

# GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HANDBOOK  
2020-2021



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## About

This handbook is designed to function in harmony with the GCISD Student Code of Conduct and GCISD Board policies. The band directors or campus administrators retain the authority to amend band policies if such action is deemed necessary to secure the interest of the overall band program.

## General Band Procedures

This handbook will spell out several expectations that are necessary to have a successful band program. However, there are some general guidelines to follow in all situations.

1. All rehearsals and events called by directors are mandatory.
2. To be early is to be on time.
3. Respect the property of the school and of others.
4. Respect other band members and directors.
5. Always project a positive attitude in your words and actions.
6. Be at the right place at the right time and do your best.
7. For security reasons, only **current** band students are allowed in the band hall.
8. No food or drink is ever allowed in the Fine Arts Wing. This includes the band hall, hallways, practice rooms, ensemble rooms and music library.
9. All belongings must be kept in assigned lockers. Anything left out will be put in the lost and found.
10. Water bottles must go home with students each day.

## Marching Band

### About

This group is composed of the entire program, including four concert bands, percussion and color guard. The marching band rehearses 8 hours a week outside of the school day until the last football game or competition in November. Participation in the marching band is required for all members in the band

program, and P.E. credit is awarded to participants. (see “Attendance” for guidelines) Each student is responsible for the annual band materials fee to help pay for expenses necessary to put on a quality and competitive program on the field and concert stage.

## **General Requirements and Expectations**

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.

Every student who is academically eligible will perform at weekly football games. In regards to marching contests, students who exhibit the highest proficiency and performance level will march a position in the contest show. Contest marching spots are highly competitive and will be assigned based on attendance, experience level, and proficiency in marching and playing. At any point in the season, students may be moved into these contest marching spots when circumstances change. During the season, each student will have the opportunity to learn/march a spot through the “challenger system.” If a student is removed from a contest marching spot, he or she may be worked back into the contest lineup as places open or as may be necessary to replace those who are not fulfilling requirements. In this way, it is hoped that everyone will have ample opportunities to gain experience.

### **Challenger System –**

In the beginning, students will all march a spot in the marching show. Some students will have a “challenging” position. This gives each student the opportunity to grow musically and fundamentally on their technique. **Students who are in a challenging spot will alternate who marches during certain performances.**

As the season progresses, we will get to a point where we decide who has earned the marching contest spot. Students who are not assigned to contest marching spots are an integral part of the performance and will assist the directors with field equipment and organizational needs provided they are academically eligible at contest.

*It is important to understand that every student is needed to create the marching show. No job is too small.*

If a student is in “In School Suspension” on the day of a football game and is to be in ISS on the following school day, he/she may not be allowed to be present at the stadium according to GCISD rules. Therefore, he/she may not participate with the band at the game or the contest on the following Saturday. If a student’s last day of ISS falls on the day of a football game, he/she may be an alternate for the game and contest.

### **Injury –**

The students’ health and safety during the outdoor rehearsals is paramount. Multiple precautions are taken to ensure that students are able to participate safely in the Texas heat. Students with three consecutive days of disengagement due to any range of physical issues must present a doctor’s note to be considered excused from participation.

It is expected that students who are injured should still be present at rehearsal in order to observe and absorb the progression of the group.

### **Ineligible Students –**

Ineligible students are expected to participate in all class and after school rehearsals. However, they may not participate in any performance-related activity, be transported by the band to any activity, or appear in any portion of uniform for the course of the ineligibility period. Please consult the UIL website for additional information.

### **Behavior -**

- Students are subject to assignment or reassignment based upon behavioral considerations. Disciplinary matters on or off campus may impact a student’s role and/or membership in the band program.
- No role is guaranteed for any student regardless of age, experience, or leadership status.

## **Attendance Considerations –**

All students who (1) Pass off all music by memory (2) attend all rehearsals, and (3) make a conscientious effort to improve will be considered to perform during the marching season. However, contest performances will be limited to those students who demonstrate the most advanced skills for performance and audition into a contest spot.

In addition, a loss of position may result from unexcused absences, extended absences (even if excused), or recurring tardiness/early departure from rehearsals. These decisions are at the director's discretion.

