



Grafton High School Clipper Band

Student/Parent Handbook

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WELCOME TO GRAFTON HIGH BAND PARENTS

Welcome, Grafton High Band parents, as we prepare for the upcoming school year. We are delighted that you are part of our band family. We sincerely hope that this guide will be a handy reference. The goal is to give you as much information as you need to help your student succeed in the band program and to maintain your sanity during the hectic marching band season ahead. Please feel free to contact the Band Director or any one of the Grafton High Band Parents Association (GHBPA) Executive Board or Committee members if you have questions or need additional information. Email addresses are provided for all GHBPA positions on page 32.

YOUR ROLE AS A BAND PARENT

1. Encourage your student to practice on a regular basis. They are learning skills they will enjoy for a lifetime.
2. Attend all performances, even if your child says that they do not want you there. These years will fly by.

3. Encourage private study with a private instructor.
4. Make sure that your student's instrument is working properly. It is essential to their performance.
5. Make sure that your student always has the basic equipment and supplies necessary to play his or her own instrument.
6. Become involved with the Grafton High Band Parents Association (GHBPA) in some fashion.
7. Attend all General Membership Meetings and read the Weekly Band Message email and class handouts to stay informed about upcoming events and deadlines. Every effort will be made to keep the Grafton Clipper Bands website (www.graftonband.com) up to date.

| GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2025 - 2026 | | | | | |
| | | | DRUM MAJORS | | |
| | | | Vienna Caluag | | |
| | | | Rhema Eregholo | | |
| | | | Ruby Jones | | |
| | | | BAND PRESIDENTS | | |
| | | | Ann Cherian | | |
| | | | Lydia Cooley | | |
| | | | Kylie Fainsan | | |
| | | | SECTION LEADERS | | |
| FLUTE | | CLARINET | | ALTO SAX | TENOR SAX |
| Norah McBride | | Ada Bang | | Jenna Hagen | Anna Cook |
| Sage Sylvester | | Isaac Culpepper | | Mackenzie Kirchner | Ethan Nguyen |
| | | Megan McAllister | | | |
| | | Shyota Smith | | | |
| TRUMPET | | MELLOPHONE | | TROMBONE | SOUSAPHONE |
| Sofia Accardi | | Angel Maria-Torrens | | Brady Hull | Simon Watson |
| Landon Moulliet | | Jason Woodard | | Caitlin Tant | |
| Naylin Watkins | | | | Matthew Zielinski | |
| Drumline Captain | | SNARE CAPTAIN | | BASS CAPTAIN | FRONT ENSEMBLE |
| Olivia Fitzgibbons | | Natalia Ruelas-Trejo | | Marley Underwood | Allie Beatley |
| | | | | | Nathan Frisch |
| | | | | | Austin Rader |
| | GUARD CAPTAINS | | | LOGISTICS | |
| | Caroline Morsey | | | Derek Stewart-Jones | |
| | Alex Wood | | | Brady Leverett | |
| PROPS | | SOUND | | LIBRARIANS | UNIFORM MANAGERS |
| * Logan Hassell | | * Victor Minero Erazo | | * Taylor Jones | * Gabby Morris |
| * Individual equipment positions need to be filled ASAP. Please send an email to Mr. Kirsch: dkirsch@ycsd.york.va.us if you are interested | | | | | |

VISION, MISSION STATEMENT, AND GOALS & VALUES

VISION

To be the best high school band in our community and in the State of Virginia.

MISSION STATEMENT

To have the highest musical achievement in every ensemble through the talents of each band member, the support and encouragement of every band member, and the support of the community to maintain high standards of accomplishment.

GOALS & VALUES

- Pride – To instill in each band member pride in their talent and in their band. You get out of it what you put into it.
- Unity – To build an intense desire to belong to a dedicated team.
- Success – To reap the internal benefits of hard work, practice, discipline, and teamwork.
- Respect – To promote respect within the band and the band members for themselves, each other, and for their equipment.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline is paramount to the success of the band. It is the key ingredient of all winning organizations. The band must have a policy that is to be followed without exception. The following consequences will be administered whenever the rules stated in this handbook are not followed. This includes students that do not follow proper rehearsal etiquette.

- 1× The student will receive a warning from the teacher.
- 2× The student will be asked to leave rehearsal. This will count as an unexcused absence from rehearsal.
The parents will be notified, and the student's grade will be affected as it is listed in the syllabus
- 3× The student will be written up and turned into the school administration for disciplinary action. Disciplinary actions could include loss of after school activities (band and other), performances, loss of Spring Trip, and grade penalties that result from missing performances.

BAND ROOM RULES

The band room is representative of the band. The appearance of the band room reflects upon our overall performance and image. It demands continuous care and cleaning **each day**. The following rules were created to help keep the band room in a presentable state and promote a positive atmosphere.

1. **NO FOOD, GUM, OR DRINKS** during class. Water is allowed.
2. **ALL INSTRUMENTS WILL BE KEPT IN THEIR LOCKER IN THE INSTRUMENT STORAGE ROOMS WHEN THEY ARE NOT BEING USED.** All personal belongings should be kept in your locker. The instrument storage rooms are not for your jackets, book bags, books, or sports equipment. Your lock should always remain on the locker and LOCKED.
3. **STANDS AND CHAIRS WILL BE STACKED AND RACKED AT THE END OF EVERY DAY.** The last period class will be responsible for doing this. Rehearsal and class will NOT be dismissed if this is not done.
4. **ALL MUSIC SHOULD BE KEPT IN YOUR MUSIC FOLDERS.** Every student should buy a 3-ring binder and protective sheets for band so that music may be stored and protected from the time it is passed out. Music left out in the band room will be thrown away. Originals will not be left out in the band room and should not be used except when sight-reading.
5. **ALL PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT IS OFF LIMITS TO EVERYONE EXCEPT PERCUSSIONISTS.** The percussion class will make sure that all of their sticks, mallets, and practice pads are put away every day. Mallet instruments and tympani should be covered after each class and rehearsal to prevent damage.
6. **BAND MEMBERS ARE NOT TO CAUSE DISRUPTIONS DURING CLASS OR ANY OTHER TIME REHEARSAL IN SESSION.** Band members should come to class and rehearsal with the attitude and self-discipline to practice and perform at their highest level. The Student Leadership will be expected to exercise disciplinary action as necessary by requiring members to stay after rehearsal for disciplinary action.

