



GROVE CITY BAND

Proudly Representing Central Ohio to the World

Dear Future Grove City High School Band Parents,

Welcome to the Grove City High School Band! For over 45 years, the GCHS Band has been known as one of the premiere music programs in the state of Ohio, and we're excited to welcome you and your sons and daughters into this fine tradition. Below is information that we would like to pass along to assist in your son or daughters transition into the high school band. Hopefully, this letter will start to answer your questions about the band program. All new members to the program will be assigned a mentor family who can help answer your questions about band and the band boosters.

Note: Facebook is NOT the definitive source for information about band, though many parents/boosters will post reminders to the group. Please reference the band calendar, emails from the directors, your mentor family, and most importantly your child when you have questions about band rehearsal/performance events.

Incoming Freshman Parent Meeting

We will be hosting a meeting for the parents of incoming freshman band members on **Tuesday, May 29th at 7:00pm** in the GCHS band room which will last about an hour and a half. **This is an important meeting and you are strongly encouraged to attend (at least one parent).** Details about the summer/next season will be discussed; you will receive your welcome packet, and be assigned a mentor family. Please contact Kelly Long, our mentoring chair if you are unable to attend prior to the meeting. Her email is mentoring@gchsbands.org

Band Booster Picnic

The Band Boosters' June Meeting will be held at **Gantz Park on June 8th** to kick off the new marching season. This is a fun social event for all band parents. As part of this meeting we have a cookout and give freshman parents a chance to meet returning band parents (and vice versa). You will learn more about the Band Boosters and how you can play an important role in your student's experience in the Grove City Band. The grill will be ready for cooking at 6:30 p.m. Freshmen parents should bring the following: Meat of your choice to grill (buns and condiments, too), table service, drinks, and a salad and/or side dish to share.

Charms – VERY IMPORTANT!

Charms is an online tool designed to improve communication and record keeping throughout the band program. Your child has been issued an account which is tied to their SWCS Student ID number. You can access Charms through the Band Booster website (www.gchsbands.org) by clicking the [Access Charms](#) link. (If asked for our school code, it is "allset" without the quotation marks.) You will enter your child's SWCS Student ID number in the student area password box. You will then be prompted to choose a password of your own; you will not need to use your child's SWCS ID number after choosing your own password. Charms gives you the ability to securely pay for fees with your credit card as well as stay up to date with a variety of band related items. ****All freshmen accounts are currently active.**** **Please login and check that the contact information (especially email and phone!) for you and your child is accurate. Please update and add missing information for your children as well as all parents/guardians and be sure to click the green Update button when you are finished. The primary information page is for STUDENT info only...**please use their email, cell phone, etc. **Parent contact information is on a separate page/button towards the bottom of the update screen. Charms is how the directors will communicate with you and your children. You will NOT receive information from the staff if email addresses are incorrect.****

Program Structure

At Grove City High School, band is a yearlong academic course. Throughout the fall, the entire band meets together as a marching band. Those students who play Oboe and Bassoon will play their original instrument from 6th grade during marching band and switch back once concert season begins. After auditions (in early November), the band splits into three concert bands for the remainder of the year (most likely four next year). All students are required to be in both marching and concert bands. The only exceptions to this are fall athletes (football, volleyball, soccer, etc.) and students in the color guard who do not play an instrument. Fall athletes will meet together during the last part of 5th period after the marching band comes inside. Guard-only students will be part of the marching band, and then have a study hall or other class scheduled at that time for the remainder of the year. Guard-only students will receive one-quarter credit.

Is your child a Fall Athlete or planning to play a fall sport?
Please click [HERE](#) and fill out this short form.

Summer Schedule

JUNE

- 4-8 Flag Camp (9am-12pm, 1-5pm)
- 7 & 8 Rookie Days (9am-12pm, 1-3pm)
- 8 Band Booster Picnic (Gantz Park, 6:30pm)
- 27 Band Rehearsal (9am-12pm)
- 29 Band Rehearsal (9am-12pm)
- 30 Lincoln Village Parade**

JULY

- 4 Upper Arlington July 4th Parade**
- 23-27 Percussion Camp (9am-12pm, 1pm-4pm)

JULY/AUGUST

- 7/30-8/3 PRE BAND CAMP, All members (8am-12pm)
- 7/30-8/3 Color Guard Rehearsal (1pm-3pm)
- 7/30-8/3 Percussion Rehearsal (1pm-4pm)
- 7/30 Mandatory Booster/Summer Meeting (7:30pm)**