## **Student Leadership Team -**

Students who wish to become a member of the Leadership Team must:

- Remain in high academic standing
- Have no major infractions in school/band
- Be a positive supporter of the band program
- Complete the tryout process in the Spring

*Any student who cannot uphold their duties will be subject to review or dismissal.*

The student leadership team consists of several roles and opportunities such as:

- Historians
- Uniform Managers
- Librarians
- Equipment Managers
- Drum Major(s)
- Section Leaders

Details regarding the duties and responsibilities will be explained prior to the audition process. Any student selected as a drum major will be expected to attend at least one summer drum major camp. Camp dates and expenses are the responsibility of the selected drum majors. Other leaders are encouraged to attend a band camp that offers leadership training. All students selected as part of the leadership team will be expected to attend the Grapevine Band leadership days

prior to marching season. **Failure to do so may result in removal from the leadership team.**

## **Band Classes**

The Grapevine High School Band is composed of four performing ensembles designed to give students a learning experience in music that is commensurate with their experience, musical proficiency, and level of commitment. Membership in the Grapevine Band Program is based on a full-year commitment.

**Varsity Band** - is considered the premier performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve. To be a member of this group, a student must:

- demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to performances, rehearsals, practice time, and private lessons. It is strongly recommended that students take advantage of these lessons in order to maintain the technical demands of the course.
- pursue individual and ensemble goals on their instrument attend weekly region sectionals during the fall semester
- attend weekly sectionals held either before or after school between the months of January and May.
- attend a full ensemble rehearsal once weekly as scheduled during the spring semester
- prepare and audition for the All-Region Band auditions
- perform at least one solo and one ensemble at the GCISD Solo and Ensemble competition
- attend additional performance opportunities specific to the Wind Ensemble

**Non-Varsity Band** - is the second performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve. To be a member of this group, a student must:

- demonstrate a high level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to performances, rehearsals, and practice time (It is highly recommended that each student takes individual private lessons in order to maintain the technical demands of the course)
- attend weekly region sectionals during the fall semester

- attend a weekly sectional held either before or after school between the months of January and May and a full band rehearsal outside the school day.
- prepare and audition for the All-Region band auditions perform a solo and ensemble at the GCISD Solo and Ensemble competition

**Sub Non-Varsity A** - is the third performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve. To be a member of this group, a student must:

- demonstrate a high level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal and practice time (Private lessons are highly encouraged)
- attend a weekly sectional held either before or after school between the months of January and May and a full band rehearsal outside the school day.
- Perform a solo and ensemble at the GCISD Solo and Ensemble competition.

**Sub Non-Varsity B** – is the fourth ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve. Students in this ensemble are expected to:

- Complete required objectives on time.
- Demonstrate a level of musical understanding, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal time.
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior inside and outside rehearsal settings.

NOTE: Though the All-Region Band auditions are not required for students in Sub Non-Varsity A/B, this music will be included in the December auditions. Focused commitment to the preparation of the All-Region audition material is expected.

**Percussion** – All percussionists have a number of ensemble opportunities throughout the year, including:

- Drumline
- Front Ensemble
- Indoor Percussion
- Concert Ensembles



All percussionists will audition and be placed into one of the four performing concert ensembles.

**Color Guard** - The Mustang Guard is a dance and auxiliary performance organization representing Grapevine High School on a regional and national level. Guard members are expected to be enrolled in the guard class for the entire school year. Guard membership is open to any current or incoming Grapevine High School student and is granted based on auditions each semester.

Auditions for the fall marching band season are held at the end of the previous spring semester, just before summer break. Those invited to join the Mustang Guard will have conditioning workouts and skill camps over the summer in preparation for the following fall competitive season.

Auditions for the spring indoor winter guard season are held at the end of the previous fall semester, usually in Nov/Dec. Those invited to join the Mustang Guard will have workshop clinics and staging camps during some holiday breaks in preparation for the following spring competitive season.

In addition to their color guard audition, all color guard members who play a wind or percussion instrument must also audition for placement in a concert band. These color guard members are required to play in their assigned concert bands during the Spring semester. They are expected to maintain a high level of performance on their instrument throughout the year.

