

From The Podium

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Happy November! Cool weather has finally shown up in Graham. As always, lots to talk about, so here we go.

First of all, can we talk about the performances we had last month? We had a wonderful crowd for both concerts. We love to see and perform for a full house! I hope you are as proud of them as we were.

The first concert was by our 6th Grade Band. I always look forward to that concert. It gives the kids a chance to not only show off to their family and friends, but it gives their parents a chance to see that the investment they are making in their child's music education is paying out dividends. What a treat it was to hear the full group play together as a band for the very first time in their band career. They really knocked it out of the park!

Our next concert featured out 7th and 8th Grade Bands. For them to do a full performance after only working on their pieces for less than a month was nothing short of phenomenal. Both groups had been working on more challenging pieces. I believe in the mantra "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you." Both groups really rose to the challenge and we are very proud of their hard work.

Speaking of challenges, next Saturday we will be taking our 8th Grade Band members, 7th and 8th Grade Percussionists, and a select group of 7th Graders to audition for the TMEA North Zone All-District Band at Holliday HS. I will have an itinerary for them before the end of the week. The kids have been working on this music for the past month and change. I believe we are going to have an awesome day next Saturday. This will be a turn and burn trip. There will be a concession stand at the event so the kids can eat and relax before and after their auditions. I will remind them that they are representing this band, school, and community in a good light.

We start our annual fundraiser with Scents of Soy on Monday, November 6th. This fundraiser will run from November 6th through November 27th. ***All orders and money are due November 27th. No late orders will be accepted.*** The orders have to be sent in that evening so we can receive our products before we get out for Christmas break. The funds raised go into our activity account that pays for extras not covered in our budget - pizza parties, Six Flags, etc. This is the third year that we have used this company. They have a great product at decent prices. I have two of their candles that my wife bought a couple of years ago and they are still burning strong. Their prize package is very good as well. He does not believe in cheap toys or trinkets. His rewards are gift/cash cards depending on the amount that they sell. It is all up to them how much they can receive as a reward. The Band also receives 50% profit for their efforts. It is very hard to find a company in this day and age that will give that much profit to an organization. On top of that, he and his wife are great people who are in business for the kids.



There are quite a few parents who have not updated their child's information on Charms. I really need this done yesterday. If you are a parent of a 6th Grade child, please go to www.charmsoffice.com and click on the Login link. From there it will ask you for the school code. The code is GrahamJHBand. The next thing it will ask is a password. The password is your child's 5 digit Skyward/lunch number. From there, you can access your child's information. Please update anything that is blank and please add parent information. Those of you that were a part of the program last year will just have to login and update your information. If you have forgotten your password, drop me a line and I'll reset the password.

I am a proponent of making sure that everyone - parents, administration, and kids alike - need to know what is going on in school, specifically Band. I do this in a variety of ways. I hope you are taking advantage of our various avenues - ParentSquare, Facebook, Twitter, email, website, Charms, newsletters, and Instagram. I never want anyone left out of the loop.

Our next performance for our band program is on December 12th at 7pm in the HS New Gym. This will be a great concert featuring all three of our bands. Please note that all three bands will have extra

rehearsals before the concert. These rehearsals are mandatory and have been in the calendar since August. I know that I will be missing a few 7th Graders for the rehearsal on the 30th for the Hot Chocolicious event. I have already let them know that they are set to go. These rehearsals are only an hour long and truthfully, could be less. We should just be running and tweaking things. If we are done with everything early, then we'll be done. Make sure that the kids have a full gym in which to play. You're not going to want to miss their performance.

I'd like to close out this month's newsletter by taking time to congratulate the RSB³ on their successful competition season. They started with the annual Wichita Falls ISD festival where they received great comments. From there, they went to the Sound of Springtown Marching Festival where they were two bands out of finals. This contest contained mainly 5A and 6A Bands. And a couple of the best 4A Bands in the state. The next week they went to the Ponder Marching Classic where the band was second in Class 4A, third overall in prelims. Our BellaGuard placed first in class and percussion were in 3rd. In finals, the Band placed third overall very close to the top two bands. The last event was UIL Marching Contest. The

band earned a one from all three judges resulting in a Superior Rating. Congratulations to Mr. Kidd, Mr. Freeman, and the members of the RSB³ on a job well done.

Well, that's all for this month. I hope you have a wonderful November.

Take care,

Mr. G



Dogie Band Calendar

November

- 6th - 27th - Scents of Soy Fundraiser. All monies and orders are due the 27th. No late orders.
- 11th - All District Band Auditions. 8th Grade Band. 7th and 8th Grade Percussion, Selected 7th Graders.
- 20th - 24th - Thanksgiving Break
- 27th - Fundraising Money and Orders are due. No late orders will be accepted.
- 28th - 8th Grade Band Christmas Concert Rehearsal. 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 30th - 7th Grade Band Christmas Concert Rehearsal. 3:30pm - 4:30pm

December

- 5th - 6th Grade Band Christmas Concert Rehearsal. 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 7th - 6th Grade Band Christmas Concert Rehearsal. 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 12th - GJHS Bands Christmas Concert. 7pm GHS New Gym
- 20th - Early Release
- 21st - 29th - Christmas Break

Graham Junior High School Band

1000 Second Street

Graham, TX 76450

dogieband@grahamisd.com

www.grahamisd.com/grubbs