- 2 Picture Day at Pre Band Camp
- 5-10 BAND CAMP**
- 14-17 Band Rehearsals (9a-12p)
- 15-17, 20, 21 Street Concerts (5:30pm report time, students scheduled to perform at 3 street concerts)
- 21 Band Rehearsal (2:30pm-5pm)
- 22 SCHOOL BEGINS**
- 23 Performance at The Pinnacle (7:00pm)**
- 24 Football – Hilliard Davidson (Home)**

All events are posted on the Bands Google Calendar; www.gchsbands.org/calendar

This is the best way to stay up to date on band rehearsals and performances. The website gives directions on how to sync your phone/tablet/computer to the calendar and receive automatic updates! The website also contains a printable PDF of the entire year.

“Rookie Days”

The summer rehearsal schedule will begin the week after school with "Rookie Days" on June 7th and 8th. New band members will meet from 9am until 3pm on these two days. The directors and next year's squad leaders will be teaching the "rookies" the basics of marching and playing. There will be a lunch break from 12pm-1pm both days. Students may pack a lunch to eat in the band room or go out to eat with their parents, however, students are not permitted to leave the school grounds with another student. **It is very important that freshmen/new members attend these days as the basic skills for the year are taught and uniform items are ordered/picked up. New members should be diligent in learning these skills and spend time during summer break perfecting them to the best of their ability.** The upperclassmen leaders (Section and Squad Leaders) are always available and willing to help!

Students who participate in the Capital Winds and Percussion Camp should reach out to the uniform chair (Dana Rutan) to place an order for their needed uniform items. In addition, freshmen/new members should contact their section leader to schedule a time to meet in the summer and learn the basic marching skills required for the year. If it possible to split time between Rookie Days and the Capital camp, that is preferred but not required. Capital is a GREAT CAMP and we encourage it, but learning our basic marching skills is needed for the parades and when we start at the end of July. Many students have done both and have had no problems.

Costs

There are several expenses that band students will incur in the fall. Band camp is the largest expense, costing each student \$320 for the week. Other costs include a uniform fee (\$60), an instrument rental fee (\$40 for students using school-owned instruments), and student dues (\$15). Freshmen will also need to purchase some uniform parts, which they'll be able to use throughout their time in high school. These include shoes (\$30), the summer uniform shirt (\$15), gloves (\$3 per pair), and shoulder cords (\$14). Members of the color guard will have an additional color guard fee that is set when the uniform is chosen. Please keep in mind that some of these figures are only estimates. The fees will come due at the summer meeting on July 30th. Throughout the summer, the band boosters will provide various fundraising opportunities to help offset these costs.

Pay to Participate

The district's "pay to participate" fee for the 2018-2019 school year is \$100 for band and will be due in early summer. School officials will be at the summer meeting to collect payment. Please note that "pay to participate" fees must be paid directly to the school...the music boosters cannot collect payment for this, and the money you make through Band Boosters fund raisers cannot be used to pay this fee. This is a district fee required to be in the course.

BAND BOOSTER Communication

One of the best ways to keep in touch with the activities of the band boosters and fundraising opportunities provided is to be a part of the "Yahoo! Groups" message service. To register your email address with this service, send a message to gchsbands-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. In the body of the message, please write your name, the name and grade level of your band student, and your relationship to the student.

General Information

You can get general information by going to the band web page at www.gchsbands.org. You can download the parent handbook which includes important information for freshman parents. There is an [Incoming Freshmen](#) link at the top of the page which gives great directions on how to get started and “plugged in.” It is a good idea for you to download the booster application form and become a booster. In order to participate in ANY fundraising programs you must be a booster member (for insurance purposes). Please print the application form, fill it out and bring it to one of the meetings with your \$5 (per person) membership fee, or mail it to the boosters at: GCHS Band Boosters, PO Box 403, Grove City OH 43123

****IMPORTANT****

There is a mandatory band meeting on Monday, July 30th at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30pm so you can go through the line and complete the various tasks. Please mark this on your calendar now and plan to attend. At least one parent needs to attend this meeting.

Thanks and we look forward to working with your children! They have joined one of the finest bands in the country and they will have an amazing experience.

Contact Information

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Bob Long, Band Booster President
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