**Applied Music** - 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.

**There are limited spots in this class. Registration must be approved by the band directors.**

# Scheduling

Grapevine High School runs on an A/B Schedule. Please refer to the listed schedule below when reviewing classes.

**A Days** – Periods 1, 2, 3, 4, 8    **B Days** – Periods 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

## Fall Semester –

1<sup>st</sup> Period – Marching Band

2<sup>nd</sup> Period - Applied Music

3<sup>rd</sup> Period - Applied Music

4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> - Middle School Travel

8<sup>th</sup> Period – Percussion

## Spring Semester –

1<sup>st</sup> Period – Varsity Band

2<sup>nd</sup> Period – Applied Music/Sub Non-Varsity B/Percussion/Color Guard

3<sup>rd</sup> Period – Applied Music

4<sup>th</sup> Period – Middle School Travel

5<sup>th</sup> Period – Sub Non-Varsity A

6<sup>th</sup> Period – Middle School Travel

7<sup>th</sup> Period – Middle School Travel

8<sup>th</sup> Period – Non-Varsity Band

## Attendance

## **Absences -**

If a student must be absent from practice a parent should contact the Marching Band Attendance Coordinator (Ms. Brooke Irby) by completing the **Band Absence Form** located on the Grapevine Band Website each day of a student's absence to report the students' name and reason for the absence. In the event of the following, the student should submit the following note to the Band Attendance Coordinator.

Illness - Doctor's Note

Emergency - Doctor's Note

Other - must be at the Director's Approval

If a parent forgets to contact, then the student must bring a doctor's note to the Band Attendance Coordinator the day they return to practice. If the parent does not contact or send a note, the student's absence will be considered truant until parent contact has been made\*.

\*A student may not participate in any Band or Color Guard event (rehearsal or performance) while considered truant.

## **Excessive Absences - (including Tardies & Early Dismissals)**

In order for a student to obtain an optimum education, it is important that he/she attend practice regularly. Band & Guard are considered team activities and any members' absence does negatively impact the experience for the entire team. A student is considered tardy if they arrive late to practice (practice times listed on the Band Calendar on the Band website). After 30 minutes, a student is considered absent. 2 tardies will equal 1 absence per this policy.

Each practice the marching band will perform a run-through of the show for students to demonstrate their cumulative learning up to that point, typically the last 15 minutes of each practice. We consider this run-through to be a required formative assessment, which gives the Band Directors the ability to evaluate each student's readiness to perform the competition show at the next performance. As such, any early dismissal from practice that results in a student missing a run-through will be coded as a tardy. 2 early dismissals (coded as tardy) will equal 1 absence per this policy.

### ***\*Important - Competition Season Absence Policy\****

Beginning in Competition Season, an unexcused absence or missing a run-through will result in a student sitting out the next performance of the competition show. Any absence (excused or unexcused) or missed run-through during Competition Season may result in a student sitting out the next performance of the competition show if the Band Directors cannot determine their ability to make-up and perform the material missed in time for the next performance. It is the philosophy of the Band Directors that the band is at its best when all members perform their assigned roles, however student safety with regards to the drill formations and choreography routines are always considered before placing an absent student back into the competition show.

Absences for the following reasons are normally excused:

- Severe Illness - with a doctor's note
- Death in the family/medical emergency
- Religious Holiday

Absences for the following reasons will NOT be excused:

- Doctor's/Dentist appointments
- Family Vacations
- Work

**Please view the rehearsal / performance calendar on the website before scheduling doctor/dentist/orthodontist appointments.**

### **PE Credit Attendance Requirement -**

A student is required to attend 90% of practice days in order to receive their PE Credit Waiver and maintain performance status with the ensemble. On the 4th absence from Marching practice, the student will lose performance privileges in the ensemble and their PE Credit Waiver (for Marching Band). ***Absences documented with a doctor's note or due to a religious holiday will not count toward these absences.***

For a student to regain credit he/she must make up hours. To make arrangements to

make up their missed hours, the student must contact the directors to make arrangements.

## **Tutorials**

Tutorials are an essential part of academic growth at Grapevine High School. We have created many opportunities (see schedule below) for our Mustang Band Students to attend before and after school tutorials. If a student must attend a tutorial outside of the designated days/times, he/she must communicate 48 hours in advance via email to Ms. Irby and include the teacher the tutorial is with for verification.