MARCHING BAND REHEARSAL DRESS CODE

The old adage, “You perform as you practice,” is the basis of this requirement. To improve the uniformity of the band on the field, we have a dress code for marching band rehearsals, which is a part of your after school participation grade.

Band and Percussion members must wear a white T-shirt (it can have a logo or brand on it as long as the color is predominately white) and their marching band shoes (purchased at the beginning of their freshman year). This will improve upper body posture as well as uniformity of step that should be occurring with each band member.

Guard members also wear a white T-shirt to rehearsal. Sandals are not permitted at rehearsal.

TRAVEL POLICY

The Grafton High School Band travels to several events throughout the school year. These events include competitions, concert band performances, and Spring Trip. **These events are a privilege.** The Band Director may refuse any student the right to travel with the band to any performance due to disciplinary actions or behavior that occurs on any school-sanctioned activity. Students earn the right to attend these events through their hard work and dedication.

There are usually four to five competitions in the fall, and one or two concert band performances that occur outside of the school. There is also a Spring Trip each year. The dates are determined by the school calendar and may be different each year. Spring trip is not mandatory, but students usually want to go because of the perks that are involved with the event. Students are well chaperoned throughout the course of the event. Students are expected to always represent GHS positively by their conduct. Students who cannot follow the rules set forth by the Band Director will be sent home at their parents' expense.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The rehearsal schedule is very important to the success of the band. Having every student at every rehearsal is impossible with all of the different school conflicts that exist between band, ROTC, sports, and other school clubs. **Parents and students should not schedule dentist, doctor, or orthodontist appointments on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursdays unless it is an absolute emergency. Any student who misses any portion of any rehearsal must give a written note to the Band Director.** In the case of illness, a written note is expected the first day back to school. Verbal requests or notifications will not be accepted.

The rehearsal schedule for marching band is as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Tuesdays: | Full Band and Guard | 2:30 – 4:30 pm |
| Wednesdays: | Full Band and Guard | 2:30 – 4:30 pm |
| Thursdays: | Full Band and Guard | 2:30 – 4:30 pm |

The percussion section and the guard may have additional weekly rehearsals, as scheduled by their individual instructors.

The rehearsal schedule for Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble will be determined before each performance. A printed schedule will be provided to each student with ample time before the rehearsals are scheduled to begin. It will also be published on the band website (www.graftonband.com), as well as on the board in the band room.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND CHAIN OF COMMAND

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Leadership within the Grafton High School Clipper Band is a privilege bestowed upon those students whose action and behavior have demonstrated a high standard of discipline and maturity as individuals and a dedication to the success of the band. These students have made a commitment to make the band the best it can possibly be. Student leaders are expected to assist the Band Directors, as requested, and to lead by example throughout the year. The student leaders are expected to be present at as many functions as possible, including fundraisers.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

The chain of command plays a vital function in any organization, from military to business, and our band is no different. Failure to follow the chain of command results in a breakdown of the band's organizational structure and discipline.

It is imperative that all band members follow the chain of command. Any student appointed to a position in the chain of command will be afforded the respect and courtesies of their position. During all band functions, on or off school grounds, band members will follow the directions of the student leaders without reservation or question.

DRUM MAJORS

Drum Majors are the top of the chain of command and are members of the Band Council. Drum Majors are expected to set an example for all other students to follow. Drum Majors have proven themselves on and off the performance field. Their responsibilities dictate that their instructions are to be followed immediately and without question.

Drum Major responsibilities include:

- On field leadership of the band
- Continuing rehearsal in the event that the band director has to leave
- Maintaining discipline amongst all band members, as needed
- Helping the Band Directors organize leadership
- Maintaining signs and coordination of pep band music
- Assisting the Band Directors in other areas as required
- Promoting and participating in as many fundraisers as possible

BAND PRESIDENT(S)

The President functions as the leader of the Band Council. Conducting the Band Council meeting requires focus on the strong attributes of each section of the band, as well as leading discussions regarding the problem areas

within the band that need to be addressed. The President(s) always represents the band and are expected to be an example for others to follow.

Band President responsibilities include:

- All Band Member and Section Leader responsibilities listed below
- Working with the section leaders in all areas/sections of the band
- Taking attendance during band camp and at rehearsals
- Ensuring band members attend rehearsal and addressing concerns about attendance
- Maintaining discipline amongst all band members, as needed
- Upkeep and maintenance of student/booster social media accounts
- Working with the drum majors on additional jobs as needed
- Helping the Band Directors organize leadership
- Assisting the Band Directors in other areas as required
- Promoting and participating in as many fundraisers as possible

GUARD CAPTAIN(S)

The Guard Captains are the representatives of the Guard to the Band Director and the Band Council. All captains represent the Guard at all times and are expected to be an example for others to follow. They report any achievements or concerns regarding the Guard to the Band Council.

Guard Captain responsibilities include:

- All Band Member responsibilities listed below
- Knowing all routines
- Teaching and regulating the marching technique in their section
- Teaching and maintaining choreography and work in the show
- Ensuring that guard members know their drill
- Maintaining discipline during rehearsal
- Creating their own routines for various uses throughout the year
- Assisting the Band Directors in other areas as required
- Promoting and participating in as many fundraisers as possible

SECTION LEADERS

Section Leaders are the representatives of their respective sections to the Band Director and the Band Council. Section Leaders set the tone for pride and discipline within their sections and are the backbone of the band. They are expected to be the primary examples for their respective sections and the rest of the band. They report any achievements or concerns regarding their respective sections to the Band Council.

Section Leader responsibilities include:

- All Band Member responsibilities listed below
- Teaching and regulating the marching technique in their section

- Teaching and maintaining their section's musical component of the show
- Ensuring that members of their section know their drill
- Correcting drill problems in and around their section
- Maintaining discipline during rehearsal
- Assisting the Band Directors in other areas as required
- Promoting and participating in as many fundraisers as possible

Front Ensemble and Drumline Captain responsibilities include:

- All Band Member responsibilities listed below
- Teaching and maintaining the front ensemble and batteries musical component of the show
- Maintain discipline during rehearsal
- Running pit rehearsal if instructors are unable to attend
- Organization and maintenance of the percussion closet and storage after rehearsals and performances
- Assisting the Band Directors in other areas as required
- Promoting and participating in as many fundraisers as possible

LIBRARIAN(S)

Librarians are members of the Band Council. They will report any notable achievements or areas of concern to the Band Directors and the Band Council. They are representatives of their appointed positions and will set a high standard to other members of the band regarding care and maintenance of the music.

