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### **Welcome & Introduction**

#### **Preface**

This handbook is written for the members and families of the Grapevine High School Mustang Band to provide information regarding the purpose, procedures, expectations and activities of the band program. **All band students and parents should read the entire handbook carefully to avoid conflicts with the policies stated herein.** As a member of the G.H.S. Mustang Band, you represent an outstanding school and a band program with the highest standards of excellence. It is our responsibility to build upon prior successes and to maintain these high standards for the future. It is *your* responsibility to give your absolute *best* effort at all times to insure the continuation of the quality experience here at Grapevine High School. We are extremely fortunate to have parents, administrators, teachers, school board members and a community committed and dedicated to a quality band program. We look forward to your part of this organization and carrying on its traditions and high performance standards.

## Philosophy

A well-rounded education is enhanced by one of the most basic of all studies...the study of music. Music, in addition to enhancing the human spirit, teaches discipline, develops self-confidence, and gives each student a feeling of pride and accomplishment. Playing in band teaches students the importance of working with others and helps them develop the social skills necessary to be a part of a performing organization.

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## Leadership & Contact Information

### Grapevine HS Band Directors and Staff

<b>Shannon Gill</b>	Director of Bands	<a href="mailto:Shannon.gill@gcisd.net">Shannon.gill@gcisd.net</a>	817-251-5249
<b>Barry Janicula</b>	Assistant Band Director	<a href="mailto:barry.janicula@gcisd.net">barry.janicula@gcisd.net</a>	817-251-5250
<b>Nhu Trinh</b>	Assistant Band Director / Dance Guard	<a href="mailto:nhu.trinh@gcisd.net">nhu.trinh@gcisd.net</a>	
<b>Patrick Bowman</b>	Assistant Band Director / Percussion	<a href="mailto:william.bowman@gcisd.net">william.bowman@gcisd.net</a>	817-251-5210 ext. 3117

Band Website:

[grapevinehsband.com](http://grapevinehsband.com)

Physical Address:

Grapevine High School Mustang Band  
3223 Mustang Drive  
Grapevine, Texas 76051

## Student Leadership - Duties and Responsibilities

All student leaders are expected to remain in high academic standing, not have any major infractions of school/band policy and continually demonstrate high morals. Student leaders shall be avid supporters of the band program and its members by showing positive attitude and faithful cooperation, eagerness, promptness and responsibility. Any student leader who cannot uphold these standards will be subject to review or dismissal.

Band Leadership - Students who desire to hold a position of service and leadership for the Mustang Band and who meet band director criteria may offer their services in several areas.

- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| * President    | * Senior Representative    |
| * Vice Pres.   | * Junior Representative    |
| * Secretary    | * Sophomore Representative |
| * Treasurer    | * Band Librarian           |
| * Historian(s) |                            |

Students who wish to audition for one of the following positions will be given information regarding the tryouts in the spring.

Drum Major(s)  
Section Leaders, Captains, Lieutenants

Specific duties and responsibilities of a leader will be explained prior to the audition process. Any student selected as drum major or assistant drum major will be expected to attend at least one summer drum major camp or other band director approved training session. Camp dates and expense information are the responsibility of the drum majors and their parents after the selection process. Other leaders are encouraged to attend a summer band camp that offers band leadership training. All students selected as marching band leaders will be expected to attend a G.H.S. Band leadership days prior to the marching season.

## **Academic Structure & Class Descriptions**

### **Class Schedule & Band**

The Texas Education Agency and the G.C.I.S.D. have both recognized the importance of fine arts and the study of music by offering state approved band courses that allow and grant state approved credit towards graduation. In certain instances, a band course can count towards your graduation requirements as a fine arts credit, a physical education credit waiver, and/or as an elective course. Here are the course titles:

- > Wind Ensemble (1<sup>st</sup> band)
- > Honors Band (2<sup>nd</sup> band)
- > Symphonic Band (3<sup>rd</sup> band)
- > Concert Band (4<sup>th</sup> band)

Placement in all band classes is by audition only.

### **Auditions and Band Assignments**

All band students who are enrolled in the G.H.S. band program must go through an audition process for placement in a band class. The purpose of auditions is to insure proper class placement according to ability level. Auditions are held each spring to determine band assignments for the following school year. At the end of auditions, students are placed into one of the four performing groups: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Honors Band or Wind Ensemble. **All four bands** will be involved in the marching band activities such as pep-rallies, football games, marching contests, and parades as one band. They will meet as separate organizations in the Spring semester during the class day to prepare for concerts and evaluations.

The directors may choose to re-audition at the end of the first semester. Ample notice will be given in this instance. Constant assessment will occur throughout a normal Fall semester and recommendations to change a student's schedule will only occur if students have been evaluated previously and informed as to what they need to improve and parents have been notified.

### **Scheduling**

**Fall Semester - All bands, percussion, and dance guard classes will meet during 1st period** to allow for starting marching rehearsals before school and continuing into first period.