### **Fall Semester**

- Monday and Friday mornings (no rehearsal)
- After school on days without sectionals

### **Spring Semester**

- Mornings with no sectional/rehearsal
- After school on days with no sectional/rehearsal

### **Tutoring Team**

Students often use their peers for help with classes. We have compiled a list of students that are willing to help their peers with classes. This list will be posted on the website at [grapevinehsband.com](http://grapevinehsband.com).

## **Grades**

Grades in band classes are based on the four following categories:

### **60 % Summative -**

- Music Performances
- Virtual Performance Projects
- Auditions

- Content Quizzes

### **40 % Formative -**

- Daily Participation
- Fundamentals
- Assignments
- Exit Tickets

### **Participation -**

Students are evaluated daily for having the correct material and being on time. Each day that a student has their materials and is on time, they will receive a one hundred for that day. If a student is tardy or does not have all their materials, they cannot receive full credit for the day.

### **Fundamentals/Assignments -**

Students are given their assignments for each grading period on their objective sheet for that nine-week period. Students can attempt their Pass-Off for the week at their designated sectional. Students should at least ATTEMPT their Pass-Off before the due date. If a student wants extra help, or needs to make arrangements to Pass-Off, they should contact their director. Assignments can be redone for full credit as long as they are turned in before the grading period has closed.

### **Performances -**

Performances are a major portion of this course, as they display understanding of the material. Missed performances due to poor planning will not be excused, and will result in a zero for that performance.

## **Eligibility**

Most of the activities associated with Band (Marching and Concert) are extracurricular including football games and contests. In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL, and GCISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each six weeks. Students who fail any single class at the end of the 1st nine weeks will have an extra eligibility check weeks will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the six-weeks in which they failed. Students who fail at that time will be able to regain their eligibility by PASSING ALL CLASSES AT THE END OF THE 3RD WEEK OF THE NEXT GRADING PERIOD. If passing, students regain eligibility seven days after the last day of the three-week period. A STUDENT WHO DOES NOT REGAIN ELIGIBILITY AT THAT TIME WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING SIX WEEKS GRADING PERIOD.

It is expected that the students put their academics as a top priority. If a student fails to meet the obligations of their academics, they may be removed from a performance until their grade rises above passing. Due to the quantity of students enrolled in the program, it is encouraged that they help each other with classes.

### **UIL Concert & Sight Reading Revision -**

Although academic eligibility no longer affects a student's eligibility to participate in UIL Concert & Sightreading, it will be up to the school to decide whether the student should participate.

## **Discipline**

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Grapevine Band Program. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively within the program may be reassigned to a new band class, or removed from the program.

**Concert Behavior/Etiquette** - At concerts, students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature manner and act as professionals would on and off the stage. Concerts are professional events. Audience members are expected to follow basic rules of etiquette, i.e. clapping at the appropriate time, not whistling, screaming,

etc., not taking flash pictures during the performance, removing crying babies/children, not leaving or entering during a piece of music, etc. At times, band students will be in the audience listening to each other. Students are expected to lead the audience by exhibiting proper behavior.

## **Individual Competitions**

**Solo and Ensemble Contest** - Every student in the Grapevine band cluster in grades 6-12 is required to perform a solo and an ensemble. This allows our students to demonstrate their ability as an individual.

Every solo will be accompanied by a pianist that the school assigns. Rehearsals with pianists are mandatory for each student.

In order for students to perform at Solo and Ensemble, they must remain **academically eligible. If a student becomes ineligible, they are still responsible for all payments.**

Ineligible students, or students who are not prepared to attend, will have an alternative assignment to be determined by the directors.

If a student has not shown acceptable preparation on their solo, the directors may decide whether or not they are allowed to compete.