Librarian responsibilities include:

- All Band Member responsibilities listed below
- Upkeep of the music library
- Copying, sorting, distributing, collecting, and filing all music
- Assisting the Band Directors in other areas as required
- Promoting and participating in as many fundraisers as possible

UNIFORM MANAGERS

The Uniform Managers are members of the Band Council. They will report any notable achievements or areas of concern to the Band Directors and Band Council. They are representatives of their appointed positions and will set a high standard to other members of the band regarding the care and maintenance of the band uniforms.

Uniform Manager responsibilities include:

- All Band Member responsibilities listed below
- Readiness of the marching band uniforms
- Upkeep of the uniform cabinets
- Assisting the Uniform Parents with distribution and collection of uniforms after each performance
- Assisting the Band Directors in other areas as required

- Promoting and participating in as many fundraisers as possible

EQUIPMENT MANAGERS

The Equipment Managers are members of the Band Council. They are expected to report any notable achievements or areas of concern to the Band Directors and the Band Council. They are representatives of their appointed positions and will set a high standard to other members of the band regarding care and maintenance of the band equipment.

Equipment Manager responsibilities include:

- All Band Member responsibilities listed below
- Setting up equipment during band camp as necessary
- Setting up equipment for practices following games and competitions
- Packing up equipment before games and competitions
- Ensuring that sections take care of the stands and chairs, as necessary, before and after rehearsals (sectionals)
- Assisting the Band Directors in other areas as required
- Promoting and participating in as many fundraisers as possible

BAND MEMBERS

Band Member responsibilities include:

- Memorizing music/choreography throughout the marching season
- Memorizing drill and maintaining proper marching technique
- Showing up to practices and performances with all required materials, to include shoes, shirt, dot card, and instrument
- Behaving properly at rehearsals and events

MARCHING BAND UNIFORM POLICY

The Marching Band uniform consists of a red jacket and navy bibbers, gauntlets, white gloves, black socks, and hat (provided by the school); and marching shoes (provided by the parents).

1. **Jewelry.** Stud earrings only. No rings
2. **Hair.** All long hair that falls below will be worn up to provide a uniform appearance (this includes males and females). Hair should be put up prior to arrival at school for football games or competitions.
3. **Nail Polish.** No bright/unusual nail polish is allowed. Nude or natural color nail polish only.
4. **Uniform Storage.** The marching band uniform must be kept at school.
 - For football games, students will take their uniforms to Bailey Field and dress there. All students will return to GHS and leave their uniforms at the school, unless they have permission from the Band Directors with a written note from the parent requesting they not ride back on the bus. In this case, and in this case only, the student is to give their uniform to the chaperone on their bus so it can be put back in the uniform closet. It is not to be taken home.
 - For competitions, students will usually wear the bibbers on the bus and carry the remaining uniform items in the uniform bag (hats in the hat box) to the competition. After the competition, students will remove their uniform and leave it at the school prior to going home.
 - For every performance (football and competition), students wear their band T-shirt and band shorts beneath their uniform. No jeans or bulky sweat pants will be worn; thermal underwear is recommended for cold weather. This ensures uniformity and proper (i.e., not bulky) fit, prevents street clothes from protruding out from under the uniform (e.g., under the pant legs), and prevents damage to the uniform from snaps, etc.
5. **Damage to Uniform.** Students are responsible for all damage that occurs to uniforms due to negligence. Students will be charged for dry cleaning for excessive stains as a result of carelessness (e.g., spilled food/drink from the concession stand). Only hair bands, hair nets, and bobby pins are to be stored with the hat in the hat box. Any damage that occurs must be reported immediately to the Uniform Parents who will assess the damage and determine what can be done to repair it. Students will be charged the replacement cost for any uniform damaged beyond repair.
6. **Cleaning.** Marching uniforms will be cleaned at the conclusion of the marching season, prior to the re-issue in the fall for the next season. The need for additional cleanings during the marching season will be determined on a season-by-season basis.

7. **Alterations.** Necessary uniform alterations will be made by the Uniform Committee.
8. **Marching Uniform Fee.** York County School Division assesses an annual \$15 band uniform fee at the beginning of the school year. This fee is used to offset the cost of dry-cleaning the marching uniforms due to normal use.
9. **Lost/Damaged Uniform/Uniform Parts.** Students will be charged the replacement cost for any lost or damaged uniform items (hat, jacket, bibbers, gauntlets, socks, and/or the uniform bag).

GUARD UNIFORM POLICY

The Guard Uniform varies annually according to the theme of our performance. Each uniform has multiple components, including gloves (nude) and shoes. The Guard Parent(s) will inform guard members about undergarment styles and colors. Tights will be determined by the uniform style chosen.

1. **Jewelry.** No jewelry is allowed except for stud earrings. This includes rings, earrings of any kind (except stud earrings), bracelets, necklaces, etc.
2. **Hair.** Each girl will be required to wear the same hair style. There will be no deviations of any kind. Hair nets, bobby pins, and other supplemental hair products can be used with the approval of the Guard Parent(s). **Supplemental hair products must match the girl's hair color.** Once a hair piece/style has been established, each girl is required to maintain their hair color until the end of each marching band/competition season. For each performance, all girls must arrive at the school with their hair styled in advance.
3. **Nail polish.** No fingernail polish is allowed.
4. **Make-up.** Each girl is required to wear make-up for all performances. Make-up components will be purchased for the girls to fit the theme of the performance.
5. **Gloves.** Nude gloves will be provided as a part of the Guard Uniform. They can be machine washed and hung to dry. If the gloves are lost or damaged, another pair of gloves must be purchased at a cost of \$20.00 (plus shipping).
6. **Shoes.** Shoes will be provided as part of the Guard uniform. These shoes must be worn at all performances (no exceptions or substitutions will be permitted). If the shoes are lost or damaged, another pair of shoes must be purchased at a cost of \$40.00 (plus shipping).
7. **Uniform Storage.** Guard Uniforms are kept by the guard members in a travel bag (e.g., duffle bag) they provide. All uniform components must be kept together in this bag. Guard members may arrive at school early to dress into their uniform.