### **Spring Semester**

*1<sup>st</sup> Period – Wind Ensemble ( Band Varsity )*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Period (A Day) – Symphonic Band / Concert Band (Band Sub Non-Varsity)*

*4<sup>th</sup> Period (A Day) - Percussion Class (optional)*

*6<sup>th</sup> Period (B Day) - Dance Guard*

*7<sup>th</sup> Period (B Day) – Jazz Band (optional)*

*8<sup>th</sup> Period – Honors Band (Band Non-Varsity)*

*\*Percussionists will sign up for Percussion Class in the Fall. These students will be auditioned in December to determine placement in a concert band for the Spring semester.*

*\*Applied Music courses also offered. Course description: Students will perform a mastery based curriculum on their principal instrument. Topics will include the performance of various fundamentals such as scales, arpeggios, etudes and sight-reading. The students will also perform chamber works, solo literature and TMEA All State audition material, and other project based learning opportunities as designed by the instructor. This course will require outside the school day commitment for auditions and performances.*

*These courses are offered during the Fall and Spring semester. Many available - please see counselors for available class periods.*

### **Performing Groups**

Wind Ensemble - This group consists of 9th - 12th grade students and performs at all football games, pep rallies, parades, and other functions of the combined groups. The Wind Ensemble is the most advanced of all the bands and is the preeminent instrumental performing group at Grapevine High School. Members of this group can expect to perform in several large group, ensemble, and solo competitions. Students in the Wind Ensemble will study with a private music teacher and travel with the band to all music contests. Students in this group will also prepare the All Region/Area/State – Band audition material. Students must be approved by a director to compete in the All Region and Area competitions. This material will be a part of the student's class assessment. Solo and ensemble competition is another competition and each member will perform a solo and participate in an ensemble. The band director and private lesson teacher will assist with the selection of music and ensemble members.

Honors Band – same expectations as Wind Ensemble

Symphonic Band - This group consists of 9th - 12th grade students and performs at all football games, pep rallies, parades, and other functions of the combined groups. The Symphonic Band is the third concert band at Grapevine High School. Members of this group can expect to perform in several large group, ensemble and solo competitions. Students in the Symphonic Band are single blocked (the course meets every other day). Study with a private music teacher is highly recommended. Students are encouraged to participate in the All Region band competition, especially if they are in lessons but approval to compete will be given by the directors before a student is allowed to sign up. Symphonic Band students must participate in Solo/Ens. contest with at least an ensemble AND, if taking private lessons, a solo. This class will function as the transition group between Honors and Concert Band and will continue to stress playing fundamentals and individual skills.

Concert Band - This group consists of 9th - 12th grade students and performs at all football games, pep rallies, parades, and other functions of the combined groups. The group will also perform in concerts and may perform solos and ensembles either for competition or school performance. The purpose of this group is to provide support for students who need more attention to fundamentals, individual skills, and procedures and provides a flexible schedule for students who desire to enroll in band every other day because of schedule conflicts.

Marching Band - All 9th - 12th grade band students participate in the marching band program during the fall semester. The marching band rehearses during the summer (Band Camp) and then primarily outside the school day during the fall semester. The marching band performs at many community and sporting events throughout the fall semester. Marching band is a physically demanding activity and counts as a waiver for a student's physical education credit.

Musical Production Pit Orchestra - During the school year the fine arts department combines to produce a musical production. The instrumentation of the pit orchestra will vary depending on the musical that is selected. Membership in the pit orchestra will be by appointment - an audition usually takes place. Any player that agrees to membership in the pit orchestra is expected to make all of the rigorous rehearsals and performances.

Drumline - The Grapevine High School Drumline consists of two sections - the battery: the marching component of the Drumline, and the Pit - the stationary group which performs on the sideline. The drumline has a very prominent role in the band program, providing the "heartbeat" or "pulse" of the marching band ensemble as well as a variety of colors of sound and often very exposed, virtuosic passages during the production. Because of this, members of the battery and pit will have rehearsals in addition to the normal marching band practices, including summer rehearsals and camps. Auditions for the drumline will occur in the spring with students being assigned to one of the following instruments: snare drum, tenor drums, bass drum, or pit (front ensemble). It is extremely important that the percussionists remain academically eligible as there are often no replacements for players nor the time for them to memorize their "solo" part. The pit is the group of players who perform on the grounded percussion instruments on the front sideline. Though instrumentation will vary depending on the show, you can usually find keyboard percussion instruments as well as a variety of concert drums and auxiliary instruments. The pit may also utilize electronic instruments such as synthesizers.

