



www.grantcountyband.org

Grant County Bands

Parent Handbook
2009 - 2010

David D. Owens, Director of Bands and Orchestra
Grant County High School

JoAnn B. Owens, Director of Bands
Grant County Middle School

Revised 06.15.09

General Introduction

This Band Parent Handbook is intended to provide answers to the most common band parent questions, to acquaint you with the operation of the Band Boosters, and to acquaint you with ways you can support the Grant County Band program.

We also know that no written handbook can take the place of a conversation with an experienced band parent. Appendix 2 contains a contact list for all members of the Band Booster Executive Board. Each board member is ready to help you find answers to any question you may have, or just to help you know what to anticipate as the band year unfolds. Please don't hesitate to call a board member any time for help!

At Grant County High School, "the band" refers to everyone who participates with the band program throughout the year. This includes the Grant County High School Marching Band, the Grant County High School Color Guard, the Drum Line, and all performance ensembles (Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Middle School Ensembles). During the fall marching season, the marching band, drum line and color guard work to create an outstanding and highly competitive marching band show. After Marching Band and throughout the spring concert season, the instrumental groups develop concert and festival pieces, individual students and small ensembles develop competition pieces, and many students participate in state and college honor ensembles. As you can see, Grant County offers a comprehensive instrumental music program. The breadth and quality of the program requires a lot of parental support and involvement. Please let someone know how you want to help!

The main purposes of the Band Boosters are:

- To lend all possible support, including, but not limited to, moral and financial support, to the Grant County Band Program.
- To continually maintain an enthusiastic interest in the various phases of the Grant County Band Program with the students, parents, and the community.
- To lead fundraisers and solicit other forms of funds for the purpose of enabling the band to operate effectively and efficiently.
- To cooperate with the Directors of the Grant County Band Program, the school administrators, and any program sponsored by the Band to promote the highest possible ideals in music education.

Greeting from the Band Boosters' President

“Welcome” to the *Rookie* band parents and “Welcome Back” to the returning veterans from previous years. The Grant Count Band Program had an outstanding 2008 - 2009 season, and we’re committed to an even stronger 2009 - 2010. The Marching Band’s achievements include, but are not limited to, being named Reserve Grand Champion at the Lloyd Memorial Marching Band Competition, earning THREE distinguished ratings in a row, and finishing 8th overall in the state. Both the high school and middle school fielded a record number of students to participate in clinics & be selected for the District 6 Select Band. One sophomore, Heather Shelton, was chosen from a group of 125 clarinetists to perform with the Kentucky All-State Band. When you combine such determination, outstanding music directors and extremely talented students, there’s no way to go but up.

The real start is with US, the “Band Parents”. They can’t go on the field without clothes, food, or equipment and that’s where we come in. But, it’s really more than that. They NEED us in the stands during competitions. When they take that first step onto the field and look up into that LARGE audience and know that YOU are there, it makes their toes higher and their eyes fiercer- “WITH PRIDE!” Their confidence skyrockets and they know they can do anything. It truly brings families closer together.

I am going into my 6th year as a band parent and the marching band season was quite remarkable, and very rewarding as a “Band Dad”. You will experience feelings with your child that you didn’t think possible and you’ll get that “lump in the throat” when they march onto the field, not just the first time, but EVERY time.

As you can see, we need all the helping hands we can get, anytime, anywhere, and at EVERY event. Don’t wait to be asked. Just come, you will ALWAYS be needed and “Welcome”. Please make time to join your new family. Please feel free to contact me anytime for any questions, regardless of how big or small, and I’ll be more than happy to help in any way that I can.

Jeff Shelton, President

Grant County Band Boosters

jss0707@insightbb.com

Greetings from the Director of Bands

Hello!

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to you in my first year as the Director of Bands at Grant Co. High School! The 2009-2010 school year promises to be one filled with great excitement, great memories, and great friendships. The 2009 Grant Co. Marching Band season promises to be one of great accomplishment.

I am extremely excited to be a part of the Grant Co. family. The Grant Co. band program is one of the most storied band programs in the state of Kentucky. The band has been named a Kentucky marching band State Finalist seven times in its history, one of the most in the entire state! Two times the Grant Co. band has been named a State Champion. It is my goal to rekindle our tradition and continue the sense of pride that is the Grant Co. Band.

While I am new at Grant Co., I have been in the business of band directing for some time now. Understand that you will not find anyone more dedicated to your child than Mrs. Owens and I. We value them as we value our own children. Feel free to stop by anytime to say hello or email. My door is always open!

Welcome to an amazing and life-changing experience: the Grant Co. Band!

Sincerely,

Mr. David D. Owens

Director of Bands

David.Owens@grant.kyschools.us

How to Get Involved!