- For football games, all guard members must be dressed before departing the school, to include all make-up and hair. **Changing clothes on the bus is prohibited.**
 - For competitions, all guard members will dress into the basic uniform components before departing the school, to include all make-up and hair. Additional components may be added on the bus before arriving at the destination.
8. **Damage to Uniform.** Guard members are responsible for all damage that occurs to their uniform due to negligence, including excessive stains from carelessness (e.g., spilled food/drink from the concession stand). Failure to have the uniform cleaned by the next performance will result in not performing until the uniform is cleaned. Any damage that occurs must be reported immediately to the Guard Parent(s) who will assess the damage and determine what can be done to repair it.
 9. **Cleaning.** Do not wash. Dry clean using Dryel.
 10. **Alterations.** Any required alterations to the Guard Uniform will be accomplished either by designated professionals or designated parents. Under no circumstances should any guard member alter their own uniform. **Do not cut any material off of the uniforms, and do not use stitch witchery or other similar products to alter uniforms.**

CONCERT BAND UNIFORM POLICY

The Grafton High Band Parents Association (GHBPA) will provide concert Band uniforms for each student.

- Ladies are provided a long, black concert dress. Students must provide their own black, closed-toe formal shoes.
 - Gentlemen are provided a pair of tuxedo pants, a tuxedo shirt, bow tie, and cummerbund. Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble students are provided a black tuxedo jacket. Students must provide their own long, black dress socks and black dress shoes. No marching shoes, tennis shoes, or other casual shoes will be allowed.
1. **Jewelry.** No jewelry is allowed except for stud earrings. This includes rings, earrings of any kind (except stud earrings), bracelets, necklaces, etc.
 2. **Nail Polish.** The only nail color allowed will be clear or neutral.
 3. **Concert Uniform Fee.** Each student will be assessed an annual \$25 concert uniform fee. This fee is used for purchase and maintenance of concert uniform items.
 4. **Concert Uniform Storage.** All concert uniforms will be kept at home once issued for the school year. Students will arrive dressed in their concert uniform for all concert performances.

5. **Alterations.** Parents are responsible for any required alterations to their student's uniform that are not able to be performed by the uniform committee. Pants and dresses must be hemmed to the proper length for appearance and to prevent damage (dress hem should not touch the ground). Every effort will be made to provide the student with a uniform that is close to their size, but the uniforms are not tailor-made to fit them. Parents may alter the uniforms by **hand stitching only** (no machine stitching, as it will leave a mark and damage the uniform) or by paying to have them hand altered. **Do not cut any material off of the uniforms, and do not use stitch witchery or other similar product to alter uniforms.**
6. **Cleaning**
- Dresses are to be machine washed in cold water and hung to dry. Do not dry dresses in the dryer. No ironing needed. Dresses should be washed after each performance.
 - Tuxedo pants may be machine washed in cold water and hung to dry, however dry-cleaning is preferred. **Tuxedo jacket, cummerbund, and bow tie are dry-clean only.** Tuxedo shirt should be machine washed after each performance.
7. **End of Year Procedures.** ALL uniforms must be cleaned and returned to the school at the end of the year in the black garment bag in which they were issued with the student's name on an index card in the pocket provided.
8. **Lost/Damaged Uniform/Uniform Parts.** Students will be charged the replacement cost for any lost or damaged uniform items. This includes damage due to improper alterations. Approximate total cost is \$100 for the dress or \$150 for the tuxedo jacket and pants, cummerbund, tie, and shirt, subject to current replacement costs.

Grafton High School Band Syllabus

2025-2026

Mr. Darren Kirsch dkirsch@ycsd.york.va.us

This syllabus covers the following courses: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble and Wind Ensemble. Although the SOLs and literature requirements are different in each class, each student's grade will be derived in the same manner. It should be noted that all students in the band are a part of a co-curricular activity that spans all time during and after the school day including after school rehearsals and weekend performances, therefore these are included in each student's grade.

Objectives

1. To develop a sense of personal worth, belonging and pride through successful experiences in music.
2. To develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline while participating in all aspects of the band program.
3. To develop the technique and musicianship needed to play a musical instrument as a lifelong skill.

Class Meetings

1. The regular school day
2. All after school practices
3. All performances
4. Any additional meetings scheduled as determined by the band director(s)

Class Materials

Woodwinds - In addition to their instrument and music, students are always to have at least three (3) good reeds. No orange box RICO brand reed should be used; Vandoren and Mitchell Lurie and D'Addario are the preferred brands. Students are also to have cork grease and a cleaning swab at class every day.

Brass - In addition to their instrument and music, students should have valve oil. A couple of drops of valve oil should be used every day to help with instrument maintenance.

Percussionists - In addition to their music, students are to have drumsticks and a practice pad at class every day. They are also responsible for their marching sticks and/or mallets needed to play their parts

in class and should own a set of concert drumsticks, marimba, xylophone and timpani mallets and they should be kept in a mallet bag.

Evaluation

| | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 30% | Playing assessments |
| 20% | Daily grade |
| 20% | After-school practice |
| 20% | Performances |
| 10% | Quarter Assessment |

30% Playing Assessments

This portion of the grade comes from the in-class tests and quizzes that occur during the year. The quizzes can cover various materials, such as scales, memorization of marching band material, small portions of the concert literature and other music that may arise over the course of the year. Tests will include chair tests that occur at least twice a year. Students will have at least one class period notice of each quiz and are quite often told of their quiz's weeks in advance. The grading scale is as follows:

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| A+ = 98-100 | B+ = 88-89 | C+ = 78-79 | D+ = 68-69 | F = 50 |
| A = 93-97 | B = 83-87 | C = 73-77 | D = 66-67 | |
| A- = 90-92 | B- = 80-82 | C- = 70-72 | D- = 64-65 | |

- To earn an A, a student must play the quiz or test with minute problems in the areas of tone, articulation, tempo, rhythm, key signatures, note accuracy, musicality, phrasing, dynamics, style, and memorization (when required).
- To earn a B, a student must play the quiz or test with minor problems in the areas of tone, articulation, tempo, rhythm, key signatures, note accuracy, musicality, phrasing, dynamics, style, and memorization (when required).
- To earn a C, a student must play the quiz or test with a fair number of problems in the areas of tone, articulation, tempo, rhythm, key signatures, note accuracy, musicality, phrasing, dynamics, style and memorization (when required).
- To earn a D, a student must play the quiz or test with many problems in the areas of tone, articulation, tempo, rhythm, key signatures, note accuracy, musicality, phrasing, dynamics, style, and memorization (when required).
- To earn an F, a student must play the quiz or test with extreme lack of preparation. There is no concept of tempo or rhythm. There are many wrong notes. There is no concept of musicality, phrasing, or dynamics.