Dance Guard - The G.H.S. Dance Guard is a select group of GHS students that perform with a variety of equipment including flags, props, sabers, and rifles. The group is strongly oriented toward dance. Auditions for the G.H.S. Dance Guard occur in the spring and are open to ANY student that will be enrolled at Grapevine High School for the coming school year. The band program is always looking for additional people who would like to perform in the GHS Guard - therefore - additional auditions are held throughout the summer and year to attract new talent to the group. The Dance Guard has many extra responsibilities including additional rehearsals, additional expense, standards of appearance, etc. The Dance Guard is very physically demanding, practices and performs outdoors during the hottest part of the year as a part of the GHS Marching Band, and is probably not appropriate for students with chronic health problems. Those members of the color guard that are instrumentalists are expected to continue study on their instruments and are encouraged to study privately during the fall semester.

Winter Guard - is a very select group that performs with a variety of equipment including flags, rifles, sabers, props, and other equipment. The group is strongly oriented toward dance and body movement. Auditions for the G.H.S. Winter Guard will be held in the late fall and are open to any student that will be enrolled at Grapevine High School for the coming school year. The Winter Guard has many extra responsibilities including additional rehearsals, additional expenses, standards of appearance, etc. The Winter Guard is very physically demanding and is probably not appropriate for students with chronic health problems.

## **Pay for Participation**

GCISD has instituted a "pay for participation" fee for any family with a high school student participating in Band, Choir, Cheerleading, Drill Team, or Athletics. You will pay at your student's school office during summer registration. Fees vary based on the activity in which your student participates. The fee for high school band participation is \$75 per school year. No family will pay more than \$300 per school year for multiple kids in various activities. This year's "Pay2Play" participation fee is due at the regular GHS registration process in early August. The band program does not receive any of these "pay to play" funds.

Students who qualify for the free or reduced meal program will not have to pay the Pay2Play fee. Payment schedules can be arranged for families needing to pay in installments. All information is kept strictly confidential. Checks should be made payable to GCISD and given to the administrative assistant at the student's school during registration. The band program does not receive any of these funds.

## **Marching Band**

### **Summer Band**

#### Summer Marching/Playing Rehearsals

To facilitate students learning the marching show music in time for the beginning of band camp, we will hold one or more summer playing rehearsals. It is a time for these students to get to know the directors and student leaders, become familiar with the high school facilities, learn basic playing fundamentals and technique. See band calendar for dates.

### **Instruments**

Contact a director before the end of the spring semester, if necessary, to arrange to have a school owned instrument for the summer.

### **Student Leader Workdays**

As part of their responsibilities, all student leaders agree to attend work and training sessions in the summer. Activities will include preparation for the upcoming year and training for teaching, marching and playing. Details will be published annually in the leadership application and contract. Student leaders are also expected to attend all summer playing rehearsals if possible.

### **Summer Band Camp**

Summer Band Camp will begin on the last week of July. Attendance is expected for all students. The dates are announced as much as a year in advance for returning band members, and at least 3-4 months for new students in order to give families an opportunity to plan vacations. Camp begins promptly at a designated time every day (this means the student is in place, ready to go at appropriate time, not just arriving) and finishes in the afternoon. Teacher in-service dates may sometimes require some evening rehearsals. Great care is taken to prevent heat-related problems. Hats, WATER, and sunscreen are **required** outside during summer band. Save your skin! Wear light colored, loose fitting, cotton clothes. Do not wear dark clothes. Wear socks and athletic shoes. No sandals, no bare feet, and no flip-flops. Bring a good lunch, high in carbohydrates and fruit, low in fat.

A water bottle is required for outdoor rehearsals, **but do not let others use it**. Keep it only for yourself. Go easy on caffeine and sodium, as they are dehydrating, and will only cause more heat difficulties.

During summer band camp, students will work on marching fundamentals, marching drill and music for the fall field production. They will also learn playing fundamentals, practice stand tunes for football games and still manage to have some fun. We will have some social events during summer band.

### **Marching Assignments – Competition Show/Spirit Line**

Each member of the band will be assigned a numbered position in the marching show. These positions are called coordinates. All members of the band will perform the marching show at all football games, some will act as crew-members – assisting with props or helping the pit – at competitions rather than marching due to several factors.

Students not performing the marching show at competitions are designated to our Spirit Line, which, again, does perform at all football games. Students are not designated as permanently in the Spirit Line unless they have an extenuating circumstance, not complied with the attendance rules, or have been subject to a disciplinary action. Therefore, these students may be worked back into the competition show as spots open up due to ineligibility, injury, or lack of ability. This ability to “Sub in a performer” is absolutely necessary for the success of the program. Instrumental balance also determines the number of “spots in the competition show” and this can cause some sections to have more players than competitive spots. Every student does receive a coordinate and every student is given a chance to gain marching experience everyday. Selection of those in the Spirit Line occurs early in band camp but will be ongoing and can change at any time. These students are an integral part of the Mustang Band program and are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance. All marchers will continually be evaluated and substituted as necessary. All marchers will perform in the stands and on the field at ALL football games (Pit (Front Ensemble) does not play on the field at Homecoming). All marchers will attend contests.

