

From The Podium

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Welcome Back 7th and 8th Grade Parents and Kiddos. I'd like to say special welcome to our new 6th Grade Parents and Kids. We are so happy that you are a part of the Band Program here at GJHS. I have a lot of information to get out to you, so here we go!

This is the official newsletter of the GJHS Band. I usually send it out around the first week of the month. We have many avenues of communication which include this newsletter, our website -

gjhs.grahamisd.com/dogieband, [Charms](#), our Facebook page - [Graham Junior High School Band](#), our Twitter Account - [@GJHSDogieband](#), Instagram - [gjhsdogieband](#), Remind - text [@gjhsband17](#) to 81010, and of course our GISD's newest tool ParentSquare. My communication goal every year is to make sure that every parent and child knows everything that is going on in the program. I never want a parent or kiddo being left in the dark about events or just what's happening in the Band Hall. Please make sure that you take advantage of these avenues.

One of the ways that we communicate as well as manage our kids and program, is through Charms. Every one of our kids have been inputted into the program, but I need parents to go in and update the information. You are also able to put in your own information. If you would, go to www.charmsoffice.com, Once there, click on login, then Parents/Students/Helpers then use GrahamJhBand as the login code. After that, enter your child's 5 digit Skyward number to access their information. Please update and make sure that your child has the new password as well so they may access their information on the Charms Blue App.

On the first day of school, I handed out handbooks detailing our rules and regulations. There was a acknowledgement/information page that was to be turned in the next day. I am still short quite a few forms. I have the handbook linked on our Band site. You are more than welcome to go there to download and print out the acknowledgement form. Please return

that ASAP. I also passed out shirt order forms at the beginning of school as well. 6th Graders will need a travel shirt, 7th Graders will only need a polo shirt, unless they've outgrown their travel shirt. 8th Graders are all set unless they have outgrown their shirt. I will do one more extension on the due date to Tuesday August 29th. Orders will go in that afternoon. You can access a copy of the form on the Band website. I can do an order in the spring, but the cost will go up because the order will be smaller.

As I mentioned earlier, the school district has a new communication tool, ParentSquare. This is going to be a great tool that uses the information on Skyward. PLEASE make sure that the information on Skyward is current and correct. I have used it a couple of times and have received bounced emails. I would hate for you to miss anything from either me or your child's other teachers.

A calendar was a part of the handbook that went home with the kids. It has all of the fall dates. Due to changes in our contest dates, I have to redo the spring portion. I'll have that to you ASAP. The calendar is also embedded on mine and the Band website. Please do not schedule anything on those dates. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory and graded.

We start the second full week of school Monday. The first 8 days have been incredible! The 6th Graders are starting to put things together and make sounds on their instruments. The 7th Grade Band have learned one of the two études for the All District Band Audition in November and have started on their pep tunes for next month's performances. The 8th Grade Band have played through one of the études, played through all of the pep tunes and are ready to work on the second étude as well as get started back into the book. This is an INCREDIBLE feat for only 8 days of work! We are so proud of all of the kiddos and can't wait to see the phenomenal things they do the rest of the year.

6th Grade Band

I know I have said this already, but man, these kids are progressing very fast! We are so excited about how hard they are working in such a short time. All of the instruments, except for clarinet, have permission to put their full instrument together. Clarinets are allowed to put everything together but the mouthpiece and barrel. They may do that separately.

By now, all of the kids should have their instruments. If not, please give either ALP Music (254-965-4743) or Sam Gibbs Music (940-767-1456) a call to set up a rental contract. If this will be a problem, please come talk to me or drop me a line so we can figure out something. Please understand that if money is an issue, we will figure out a way for your child to be in Band.

Make sure that you take note of our calendar dates so you don't miss a thing. The 6th Graders will have their first performance on October 19th at 6pm. Please make sure that you fill the gym. We are known for our packed performances. This will be a demonstration concert. We want to show off your kids and let you know that the investment you are making in your child's music education is paying dividends. This

is a real fun concert. Truthfully, it my favorite concert of the year.

JH Band

Like I said earlier, these kids are flying through a bunch of music. I mentioned the All District Music. I told the kids that I would like to take as many kids to this audition as possible. The audition is in November and the clinic/concert is in January. This is one of many avenues to become a better musician. We tell the kids every year that although playing Low Rider is fun, it's not the kind of music that makes you a better player. This music will. They already have one of the études under their hands and it was only the 8th day of school! We will play these two pieces as part of our warm up every day. Mr. Kidd and Mr. Freeman will be taking out sections to work on the pieces as well. By the time the auditions happen, it'll be old hat to them and should be very successful come November 4th.

The Fall Concert will be Tuesday October 24th in the Classic Gym at 6pm. Please give these kids the packed house they deserve. You won't be disappointed.

I had mentioned that the spring calendar had to be scrapped and redone. I promise to get that to you very soon. The State changed the

STAAR dates and that changed happened the week we were supposed to go to contest. We are going to wind up going a week earlier which is comparable to last year's date. The other difference is that our contests will take place in the North Zone instead of the South Zone. All District Auditions will be in Holliday, All District Band Clinic/Concert, UIL Solo and Ensemble, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading will be held at Wichita Falls High School. This move will benefit the kids, parents, and budget since the travel time will be less and parents will have an easier time attending these performances.

Well, that's it for now. As always, my door is open. It is better to contact me through email than it is to call. I never answer my phone when we have kids in the Band Hall. I don't like to take away from their education and truthfully, I never hear the phone ring.

Have a wonderful September!

Mr. G

Dogie Band Calendar

September

- 4th - Holiday-Labor Day
- 22nd - 7th and 8th Grade Band to Crestview Pep Rally 8:30am
- 29th - 7th and 8th Grade Band Night with the RSB³. 6pm Call HS Band Hall.
- 25th - Staff Development Day

October

- 19th - 6th Grade Band Demonstration Concert. 6pm GJHS Classic Gym
- 24th - 7th and 8th Grade Bands Fall Concert. 6pm GJHS Classic Gym.
- 23rd - Staff Development Day

November

- 6th - 27th - Scents of Soy Fundraiser. All monies and orders are due the 27th. No late orders.
- 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

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