Make Up Policy

All quizzes can be made up within the window leading up to each performance. Once the performance has passed for that selection of music, make up playing assessments will not be allowed. Chair tests can be made up no later than 2 weeks after the chair test was played in class. The purpose of this is to encourage students to practice at home to improve their grade. If a quiz is missed, it is the student's responsibility to schedule a make-up with the teacher. The higher grade will be put into the gradebook.

20% Daily Grade

This portion of the grade comes from each student's daily in-class activities. Each quarter, students start with a 100 average. Each day, each student receives 10 points. The following points will be deducted each day for the indicated infractions.

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--|-------|
| -10 No instrument | -5 | Instrument not locked in locker after class or rehearsal | -5 No |
| music | -1 Disruption in | class (talking); per offense | |
| -5 No pencil | | | |

For 2AB, there are on average 45 days in the quarter, for a total of 450 points to be earned. The total points after any deductions will be divided by 450 and multiplied by 20% to arrive at the total daily grade. For block classes, there is an average of 22 or 23 classes per quarter for a total of 220 or 230 points per quarter. The total daily grade will be calculated in a similar fashion.

20% After-School Practice

This portion of the grade comes from the various rehearsals and performances after school hours. Since band is co-curricular, these activities are a part of the student's grade. For each rehearsal, the student will start with 100 points. All of the after-school requirements will be averaged together to form this portion of the grade. The following points will be deducted each rehearsal for the indicated infractions.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| -10 For each disruption to rehearsal | -20 No coordinate sheet (marching band only) |
| -10 1-10 minutes late to rehearsal | -10 No white shirt (marching band only) |
| -20 11-20 minutes late to rehearsal | -10 No marching band shoes |
| -30 21-30 minutes late to rehearsal | -20 No music |
| -100 Missed rehearsal | -100 If a student is asked to leave rehearsal for a disciplinary reason |

20% Performance Grade

Performances are a natural outgrowth of a performance-based class. They are the assessment of class work for a 4–6-week period. If there is a conflict with a performance, the director should be notified as soon as possible in writing. Performances are required and graded; any absences will be excused solely at the director's discretion. There are no excused absences for missing performances for work. If a student misses a performance, it will be graded as a zero. If a student misses a performance due to an excused absence, a make-up assignment will be given and graded.

10% Quarterly Assessment

The quarter assessment will change each quarter. Quarter assessment examples that have been used include chair tests, VBODA State Marching Assessment, and the VBODA State Concert Assessment.

Description of Ensembles

Marching Band

The Marching Band is representative of the entire membership of the instrumental music program at Grafton High School. It also includes the Visual Ensemble (Guard) that is auditioned every spring. If a student is enrolled in an instrumental music class at Grafton, they are required to be a member of the Marching Band. There is a fall sports exemption from Marching Band if a student is a member of a fall sports team sponsored by Grafton High School. The Marching Band will perform at five home football games as well as approximately five competitions in the area each fall. There may be various other performances, depending on the schedule. Marching Band rehearses three days each week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 2:30-4:30 pm. There are exceptions to the schedule, so check each week carefully.

Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is the most elite instrumental music ensemble at Grafton. This group plays music at the VBODA grade V-VI level. They perform three to five concerts each year. Students in this ensemble are held to a higher standard. They are expected to be beyond notes and rhythms and should meet these musical requirements on their own through at-home practice. All students in Wind Ensemble class are required to audition for All-District Band. Students are required to take care of any additional expenses associated with this audition. Students are strongly encouraged to seek private lessons throughout the year to better themselves and the ensemble. Students must audition each year to stay in Wind Ensemble. Wind Ensemble rehearses as scheduled.

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is comprised of students in grades 9 through 12. This group plays music at the VBODA grade IV-V level. They perform three to four concerts each year. Students are encouraged to audition for All-District Band. Students are strongly encouraged to seek private lessons throughout the school year to better themselves and the ensemble. Symphonic Band class will continue to focus on the fundamentals of music while trying to stretch each student's musical abilities to the next level to prepare them for Wind Ensemble. At the end of the year, students will audition to fill the vacant seats in Wind Ensemble. Seniority and musicality will be considered in filling the vacant positions. Symphonic Band rehearses from 2:30-4:00 pm, as scheduled.

Concert Band

Concert Band has approximately 50 members. It is comprised of students in grades 9 through 12. This group plays music at the VBODA grade IV-V level. They perform three to four concerts a year. Students are encouraged to audition for All-District Band. Students are strongly encouraged to seek private lessons throughout the school year to better themselves and the ensemble. Concert Band class will focus on the fundamentals of music, such

as pitch, tone, balance, blend, and technique on the applied instrument. At the end of the year, students will audition to fill the vacant seats in Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Concert Band rehearses from 2:30-4:00 pm as scheduled.

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble will meet as a class during the school day. The instrumentation for this ensemble will be a standard jazz band instrumentation to include saxophones, trumpet, trombones, piano, guitar, bass, and drum set. Students must have the flexibility in their schedule to take two periods of band and will not be excused from the normal concert band classes. Exceptions will be made only in the case of instrumentation by the Band Director. The Jazz Ensemble will play all types of jazz literature, including swing, big band, Latin, ballads, and funk-rock. Students must take the class to be a member of the Jazz Ensemble.

AWARDS AND LETTERING

“Lettering” is actually a series of awards that students may earn by completing the requirements as listed below. The actual letter is not earned, however, until a student has been in the band or Guard for two years. Typically, freshmen earn their G Clef Pin, sophomores earn their letter, and juniors and seniors earn stars.

Since we live in an extremely mobile community, there are accommodations for those who move in after the start of high school, the only exception being pins. Pins are only awarded at the end of the freshman year, and students entering after freshman year will not earn a pin. Students who come to Grafton in their sophomore, junior, or senior year may earn their letter after two years in band. If they were in a band program at their previous school, that time will count toward their letter, and they will be eligible to earn their letter after one year at Grafton. If they were not in band at their previous school, they must be a member of the Grafton High School Band for two years before being awarded their letter. Stars are then awarded each year after the letter has been earned.