### **Marching Music Pass-Offs**

Each student is required to play his/her music for a director or designated leader in order to demonstrate proficiency. Students will be assessed on the following:

- \*Quality and character of tone - Accuracy of notes and rhythms
- \*Accuracy of articulations, dynamics, phrasing and style
- \*Ability to play with appropriate and consistent tempo where applicable
- \*Correct posture and playing position
- \*Correct execution of mark time and choreography



Students will be required to pass off music by certain dates during the season to maintain a position on the field. Marchers who do not may lose their position entirely. All students will be given reasonable opportunity to pass off music.

## **Inspection, Football Games, & Stadium Behavior**

Inspection is that time before a game or contest when we meet to get everyone focused for the upcoming performance and to make sure that everyone has the required materials. Not having an item or it not being in good condition can result in losing points toward your participation grade and/or not being allowed to travel with the band. The items we look for are:

**Condition of the Uniform:** You will be provided a marching band uniform from the school district. Shoes must be clean and you must have long black socks. You will wear the designated shirt underneath your jacket. You are not allowed to wear jeans underneath your pants. Running / Soccer shorts are *required*.

**Flip Folders:** You need to have them with you for inspection with the appropriate music inside. Write your name on it in white marker. Alphabetizing the music is also helpful.

**Instrument/Equipment:** You are expected to have your instrument/equipment in good working order, clean, polished, and in top condition at all times.

**Water Bottle** – must be filled with water. Ice is recommended. You are given a water bottle with your name on it. No other writing is allowed on the water bottle. You will be asked to purchase another if you violate this rule.

## **At the Game**

**The block of seats where we sit is for current band members only.**

**Stand Behavior.** We pride ourselves on being a first class organization. Do not do anything that would embarrass the band or your family. Cheer in a positive manner for Grapevine, not in a negative manner for the other team. Students will report to seating area. Students will sit in assigned section. Students will remain in that section at all times.

The uniform should be worn at all times. Jacket and pants zipped. If the weather is such that we need to take off the jackets, or unzipped, you will be told by a director. We will all do it the same way. If we take off jackets and you are not wearing your assigned shirt underneath, then your jacket stays on.

No food, drink, gum, or candy in the stands. Water Bottle only. Don't bring food or drink into the stands at any time. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends. Medically necessary exceptions to this rule can occur.

No restroom breaks will be allowed in the 2nd quarter unless there is an emergency. Groups of students will be escorted to and from the restroom by a parent chaperone for safety reasons. Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors

during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times. Students should keep their instrument in hand at all times.

Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles.

At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly and efficiently to the appropriate area. Students will need to be focused on the directors' and drum majors' instructions.

At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stand performance throughout the remainder of the game.

At the conclusion of the game, students will load busses quickly and efficiently. Upon return to the band hall, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are either placed in the proper storage areas or taken home. Students will not be allowed to loiter in the band hall after their items are put away. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE TRANSPORTATION HOME FROM THE BAND HALL AFTER THE GAME. Your band directors love you but don't want to stay late after already putting in a 17-18 hour day!

### **Instrument Loading / Unloading**

Students playing smaller instruments will transport their instruments on the bus. All others will keep their equipment on a trailer or the Band Bus (instrument transportation bus). Students will be responsible for seeing that their instrument or empty case is in the proper location. Students will also be responsible to see that their instrument is picked up and stored correctly upon the unloading of the instrument trailer or bus. Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument transportation and may be required to share their seat on the bus with their instrument.

\*All of the above apply to expectations / procedures at a contest or other performance (obviously not the instructions that apply to quarters of a football game, etc.)

### **Uniforms**

A nominal uniform use and cleaning fee will be charged for the maintenance, upkeep, end-of-season cleaning and transportation of the uniforms. This fee is usually charged at the beginning of the year at Band Fair (part of band fee). While in their possession, each band member is responsible to keep his or her uniform clean and in good condition at all times. Any band member who misses a turn-in deadline and does not return all of their marching band or concert band uniform part(s) by the stated deadline may be assessed the cost of cleaning the uniform and will be reported to the GHS bookkeeper as having not turned in school property.

### **Marching Uniform**

Pep Rally Uniform - At pep-rallies, or other functions as dictated by the band directors, the official uniform is the *blue band polo* and blue jeans/shorts. The polo is sold at Band Fair.

Summer Marching Uniform - for events where the weather conditions are such that the wearing of the full band uniform would be inappropriate, the Mustang Band may wear a "summer uniform" consisting of assigned under the uniform shirt and the black bibbers. Marching shoes are still required.

Full Marching Band Uniform - For all band members not including the color guard, the official marching uniform is:

- Black marching shoes - purchased by the student at Band Fair
- Long, Black socks - purchased by the student
- Full Marching uniform – supplied by school
- Marching Hat/plume and box - supplied by the school

Members of the band in the Sousaphone section and the Pit Percussion section will have the same uniform as everyone else as above, however, they do not wear the hat.

Dance Guard will have special uniforms that change year to year based on the marching show theme. There is no annual additional cost for these uniforms.