How to get involved, with the blessing of your child

Explain that you want to be an observer and supporter of their activities in the band because you love them and enjoy seeing them participate in such activities. Promise, and then be certain that you carry through, that you will not “hover” around them. In this regard, it may make your child feel more comfortable if you ride a different bus on trips. (The directors will be happy to honor this request if you ask.) Resist the urge to discipline on band trips; the school district expects the directors to handle discipline on school trips. It is critical that you honor your promises to your child for several outings as a way to gain their trust for the rest of their years as a band member. Eventually, your child may run short of money while on a trip, and they will realize that the “bank” is traveling with them and can help out with a few extra bucks. Perhaps, maybe, at some point they will realize that it is to their advantage to have you along and you will get acknowledged as both parent and chaperone (a high honor indeed)!!!! After you have been with the band a few times, you’ll find that your child and others will gradually acknowledge you and you will have made some new friends.

How to get involved as a member of a standing Booster Committee

Each member of the Boosters is invited to be involved in the various committees of the organization. The Boosters have a number of standing committees. Some committees are responsible for a particular annual event while others are responsible for ongoing activities. The number of parents who can serve on a particular committee is not limited, except by the fact that a large number of parents on one committee may limit each committee member’s contribution, and may not lead to good staffing on other committees. These committees are described in Appendix 5 and names of interested booster members can be taken at any meeting. The Booster Executive Board occasionally creates *ad hoc* committees to deal with specific issues. Please let the board members know if you are interested in working with any Booster committee. Everyone who wants to help will be put to work!

How to get involved as a member of the Booster Club Executive Board

Booster members who have been in the organization at least one year are eligible to be nominated to serve on the Board. Serving on the Board is very rewarding, and gives you an opportunity to directly support the Booster’s work on behalf of the band program. Please visit with any member of the Board about the obligations associated with Board membership. The Executive Board tends to be made up of people who have served as volunteers in lesser roles first (e.g., committee members, committee chairs, etc.).

How to get involved as a chaperone at band events

Adult chaperones are needed for almost all band events, including bus trips (to away basketball games, marching competitions, spring trips, etc.). The number of chaperones needed depends on the number of students going, the number of vehicles, and the nature of the trip. This is a great way to get to know band members, other band parents and the directors. A brief description of the chaperone

responsibilities for each type of event is given below, but more general chaperone guidelines appear in Appendix 1. Sign up sheets for chaperones are available at any Booster meeting. Be sure the Boosters and band directors know of your interest. They may need to find additional or replacement chaperones for events.

Anyone interested in being a chaperone **MUST fill out a background check at the Grant County Board of Education**. If you have a special skill (e.g., EMT, nurse, physician, etc.) or can offer a needed service (e.g., driving a truck, pulling a trailer, etc.) make sure the Boosters and band directors know.

Chaperoning a bus trip requires you to show up early, check roll after each stop, help the students select appropriate movies to watch (if we're on charters), convey instructions from the band directors to the students and maintain a reasonable travel environment on the bus. Band directors are responsible for discipline on the buses. Your role is to remind the students of the rules, correct slight deviations from those rules, and advise a director of serious problems. When you travel with the band on a bus, remember to bring a pillow, blanket (if you are cold natured) and things to read or listen to. Please see Appendix 3, the Band Traveling Rules, for more information regarding expectations of student behavior.

Sitting with the band during basketball/football games is always great, even when you aren't a designated chaperone. We have great fun together at games and we usually get a bit rowdy as we cheer for the Braves. Don't sit directly behind the sousaphones. When they stand, you can't see anything. We do ask, however, that you sit in a section next to us and not directly in the band.

Chaperoning a contest generally involves a bus trip to get to the contest and then assisting with unloading and loading, monitoring changing areas, assisting band members and directors who need help, and the pleasure of listening to well-trained bands perform their very best. There is nothing quite like a bus ride home from a contest with a winning band!

Chaperoning spring trips require a great deal of commitment of money and time and brings a great deal of reward. The spring trip is a combination trip – a thank you to the band for a marching and concert season well done and a trip to a performance. Chaperones have to pay for trip expenses and have to observe payment deadlines. You'll have to adapt to change well, particularly during the trip. Having the constitution to go to bed at 1 am and be up by 5 am for about 4 days running is a plus. Regardless of lost sleep, chaperoning the spring trip is a lot of fun. You will get to spend time with some really awesome students, parents and band friends. This is not a job for whiners. Make sure that the directors and the Boosters know of your interest.