Lettering Requirements: To earn the award each year, students:

1. Must have at least 5 documented volunteer hours each year at an approved band activity (see “Student Volunteer Program” section of the handbook)
2. Will have no more than two unexcused absences from rehearsals during the school year
3. Will have no severe disciplinary action resulting from a band activity or event
4. Should be involved in the band ensemble for which they signed up for the entire duration that the ensemble meets during the school year

STUDENT VOLUNTEER HOURS

To keep students involved in the band program, it is important that each member give a certain number of volunteer hours to the band each year. Most students do this anyway, but this will involve every one of the band

and Guard members. There are many ways to earn volunteer hours as outlined below. ***Each student is asked to give at least 5 documented volunteer hours to the band each year.*** Student volunteer hours are not mandatory but are a requirement for lettering (see “Awards and Lettering” section of the handbook), in addition to the other lettering requirements, for each school year in which they wish to letter. For other questions on the Student Volunteer Program, contact the Student Volunteer Hours Coordinator at volunteerhours@griftonband.com.

Authorized Student Volunteer Activities. At the Band Director’s discretion, any activity may be designated as a volunteer activity, but the following activities have already been deemed acceptable for accruing student volunteer hours. Students should coordinate with the Band Director or the associated committee chair to volunteer for a particular activity:

- Assisting the Band Director in any band-related function or activity
- Participating in any extra-curricular band performance that is beyond normal expectations such as pep band (outside of regular season home football games), pit for musical, baccalaureate band, and other ad-hoc performances and groups as organized by the Band Director, to include providing no-cost music mentorship lessons to middle school students
- Assisting in any band-related activities (other than participation) such as band camp, District Band Auditions, music assessments, performances, and contests. With permission of the Middle School Band Directors, students may also assist in handing out programs at Middle School concerts. Band Directors will announce volunteer opportunities in class
- Supporting any GHBPA Executive Board Member or Committee Chair in executing a GHBPA function (e.g., non-personal fund raising activities, concessions, uniform closet assistance, photo day, administrative help, etc.) - watch the weekly email updates and contact the committee chair(s) to volunteer

Conditions for Acceptance

- Hours for non-band related volunteer activities (e.g., church, scouts, clubs, sports, or other school organizations) will not count towards your required 5 hours...**they must be from an authorized band- related activity**
- All volunteer activities **must be performed by the student** and cannot be performed by someone else on the student’s behalf
- Hours used for volunteering cannot be used to satisfy other requirements or qualify for other benefits

Documenting and Reporting Volunteer Hours

- The exact amount of hours earned from a volunteer activity will be determined by the Band Director for all band-related activities, and by the associated GHBPA Executive Board member or committee chair for any GHBPA-supporting activities
- All volunteer hours must be recorded on a Student Volunteer Hours Form, available on the band website (www.griftonband.com) under Quick Links – Forms, and in the forms section of the handbook (see p. 40). Alternatively, a Student Volunteer Sign-In Form may be submitted to the Student Volunteer Hours Coordinator
- Forms or sign-in rosters must be signed by either the Band Director or the associated GHBPA Executive Board member or Committee Chair, as appropriate

- Place completed and signed Student Volunteer Hours Forms into the Student Accounts box (white metal box labeled “Student Accounts” mounted on the wall in the band room - volunteer hours submitted through any other means could be misplaced, which would result in no volunteer credit to the student)

The Student Volunteer Program runs throughout the school year and **hours will be accepted anytime until May 15**, which is the cutoff to compile for the annual band awards at which band letters and pins are presented.

Student volunteer hour balances can be viewed on-line at the band website (www.graftonband.com) by selecting Students – Student Volunteer Hours. Please note that balances are only current through the date shown on the report, and that hours worked immediately prior to or after that day may not be included.

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Tri-M stands for Modern Music Masters and is an international program dedicated to the recognition of exceptional music students that meet the music, academic and character criteria as recommended by the National Association for Music Education. Tri-M is composed of Junior and Senior students enrolled in music classes at Grafton, who also participate in additional musical ensembles and demonstrate high academic achievement. It is truly an honor to be selected as a member.

Membership Requirements

Applications for induction into the Tri-M Honor Society are made available in March of each year for membership in the following year. Applications are due back mid-April (following Solo & Ensemble) and inductions take place at the Spring Awards Concert.

Applicants must:

1. Be a rising junior or rising senior
2. Be currently enrolled in one GHS music ensemble (instrumental or vocal)
3. Have a 3.5 GPA in music class and a 3.2 overall
4. Participate in District Auditions, Senior Regional Orchestra, and/or Solo & Ensemble
5. Participate in one of the following additional performance activities:
 - an additional GHS ensemble (e.g., Jazz, Pit, Musical Cast), or
 - a musical community group (e.g., Youth Symphony or other community group), or
 - actively taking private lessons, or
 - actively mentoring middle school students
6. Submit two letters of recommendation:
 - one addressing musical excellence (private teacher, community group leader or faculty member)
 - one addressing academics and character from a GHS faculty member (not a band instructor)

Being a Member:

- Tri-M Honor Society will have one faculty representative, two (or more) parent representatives, and five student officers (president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and historian)
- Students must make every effort to attend the monthly meetings (must attend at least 5 meetings during the course of the school year) and participate in the various Tri-M activities and volunteer opportunities
- The GHS Tri-M Honor Society requires 10 volunteer hours per year; three must be from a Tri-M specific activity and the remaining seven may come from any other GHS or community volunteer opportunity (volunteer forms must be submitted with a signature from the attending adult representative) ▪
Tri-M Honor Society annual dues must be paid on a yearly basis

TRAVEL TO AND FROM FUNCTIONS

The safety of your student is the primary concern of the Band Director and the chaperones. Our safety interests include getting your student home safely. Parents, we need your help with this and we ask that you follow the guidelines below to help us in this manner.

1. **Bus transportation**

- a. All students are expected to travel **to** and **from** games, competitions, and other designated band activities with the band on the buses provided for that purpose.
- b. Friends, family, and guests are not permitted on the buses due to insurance policies.
- c. The Band Director, if absolutely necessary, may grant exceptions to the above. You, the parent or guardian, must request the deviation from this school policy in a note to the Band Director not later than the day of the activity. **Verbal requests or notifications will not be accepted.** The Band Director or chaperone must see the parent before a student is released directly from an activity.

2. **Arrangements for meeting students after activities.**

- a. Parents should meet students who do not drive at the designated pick up point (which is usually GHS). Exceptions may be granted if the parent provides a note to the Band Director no later than the day of the activity to identify the person that is meeting your student (including their name and phone number).
- b. Meet your student ***promptly*** after an event at the school. The general rule for football games is 30 minutes after the game concludes. This is typically 10:00-10:15 pm for a Friday evening game.
- c. Estimated times for returning from competitions will be printed on an information sheet that is sent home with your student the week of the performance. It should also be posted on the website (www.graftonband.com).