## **Concert Uniform**

The concert uniform for band members is as follows: (Boys)

- Black leather/black vinyl shoes OR students can use their marching shoes if they are in excellent condition - purchased by the student
- Black mid-calf socks - purchased by the student
- Black tux pants – supplied by school
- White, collared, tux shirt and black bow tie-supplied by the school
- Black tux coat - supplied by the school

### **Girls –**

Black concert Dress – provided by the school

Black closed-toe dress shoes – provided by student

(panty hose/socks not required)

No large jewelry or hair accessories. All hair accessories (headband, for example) must be black.

## **Classroom and General Policies**

### **Grading Policies for all band classes**

Grades may be weighted according to importance. Six weeks grades may be determined by:

Daily grades – 20%: performance in rehearsals during the school day, written or playing tests, equipment checks, and materials brought to class, participation, etc. Playing tests may be administered in class, prepared and submitted by electronic methods, and/or after school – if given this option. There will usually be a few written tests during the year. The semester final exam could be written and/or playing.

Participation Grade -40%: Part of each student's band grade is awarded for participation in rehearsals and sectionals. These are co-curricular events and each student is graded. The grade is based on attendance, punctuality, effort during the session, and being prepared for each session. This preparation includes knowing the assigned music, having music memorized when applicable, and bringing the proper materials.

Concert / Performance Grade – 40% – the most important part of what we do in a performance based class like band, is to perform. Performance grades are extremely hard to make up if missed - due to the nature of the performance and live audience involved. Performances are usually the culmination of a unit of study on a particular set of music. Band Concerts, Football Game Half-Time, Marching Band Contests, etc. are examples of a performance grade.

## **Classroom Behavior**

There are four basic rules that must be adhered to by all students during regular band class. The four important rules are:

Look at the director when he/*she* is talking; the director must know he/*she* has your sincere, undivided attention.

Do not talk during rehearsal; if you have any questions that need to be asked, you should raise your hand.

Do not play your instrument unless instructed to do so.

Be prepared for each rehearsal by bringing the proper equipment, materials and supplies to class and rehearsal. *ALWAYS HAVE AT LEAST 2 PENCILS*

Discipline - The directors hold all members of the Mustang Band Program to high standards of discipline. The actions of each member of the band program affect the overall image of the Mustang Band in the school and community. When dealing with such a large group as the band and thousands of dollars worth of equipment, it becomes necessary for each member to always behave in a mature manner. When dealing with disciplinary problems, the directors will follow the discipline plan *approved by the administration*. However, if the band program is to maintain high levels of excellence, discipline problems should be nonexistent. If the actions of a student become a consistent problem, a conference may be arranged with the parents and the student may be permanently removed from the band program.

## **Attendance**

Due to the participatory nature of band, attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances, both during and outside of school time. Absences mar the effectiveness of the entire band. In most academic courses, absence from class only hurts the individual; in band, the entire group is affected by a missing person or persons. Participation in rehearsals and performances outside normal school hours is a required part of band. Excused absences will be granted for personal illness or death in the family and occasionally, if PRIOR arrangements are made with the director, for other extenuating circumstances. Where possible the student must give advance notice to the director (not another student) of any absence. **WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSED ABSENCE. IF YOU ARE IN OTHER ACTIVITIES – you**

must arrange a meeting with the directors of both activities and we must all agree on a schedule.

**Unexcused absences from class or from any rehearsal or performance may result in a lowered grade, demotion in rank, a failing grade, removal from the organization, or a combination of these at the discretion of the director(s).**

The following guidelines should be used for any absence:

In the event of sickness or emergency, the student should call the band hall and tell a director or leave a message on the voice mail system. An email or call from a parent that day is preferred.

A note signed by a parent should be brought to the director on the next day in order that a record of absence is on file. Upon return, the student should meet with the director and see if any make up work is in order.

**DO NOT JUST TELL YOUR SECTION LEADER OR FRIEND ABOUT YOUR ABSENCE. THIS WILL NOT SUFFICE. YOU MUST INFORM A DIRECTOR!**

Once the official calendar of events is given to each student or the on-line official band calendar is introduced to the band, the student should organize his own personal calendar and check for any conflicts. If a student foresees a schedule conflict, he should talk with the appropriate director as early as possible.

Medical and dental appointments are to be scheduled around band activities unless an emergency occurs. Do not assume that any activities are an excuse to miss a band rehearsal or performance. Do your best to schedule your activities around band and communicate EARLY with your band director.

Punctuality - Students should be prompt for all band functions! Tardiness will be defined as being unprepared to begin the activity at the designated time and place with all necessary equipment. Participation grade will be lowered due to tardiness.