**All Region/State Process** - The All-Region Band audition is a contest designed to improve the individual performance level of the students. Participation requirements are listed with descriptors for each performing ensemble. Students who place among the top chairs in the Region Band audition process may be certified to participate in the Region Orchestra and/or the All-Area Band audition. All-Area auditions take place in early January. Students advancing past Area will be named to the Texas All-State Band. It is the Grapevine High School's Band expectation that *all students gaining All-Region and All-State honors will be*



*expected to participate in the resulting clinics and concerts. Failure to fulfill this obligation may result in band reassignment.*

## **Uniform Contract**

Please read the [Mustang Band Uniform Contract](#) for more information. Click the link, or view on our website at [grapevinehsband.com](http://grapevinehsband.com)

## **Lettering Policy**

Any student in the program may letter in band by adhering to ALL the following criteria:

- Pass every grading period of band.
- Perform a solo and ensemble at GCISD solo and ensemble contest, or equivalent for guard.
- Remain in good standing regarding behavior for the entire year.
- Attend all performances for the entire year.
- Participate in band for two years.

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

Once you have earned your letter, it will be presented at the Band Banquet.

## **Private Lessons**

It is the goal of the Grapevine High School Band Program to provide the very best learning experience for each student. One important aspect of a student's musical growth includes the opportunity to study privately with a professional instrumentalist. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students.

The private lesson program allows interested students to receive personalized instruction on their instrument. This individual interaction generally improves the performance level of the student and also has a positive effect on the band in which the student participates. Students interested in excelling in the All Region /All State process will benefit tremendously.

All fees will be paid directly to the teacher. GCISD sets the rate for lessons at \$20 per half hour. This rate is non-negotiable and decided at the district level - Each teacher will have policies and guidelines that they will cover at the student's first lesson. Students and parents can find information for the private lesson staff online at [www.grapevinehsband.com](http://www.grapevinehsband.com). If you are interested in taking private lessons through the district instructors, please contact one of the private lesson teachers listed on the website.

## **Use of School Owned Instruments/Equipment**

If you need to rent a school owned instrument, contact your designated director in order to get the rental form.

**Woodwinds: Ms. Irby** – [brooke.irby@gcisd.net](mailto:brooke.irby@gcisd.net)

**Brass: Mr. Redd** – [William.redd@gcisd.net](mailto:William.redd@gcisd.net)

Students playing on school instruments (including percussion) will pay a user fee to GCISD 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 (the 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 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 GCISD 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 GCISD. 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 homeowners/renter's 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.

## **Fundraising and Payments**

To view a breakdown of fees and payment information, please view the [Band Fee Payment Document](#) on our website as [grapevinehsband.com](http://grapevinehsband.com). This document is to be signed, one copy is for school documentation and the other for yours.

**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 boosters do 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.

**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.

## **Travel and Trips**

Participating in trips with the band program is a privilege. Students are held to a high standard and are expected to behave their absolute best when travelling with the band program. In order for your child to travel with the band program, they must:

- Attend ALL information meetings relating to the trip WITH A PARENT/GUARDIAN
- Be academically eligible at the time of the trip

In order to register for any band trip, your band fees must first be paid off, or be up to date on your payment plan.

## **Miscellaneous Information**

**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 acceptable standards and use policies of GCISD. The Grapevine 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, Facebook, Twitter, Band Banquet Video, etc.... Please inform a director if you DO NOT want your child's image released.

**Band Banquet** – The Grapevine Band holds an annual awards banquet in the latter part of the Spring semester for all "members in good standing". The purpose of the banquet is to reflect upon the year's accomplishments, to honor those who have realized special achievements, to acknowledge special individuals who have volunteered their time, and to recognize graduating seniors for their four years of service to the band.

*Should a student's membership cease during the academic year prior to the banquet, he or she will no longer be eligible for organizational awards, honors, scholarships, or other member benefits.*

However, former members are welcome to attend the band banquet as guests of current band students. Senior recognitions are reserved for students who maintain active membership in the band program for the duration of their enrollment at Grapevine High School.

## **COVID-19**

The Grapevine Band Program will monitor and follow guidelines given from the state and district level. Our top priority during this time is to ensure the safety of the students and families, and to create the best music experience possible for this season.

Any updated information will be communicated as soon as we receive it. Our primary form of communication is via CHARMS emails. Our other forms of communication will include, but are not limited to: Remind 101, Weekly Updates - Smore and Band Website ([grapevinehsband.com](http://grapevinehsband.com)).