3. We ask that your student know how to reach you by phone during the time that they are with the band. Emergencies can arise and we need to be able to reach you. It is fine if your student has a cell phone with them to help with the communication between you and your student.
4. The director is responsible for the safety of your student from the time that they arrive at the school for the band activity until they return home. For that reason, we cannot allow your student to walk home, regardless of the distance.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

HOME FOOTBALL GAMES

1. The band performs at all home football games. There are usually five per year. Home games are played at Bailey Field on the York High School campus on Rt. 17.
2. Call times vary, but typically students need to be at Grafton at 3:30pm for rehearsal at the GHS field and then travel to Bailey Field.
3. Uniforms are normally taken to Bailey Field and students dress after rehearsal.
4. Students must ride the bus to and from Bailey Field.
5. Parents may pick up students at Grafton approximately 10:00-10:15 pm after students have put away their equipment and hung up their uniform.

MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS

1. The band performs approximately four to five competitions in the fall. Most competitions are in the local area, but occasionally we travel to Richmond or Northeastern North Carolina.
2. Students will arrive at GHS in advance of the competition to rehearse and dress into uniform.
3. Each student will receive an itinerary the week of the competition. Please drop off and pick up your student at the designated times. Every effort will be made to stay on schedule.

BAND CONCERTS

The band usually performs three concerts each year at GHS. These are typically in December, late February, and May. Students will wear the concert uniforms provided by the GHBPA to these performances.

VBODA DISTRICT BAND ASSESSMENT

The VBODA District Band Assessment is held the first or second weekend in March. This is an adjudicated performance held at one of the many schools in the District. Information about the site and times of the performance will be available approximately 2 weeks prior to the event. Refer to page 29 for more information.

SPRING TRIP

Each spring, the band travels to a different location to perform and will compete with other schools from across the country. The event usually occurs between March and May. Past locations include Chicago, Toronto, Orlando, Myrtle Beach, Cleveland and New York. Details about the event (location, cost, etc.) will be available in the late fall time frame.

The Spring Trip is not mandatory, but students are highly encouraged to attend. Your son or daughter is an important part of the band, and it is difficult to perform well at a high level without all of the performing members.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the performances described above, your student may choose to perform in any of the following events. Details will be provided prior to each event.

- All-District Band
- All-Regional Orchestra
- All-State Band
- Governor's School for the Performing Arts
- Band leadership training
- Band camps – offered during the summer on various college campuses
- Solo and Ensemble
- Student ensembles
- Pit band for the GHS spring musical

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are available at several places in the area. Many private teachers give lessons at their homes and others teach at local music stores such as Music and Arts. Lessons are incredibly valuable to the development of your student's musical abilities. There is no substitute for one-on-one instruction. The Band Directors highly recommend every student seek out some sort of private lessons, as this greatly improves the performance of the student, and therefore the band.

If you have any specific questions, please ask the Band Directors for additional information.

GRAFTON HIGH BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION (GHBPA)

Our band parent organization (GHBPA) is an extremely active body that is involved in all aspects of supporting the band. By virtue of having a student in the Grafton High School Band, you are automatically a member of the GHBPA. There are no membership dues, but we solicit, welcome, and **encourage** your involvement in all GHBPA activities. The GHBPA exists to:

- Facilitate and maintain enthusiastic support of all phases of the instrumental music and Guard programs at Grafton High School
- Help purchase items not normally supplied by Grafton High School or the York County School Division through active fund raising – items include: music, instrument repair, replacement instruments, fees for various seminars and honor bands, new uniform purchase, hauling equipment, band travel expenses, scholarships and necessary supplies
- Assist the Band Directors with volunteers beyond the level of resources provided by the school and the school district
- Support your child in his or her music education

All GHBPA meetings are open to all members. We invite your participation in the General Membership, Executive Committee, and other committee meetings. Details about the meetings are generally provided through email notification. Minutes are provided on the website. General Membership meetings are held in conjunction with the Parents' Show at the end of Band Camp, prior to the Spring Trip, and at the final concert of the school year

- Executive Committee meetings are typically held the First Monday of every month at 7:00pm in the band room

FUNDRAISING

The GHBPA provides opportunities to earn money for the benefit of the entire band. Our school and our local community support our fundraisers because the money is used solely to finance the activities of the students and the Grafton Band.

Fundraising activities are conducted throughout the year to earn money for the general fund. These activities may include TAG Day, TAG-a-thon, and car washes among others. Profits may be used to support budgeted items such as instruments, uniforms, clinicians, staff assistants, drill, music, and choreography; or other needs as they arise.

SPRING TRIP CHAPERONE SELECTION PROCESS

For the Spring Trip, which occurs between March and May (depending on location), the number of students that go on the trip determines the number of total chaperones required. The acceptable chaperone ratio is not lower than one chaperone per ten students. The selection process is at the Band Director(s) discretion.

The following criteria will be considered in the selection process:

1. A registered nurse from the Grafton HS Band parent membership (with the most volunteer hours) will be offered a nurse slot.
2. If band is performing and guard is performing, a uniform and a guard parent (with the most volunteer hours) will be offered a chaperone slot.
3. A head chaperone (with the most volunteer hours) will be offered a chaperone slot.
4. Director(s) will choose remaining chaperones from the parents with the most volunteer hours. Male chaperones are necessary for chaperoning male students, as well as assisting with equipment loading and unloading, therefore, a minimum number of male chaperones will be selected (with the most volunteer hours from the male volunteer pool), as determined by the Band Director(s).

Parents are responsible for ensuring volunteer hours are accurately reported. Committee chairs collect hours from parents who serve on their committees and report them to the applicable Executive Board member on a monthly basis. Executive Board members in turn report hours to the 1st Vice President (Support) who records and tracks adult volunteer hours. Parents may contact the 1st Vice President (vp1@graftonband.com) to verify their hours. Volunteer hours worked from February of the previous year through January of the current year are creditable towards the Spring Trip. As Spring Trip takes place as early as March, this permits notification of parents selected to chaperone in time to make arrangements for vacation time.

In addition to the chaperones, two additional parents will travel as the equipment truck drivers, and are not considered in the total chaperone count. These positions are offered first to the Equipment Chair and then others who have a truck available to pull the trailer. In the event no parents with a truck are available, an equipment truck will be rented.

The Band Director(s) will have the final approval on which chaperones accompany the band.