### **Required Supplies & Materials**

- Flutes will need a tuning rod, soft polish cloth, and a swab cloth.
- All reed players must have an instrument case, 4 playable reeds at all times as well as cork grease, swabs, and reed holders.
- All Brass players are expected to have an instrument case, valve oil (cornets, trumpets, euphonium, tuba), rotary oil (french horn), slide cream/water bottle or slide oil (trombone), tuning slide grease, a soft polish cloth, an old rag for cleaning valves and slides, a flexible cleaning brush ("snake"), and a mouthpiece cleaning brush.
- Trumpet (cornets), horns, and trombone players are required to have a least one mute.
- All Percussion students should own a practice pad, keyboard mallets, snare drum sticks, timpani mallets, required marching sticks/beaters, a stick bag, a metronome, pitch pipe or tuner. *Specific brands and more info provided by percussion director*

- Each band member must have the appropriate band method book for use in class
- Each band member is required to purchase and have a metronome
- Each band member is required to purchase and have a small, compact tuner

Music Stand - It is recommended that each student have his own wire music stand. This is to be used at home to facilitate practice.

Metronomes - A metronome is a valuable possession to any instrumentalist. It helps develop rhythmic security. It also aids in developing technique. Students must use a metronome while practicing. Metronome/Tuner devices are available.

## **Data and Photo Release**

**By your signature, you agree to have your image or likeness recorded by any normal photographic means and have that image reproduced or displayed in any way that meets with acceptable standards and use policies of the G.C.I.S.D. The GHS Mustang Band may reproduce a likeness of you for use in various electronic media such as but not limited to: band or school web pages, Mustang Band web-site, CHARMS, Face Book, Twitter, Band Banquet Video, etc....**

**Please inform a director if you DO NOT want your child's image released.**

## **Eligibility**

No Pass/No Play - Under No Pass No Play students must pass all their school courses to be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics or music. If a student fails any grading period, he is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities during the next three week period. There is a week long grace period to become eligible or ineligible.

Following the three week period of ineligibility, students that were ineligible become eligible if they are passing all of their courses at the end of the three weeks. If an admission is charged for the event and/or the event is a contest, the event is usually an extra-curricular event. A band concert is NOT an extra-curricular event.

A student is considered ineligible with a failing grade or an "I" (incomplete). The incomplete must be taken care of within the 7 day grace period or the student is ineligible regardless of the actual grade earned after the grace period. The grade entered in the campus gradebook on the specified grade check days (six weeks / three week periods / grades recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the grace period) are the only grades that matter. If the grade raises after the specific deadline, the student is still ineligible. Stay current with your grades!

## **Fundraising**

The purpose of fundraising is to supplement available money with proceeds from some sort of sales or work project. The Mustang Band and its members participate in two types of fundraising projects: Student fundraisers and band fundraisers.

Most fundraisers during the year are student fundraisers. That means that the profit from the project goes directly to benefit the individual band student. All monies collected will be deposited in the band booster account and checks should be made out to the Grapevine High School Band for any band fundraiser purchases. The band deposit safe and band deposit envelopes should be utilized for all payments and deposits. This safe/drop box is built into the wall located in the main band hall hallway.

**Band fundraisers** benefit the entire G.H.S. Band program. The cost of running a successful band program far exceeds the amount of funds allotted to the band from the school district. Band fundraiser profits go towards projects such as but not limited to:

- Marching band music, special arrangements, & drill design costs
- Clinicians & guest artists
- Enrichment material and supplies
- Dance Guard instructors, choreography, flags & equipment
- Drumline instructors, drumline music and equipment
- Band trailer, band equipment and golf cart maintenance
- Band banquet, summer band instruction
- Grants and scholarships for various band activities, *private lessons*, and graduating band seniors
- Band administration costs (postage/office supplies / photocopier /etc.)

**Calendar & Annual Events – Please see our website – [grapevinehsband.com](http://grapevinehsband.com) and visit the Calendar!**

### **Regular Rehearsal Schedule - Concert Season**

At the conclusion of marching season, the concert season begins and continues for the rest of the school year. The GHS Band program will have structured, required, and meaningful sectionals for all instrument groups in the Wind Ensemble, Honors Band, and Symphonic Band.

Please see the specific conductor of each ensemble for his/her sectional schedule. Schedules may also appear on the band website after they are confirmed.

### **Band Travel**

#### **Bus Procedure**

The G.H.S. Band has a very good reputation as being polite, safe, and cooperative on all bus trips. When appropriate, bus assignments will be made by the band directors. Bus policies outlined by G.C.I.S.D. will be observed at all times.

ALL STUDENTS ride the bus to the activity and from the activity. (Students may ride with parents to an event if circumstances warrant and it is approved by the director). Students may ride with parents after a band trip only if written permission is given to the director prior to the scheduled activity. Whenever the G.H.S. band is on a trip, each student must be in some type of group and will be responsible for returning to the bus at the appointed time.

Students will remain on bus until instructed by the director or bus captain and when unloading, students will report to predetermined location and formation.

