provide their own white tuxedo shirt (We may place orders for the students)
- Shoes:
  - Men wear black marching shoes.
  - Ladies wear black closed-toe closed-heel flat shoes.
- Fittings for Symphonic / Concert Band uniforms will be announced later via MyMusicOffice.



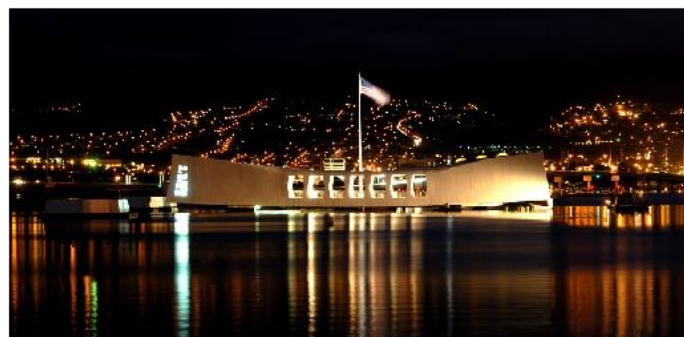


# Oh the Places You Will Go!

Places the Grissom Band Has Gone In Recent Years:



Chicago



Pearl Harbor



Orlando



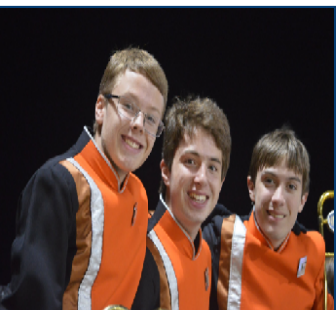
Hollywood



Washington, DC



New York City



**MUSIC**

IS

**ESSENTIAL**

# Thank you for coming out tonight!

- ❖ We hope we have answered some of your questions about the Grissom Band!
- ❖ Please don't hesitate to contact the band directors or any board member if you have questions.
- ❖ [www.grissomband.com](http://www.grissomband.com)