GHBPA EMAIL ADDRESSES

Executive Board

- President president@graftonband.com
- 1st Vice President (Support) vp1@graftonband.com
- 2nd Vice President (Fundraising) vp2@graftonband.com
- Secretary (Communications) secretary@graftonband.com
- Treasurer treasurer@graftonband.com

Presidents Committee

- Visual Ensemble colorguard@griftonband.com
- Historian historian@griftonband.com
- Tri-M Advisor tri-m@griftonband.com

Support Committee

- Uniforms uniforms@griftonband.com
- Equipment equipment@griftonband.com
- Chaperone chaperone@griftonband.com
- Decorations decorations@griftonband.com
- Hospitality hospitality@griftonband.com
- Band Camp Coordinator bandcamp@griftonband.com
- Feed the Band feedtheband@griftonband.com
- Student Volunteer Hours Coordinator volunteerhours@griftonband.com

Fundraising Committee

- Scrip Sales scrip@griftonband.com
- Spirit Sales spirit@griftonband.com
- Concessions concessions@griftonband.com
- TAG Day tag@griftonband.com

Communications Committee

- Remembrance remembrance@griftonband.com
- Publicity publicity@griftonband.com
- Data Entry dataentry@griftonband.com
- Webmaster webmaster@griftonband.com

Band Director

director@griftonband.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What is Rookie Camp?

Rookie Camp is specifically designed for freshmen and students new to the Grafton Band Program. Students will learn, step by step, the proper techniques for marching and the moves associated with moving drill (the pictures that we make during half time). The Guard is also in attendance. The only other students that will be there are the student leadership, or more specifically, the student leaders that are in charge of each particular section to help your student learn correctly from the first day the proper way to do things.

What items are needed for Rookie Camp?

Students should wear light, comfortable clothing, tennis shoes and SUNSCREEN. A water bottle is a good idea to have. Students also need to bring their instruments and their music to Rookie Camp. A newsletter will be emailed home in July and will contain a list of items students need. Please refer to that letter for other specific items for Band Camp, but not Rookie Camp.

Is it an option to buy lunch at Rookie Camp and Band Camp or will lunch be provided?

For Rookie Camp and the first full week of Band Camp, students need to pack a lunch. Students can also leave campus those days to either eat at home or go out to eat provided they have transportation. However, returning late from lunch is NOT an option. During the second week of camp, students can sign up to purchase dinner for a nominal fee. The band parents provide items such as hot dogs, chicken, and pizza during the second week of camp. Students will be informed of the meal choices during the first week of camp, and they will be asked to sign up and pay for those meals if they are interested.

What is Guard Camp?

Guard Camp is mandatory for all Guard girls. This is a critical time when the Guard learns the routine for the marching season and all additional techniques required to fulfill their individual parts in the routine. It is imperative the girls know their routines before Rookie Camp.

What is Band Camp?

*Band Camp is the two-week period where we learn the show for the fall performances. Students will learn and memorize their eight minutes of show music, learn the approximately 15 pep songs for the stands, and the 50-60 drill sets or pictures for the show. The fall show **would not** be possible without this valuable time; students that do not attend camp will be very far behind.*

On what elements at the competitions are the bands judged?

Each competition is a little different. The host school can set up the judging sheets however they like, but essentially there are three main areas: music, marching, and general effect. Music is the way the band plays and sounds on the field. Marching includes the individual execution of each member as well as the total execution of the drill and drill moves that the band does during a performance. General effect is the way that the music and drill, guard, and percussion come together for the overall effect that the show creates during the performance.

What is the difference between a marching competition and the VBODA performance?

In a marching competition, students are judged on their performance as it relates to the others in the competition, earning placement for a variety of captions to include Music, Marching, General Effect, Percussion, Guard, and Drum Majors. Bands are grouped by band size. Grafton usually performs in the last class, which is reserved for the largest bands. The VBODA performance is sponsored by our state band organization and is designed for bands to compete with a standard of performance. Bands earn a Superior, Excellent, Fair, Good, or Poor rating. Bands that earn a superior at the District Marching Assessment and earn a superior rating at the District Concert Assessment earn the distinction of being named a Virginia Honor Band.

For home football games, approximately what time do the students return to the school?

The return time to Grafton HS varies because we do not leave the stadium until the game is over. A good estimate is approximately 10:00-10:15 pm.

What do band fees cover?

Band fees help to offset the cost for the marching season. Students receive a band T-shirt, one 5x7 picture, and one photo button. It also helps to pay the cost of the drill writing, music, and assistant instructors for the marching band.

What purpose do the band forms serve throughout the year?

The student information form is used to put together a database of all the band students that is used as an email distribution list. The medical release form must be filled out for the students to go on ANY band event (e.g., football games, competitions, concert performances such as assessments not held at GHS, etc.)

What is the difference between a concert uniform and marching uniform?

The marching band uniform is used for marching band performances in the months of September, October, and November. It consists of a white jacket and navy bibbers, gauntlets, white gloves, black socks, and hat (provided by the school); and marching shoes (provided by the parents). It is NEVER taken home. Occasionally they are also used on Spring Trip parade performances. Concert band uniforms are used for all concert performances such as those in December, February, and May held at Grafton HS. Gentlemen wear tuxedo pants, shirt, cummerbund, and tie. Wind Ensemble members also wear a tuxedo jacket. Ladies wear a black formal dress..

How do you know which concert band your student will perform in?

All students will audition in the spring for placement in the fall for the new school year. Rising freshmen may audition for Symphonic Band; those who do not will be placed in Concert Band. Rising sophomores and juniors audition for placement in Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Placement will be determined by audition results.

What is Assessment?

District Band Assessment is a judged performance for concert bands. Bands can play six different levels of music, with Grade I being the easiest and Grade VI being the most difficult. Grafton normally takes three concert bands to Assessment; Concert Band plays Grade IV music, Symphonic Band Grade V, and Wind Ensemble Grade VI. Assessment is held in March each year at a different location in our band district.

How do you earn a letter in band?

See the requirements for lettering in the band handbook. The most misunderstood portion of the lettering policy is that students cannot earn the actual letter until the end of their sophomore year.

How is the destination of the annual band Spring Trip decided?

The band has a rotation set up to ensure that students have diverse locations for the Spring Trip destinations. We attempt to alternate north, then south, each year. Previous locations include Orlando, Myrtle Beach, Atlanta, New York City, Toronto, Cleveland-Cedar Point and Chicago.

What is Tri M Program?

*Tri-M is a music honor society for juniors and seniors who meet high academic and musical standards.
Applications are available at the end of the school year*