## **Trip Release**

Parents & Guardians - By your signature and submission of the band handbook agreement form, you give permission for your child to participate in, attend, and travel to & from all Grapevine High School Band functions and activities for this academic year. Schedules will always be announced and/or published prior to the event and it is your responsibility to be informed as to your child's schedule. All arrivals and departures will be from the G.H.S. Band Hall area unless noted otherwise. During all band events, your child will be accompanied and under the direct supervision of school district personnel and/or their designees. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you understand that all school and program rules/policies are in effect while involved in any band activity, regardless of the time, date, or location. Any student who takes non-prescription or prescription medication should have the appropriate permission forms on file with the school nurse.

You also give permission for your child to be transported by the most appropriate means as determined by the band directors or staff. G.C.I.S.D., it's staff, and all persons working in good faith with the band program cannot be held liable for damage, accidents, injury or other mishaps that may befall your child while participating in a band activity.

## **Facilities**

### **Practice Rooms**

The band hall practice rooms are provided for individual practice and use by the supplemental music teachers to teach private music lessons. The rooms are on a first come, first serve basis. No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the practice rooms at any time.

### **Band Hall Etiquette**

The appearance of our band hall reflects the Mustang Band program. This includes the rehearsal hall, all ensemble rooms, storage areas, practice rooms, directors' offices, and the hallways that connect these. Please help keep it neat and clean. Please pick up any trash, pick up any music stands that have fallen over, and try not to change the arrangement of the chairs. Gum, food, and drinks are not allowed in the band hall at any time.

Water bottles are allowed. Do not write on the board without the permission of a director.

The equipment in the band hall is very expensive. Do not touch any percussion equipment, any electrical equipment, or any instrument that is not your own, including the piano and color guard props. The chairs in the band hall are for sitting only.

Music stands are for music only; they are not to be used as props or foot rests. Please refrain from running or playing games in the band hall. The band hall area is off limits for students who are not band members.

Offices - The directors' offices are places for their study, conference, organization of classes, and business that concerns the band program. Students should not enter any office without the permission of one of the directors. Always knock first and wait to be invited before



entering. The telephones in the band offices are business phones. Students should not expect to use the office phones except for emergencies or unusual situations.

Band Hall Elevator – the elevator located in the GHS Band Hall is provided as a means of transportation for people who are physically challenged for one reason or another and for moving large and heavy pieces of equipment. The elevator is off limits to everyone, just like any other school elevator, unless you have been approved to ride the elevator.

### **Music Library & Photocopier**

The music library serves not only as a storage location for music and recordings, it is a workroom for the fine arts department. Students should not enter the room without permission from a band director or other staff member. The band and other fine arts classes are charged for each photocopy made on the machine. **The photocopier is for official use only.** Do not use the machine without permission.

### **Upstairs Classrooms and Practice Areas**

The band hall etiquette mentioned above applies to the upstairs music classrooms, practice rooms, and auxiliary areas at all times. Having access to the second floor area of the band hall is a privilege and not a right. Do not enter the electronic music lab without permission.

## **Instruments & Equipment**

### **General Instrument Guidelines**

All GHS Band members MUST identify their instrument case(s) with a name tag on the handle. All instruments are checked periodically and a grade may be given. A band student cannot excel to his/her full potential if their instrument is not in playable condition or they do not have the proper supplies/accessories needed to maintain a good condition. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the upkeep of their child's instrument so they understand that responsible and routine maintenance of a horn will save money for major repairs down the road. Should your school owned instrument be in need of repair, you must always check with your director before taking it to any repair shop. Never try to repair an instrument yourself.

Step-up Instrument - The instrument sold to students for use as a beginning instrument may not be a suitable instrument for advanced playing in high school. Before buying a new instrument, please check with your band directors. Often a better brand or better price can be located.

### **School Owned Instrument User Fees**

Students playing on school instruments (including percussion) will pay a user fee to G.C.I.S.D. in the amount of **\$ 50.00 per semester PER instrument (percussion will pay \$50 per semester)**. Some students play a different instrument in marching band and concert band that will constitute additional user fees. We recommend that these students purchase their own mouthpiece and percussionists will need sticks and mallets (director will provide information on the approved mouthpiece and mallets to be purchased). Instrument user fees are waived only if a student transfers out of band within the first two weeks of a

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semester. Instrument user fees are applied to each student's registration fees and you will see it show up on your fee sheet during the August registration process. Students neglecting to submit payment before the deadline established by the director, will be reported to the campus's "not clear list" and the instrument(s) will be taken away from the student. This fee is set by the G.C.I.S.D. administration and the funds are turned over directly to the school district.

Students who damage or destroy an instrument will be assessed the actual repair or replacement costs as determined by G.C.I.S.D. The student will also be held responsible for vandalism, theft, negligence, and other damages incurred while the instrument is checked out to him or her. Families are encouraged to discuss the musical instrument issue with your home-owner's insurance provider.

### **Instrument Insurance**

It is strongly recommended that parents insure their child's instrument(s) through their home owners/renters insurance policy and record the serial number and other information about the instrument at home. Separate musical instrument insurance is available from several independent vendors. Contact a band director for more information. Band students and their families are responsible for school issued instruments. It is advised that you insure these instruments as well.

