



Just the Beats & All That Jazz

Welcome to the **February 2021** edition of the Garner Bands newsletter!



Greetings band family! As semester 2 begins ramping up, I hope this message finds you all well. I like to use these messages as an opportunity to highlight what is going well for the program and what could benefit from extra attention.

**Director's
Corner**

First things first: even while we are still virtual, many students are putting in a great amount of energy and care into continuing their musical pursuits. Nothing really brings back the feeling of being together in the band room again like everyone having their camera on and talking about music. This combination of willingness to turn cameras on and readiness to lend their voices to discussion and collaboration has led to much success in their classes and made these classes a joy to be a part of. When these students do participate in this manner, we are able to go into deeper detail about music, try new ventures, and forget about the pandemic for a little while.

This is not the case across the board, however. As first semester grades were finalized a little over two weeks ago and late work was due before that, there may be some students and parents who are unhappy with the grades that were earned last semester. I want to remind everyone, as I have done with my students multiple times, that there must be change this semester if they are going to find success.

I will say this until I'm blue in the face but one of the greatest and easiest things students can do to increase their success in my class is to turn on their camera. There is a MASSIVE difference between the performance of students who see each other, talk to each other, ask questions, and simply SMILE at others and students who keep everything off, play on their phone, walk away, and ignore my attempts to connect.

I have sent out this message before but I will do it once more: PLEASE insist that your student makes a change for the better this semester and take steps to ensure their own success. I offer a great amount of leniency and extra time and decrease the amount of school work I require in favor of easing the hardships students may be encountering in other classes. The only thing that has happened, however, is that students have taken advantage of this leniency and do not complete their work or participate during class, resulting in low grades.



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Director's Corner, cont.

As parents, you have many resources at your disposal to keep track of your student's progress. Powerschool, while slower to update grade wise, is a great way to keep track of your child's attendance. Attendance is not always the best way to measure your child's engagement, however. Google Classroom is the most up to date way to make sure your student is completing their work. You can receive guardian reports or simply have you student show you their assignments page. It will show you everything you need to know. Due dates, scores, instructions, and feedback are all found there.

All this to say that semester 2 is an opportunity to learn from the mistakes of last semester and start off on a better foot. I am committed to doing my best to give all students a varied and enriching music education, but I can only bring students to the watering hole. It is up to them whether they drink from it.

In lighter news, we begin Plan B very soon and with that: one step closer to getting the band back together. In addition, band directors were informed that bands are allowed to play at football games this Spring. The capacity in which we do so is not yet known but rest assured I will send this info out as I receive it.

I believe this takes care of band-specific news from me. I would like to highlight the amazing work done by our Booster Board, without whose help nothing would get done and everything would be on fire. They are the best people to talk to if you would like to be a participant in your child's band career and help us bounce back from the last few years of downsizing. Big things are planned after this pandemic is over and we would be delighted if you could join us. I can't wait to meet you all when it becomes safer!



Yours,
Patrick A. Shipp
Director of Bands



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Fundraising and Fair Share: What is it?



It is understood by most, that funding for the Arts departments from the school system is very limited at best. What is budgeted at each school has to be spread across the entire Arts department. For instance this year our Band Director received a mere **\$100.00** to use for all of his music programs needs for the **YEAR!**

Why does the band program even need money? To purchase sheet music, maintain band-owned instruments such as percussion or larger Brass instruments, printing concert programs, MSA fees, yearend awards, senior recognition, travel expenses- and then there is marching band. Show design, uniform maintenance, medical supplies, meals and snacks, travel... it all costs.

As a new Band Booster board this 2020-21 school year, we have tried to reexamine each and every cost and “trim the fat” to reduce expenses, but there is still a cost. We need your help!

Some of you may be wondering how the Fair Share assessment is determined. In a nutshell, Fair Share is determined by dividing the budget, by the number of students. The total cost of the Bands program budget and Marching Band budget are figured separately. Students in Marching Band will pay the Band program as well as the Marching Band Fair Share. Our fundraisers, both bring revenue into the Band fund, and allows students to earn a portion of that revenue for their account “**IF**” they participate in the fundraiser. The student account balances will roll to the next year whether it is negative or positive.

Here’s an example: our current SCRIP fundraiser lets your students’ accounts keep 100% of your earnings!!! The general fund doesn’t get any of it! This was a decision by the Board this year to help students earn as much credit as possible.

With SCRIP, I got my family to participate and we purchased gift cards (most electronic and available to use immediately)-mostly for things we were buying anyway. Amazon, groceries, eating out, new shoes for the kids, etc. Since November, my student already has \$293.00 in their account that can be applied towards his fair share assessment. Just from one fundraiser!!!

Please reach out to us with any questions about how this whole fundraising and Fair Share thing works- we are so excited to get to know the new families and to hear from the veteran families again. Help us help our kids! Because we know that music education and participation in band helps develop language and reasoning, promotes teamwork, relieves stress, increases human connection and builds self-esteem. It helps our students grow into happy, productive, successful, well-adjusted adults.

Amy Grady, President



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MEET THE BOARD

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the GMHS Band Boosters is to continuously support the GMHS Band Director, students and their families. To advocate for the highest standard of music education by supporting character development, self-esteem, teamwork, and leadership skills. We are a volunteer, non-profit organization comprised of parents, educators, and members of the community. Our goal is to provide logistical and financial support to the concert and marching bands throughout the year, ensuring all interested students are able to participate.

Respect self, Respect others, Respect Tradition!
WE ARE TROJANS!



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