### **Instrument Lockers**

Students will be given an instrument storage area/locker to keep their instrument in during the school day. These bins should be used for instrument and folder storage only (It is not a general locker). **KEEP THEM NEAT AND CLEAN!!!!** No instrument should be left in the instrument bin overnight or over the weekend even if you will not be in town for that weekend. This is a security measure for the safety of your instrument. Instruments could be stolen from lockers or other areas of the band hall.

At the beginning of the year, each student will be assigned a locker or other location for the storage of their instrument during the school day. Although a very strong effort is made to keep all instruments safe and secure, the school and its employees are not liable for any damage or loss due to theft of instruments kept in the storage area. We strongly suggest that all instruments be insured. **Keep your lockers locked!**

Lockers must be cleaned out by the last day of school. Property left in the band lockers past the last day of school becomes the property of G.H.S. Band Program.

### **Band Student Lockers**

Students will be given the opportunity to check out a band student locker upstairs in the GHS Band locker room on first come policy. Students will be expected to keep this area and locker neat and clean. These lockers operate with a combination and can be checked out during the first weeks of band. This area may not be available for the entire school year.

## **Personal improvement**

Practice - The Grapevine High School Bands can only perform as well as the individual performers prepare their music through careful and regular home practice. All band students should be taking their music and instruments home on a daily basis. A minimum of 30 minutes practice daily is recommended for proper advancement. Practice should include a careful warm-up, scale practice, supplementary lesson preparation, band music, and music theory study. Parents can help by encouraging regular practice and providing a place and time that will not disturb other family members. It is recommended that students own a music stand and metronome/tuner to develop proper playing skills and good practice habits at home.

## **Supplemental Music Instruction Program**

The Grapevine High School band program is very fortunate to offer a supplementary lesson program funded in part by donations to the Grapevine Band Booster Club. A supplementary lesson program is vital to the continued success of our band program at both the individual and group level. These lessons are given at the school during school hours and before and after school. A fee of \$ 20 (per half hour lesson) will insure your child a supplementary lesson each week. Other methods of paying your lesson fees are: monthly, semester, and yearly. If you would like your child to have supplementary lessons and you need financial assistance, please contact the band directors. The Band Booster Club has money to donate for music lessons to band students. You can find the list of private lesson teachers on our band website. Parents need to contact these teachers directly to set up lessons and pay for them.

## **Band Camps**

Each summer, many major universities in Texas and the rest of the nation sponsor a Summer band camp for high school students. During the spring, posters with information about many of the camps will be posted in the band hall hallway. These camps allow students to join other talented musicians in a relaxed and enjoyable setting to study band performance, music history, Music theory, leadership, marching, jazz, color guard or many other electives that may be offered. Most camps run for a week or two and are reasonable in cost. Contact your band director for more information.

## **Letter Jackets**

You can qualify for a letter jacket if you meet any of the following criteria:

You are a junior in band and will continue in band your senior year.

You make all region band and make a 1 on a class 1 (or equivalent) solo

9<sup>th</sup> graders can earn a jacket if they make 9<sup>th</sup> grade region band, try-out for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade region band, and make a 1 on a class 1 (or equivalent) solo.

The full cost of the student's letter jacket is the responsibility of the student and/or family.

## **Scholarships**

Financial assistance is available for a multitude of G.H.S. Band activities and Band Fees. Private lesson scholarships, graduating senior college scholarships and other activity scholarships are available from the band department. Students must have and maintain an exemplary band record, show continual progress, and be able to show financial need to be considered for assistance. Please contact a band director for more information.

**Band Parents & Band Boosters**

Grapevine-Colleyville Band Booster Club - We are fortunate to have a district wide band booster organization. By virtue of having a child in the band program, all parents are eligible and encouraged to obtain a membership form, pay the fee, and volunteer whenever possible. The main objective of the G.C.I.S.D. Band Booster Club is to provide funds and support for the various projects in our band programs. Some of these projects include supplemental lesson scholarships, social activities, guest clinicians, graduating band senior scholarships, music education advocacy, etc. It takes a great deal of work and cooperation from parents at all levels to accomplish these goals. The booster club holds regular meetings throughout the year and has a staff of elected volunteers to organize and administer the club's efforts. Please contact a band director for more information. A band parent need not be a member of the band booster club to be able to volunteer his or her time and energy for the band. Please contact the band directors for more information.

**Band Booster Campus Leaders**

The G.C.I.S.D. Band Booster organization operates as a single organization for the benefit of all the band students in the G.C.I.S.D. grades 6th - 12th. Each campus has an elected group of band booster parents to tend to the specific needs of that campus. Grapevine High School has a tremendous group of parent volunteers that assist with this band program. The G.H.S. Band program cannot operate without the help and support of these parent volunteers. Parents are needed in many areas of the band program. Please contact one of the band boosters listed on the band web site for more information or to volunteer your time.