Fundraising & Financial Rules and Pointers

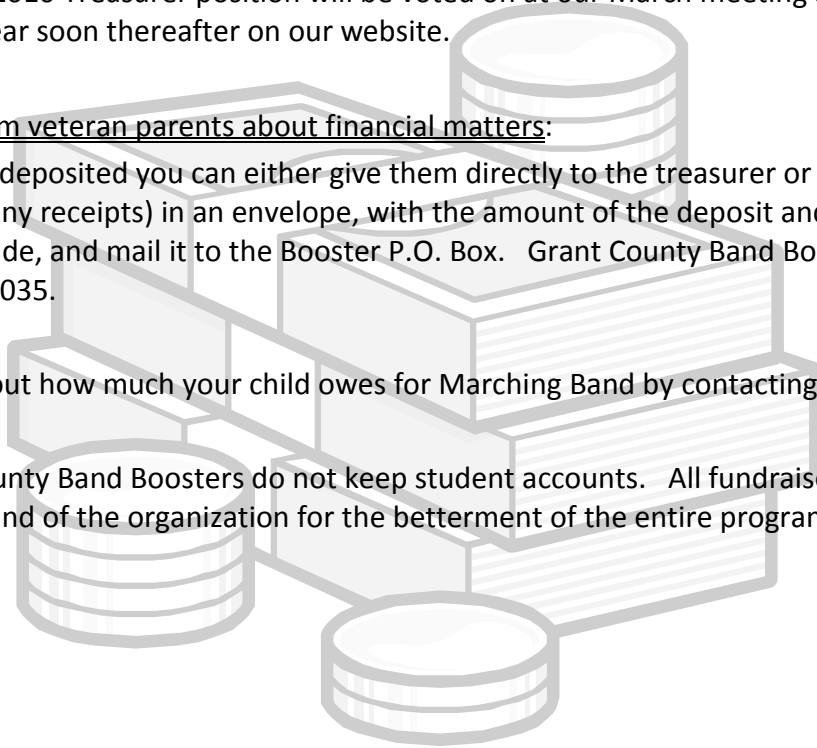
You need to participate in fundraising with your child because, after marching band fees are applied to our annual budget, we still have to fundraise several tens of thousands of dollars to fund the activity. Each member is given a “fair share” number that indicates how much money above their band fee is their share of the cost of running the band. Without EVERYONE’s participation, we would cease to be able to provide the services to students and would be unable to present the quality product that we do every year. To better understand the costs involved in the operation of a successful marching band each year, see our annual budget. You will see why it takes everyone making a team effort to raise money.

The Booster Treasurer is responsible for all funds of the organization, including booster fees when assessed. The 2009-2010 Treasurer position will be voted on at our March meeting and their contact information will appear soon thereafter on our website.

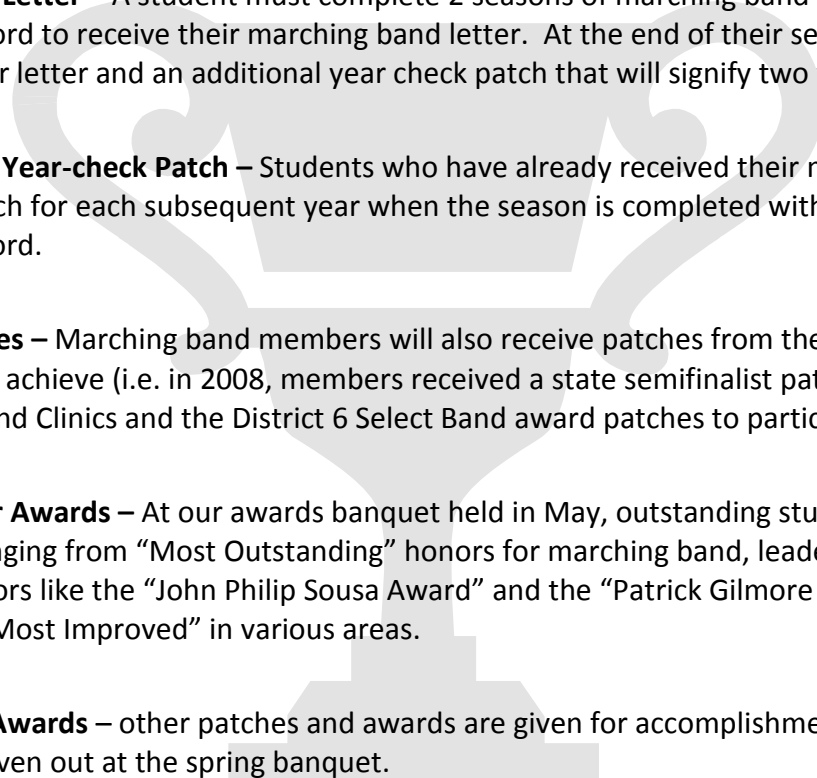
Practical pointers from veteran parents about financial matters:

In order to get funds deposited you can either give them directly to the treasurer or your student can put the checks (and any receipts) in an envelope, with the amount of the deposit and student’s name on the envelope and inside, and mail it to the Booster P.O. Box. Grant County Band Boosters, P.O. Box 194, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

- 1) You can find out how much your child owes for Marching Band by contacting the treasurer.
- 2) The Grant County Band Boosters do not keep student accounts. All fundraiser proceeds go to the general fund of the organization for the betterment of the entire program.



Awards / Patches

- 1) **Pep Band Patch** – In order for a student to receive a patch for pep band, he/she must have no more than one absence to regular season basketball games and perfect attendance to post season tournament games.
 - 2) **Marching Band Letter** – A student must complete 2 seasons of marching band with a perfect attendance record to receive their marching band letter. At the end of their second year, students will receive their letter and an additional year check patch that will signify two years of participation.
 - 3) **Marching Band Year-check Patch** – Students who have already received their marching band letter receive this patch for each subsequent year when the season is completed with a perfect attendance record.
 - 4) **Specialty Patches** – Marching band members will also receive patches from the highest level competition we achieve (i.e. in 2008, members received a state semifinalist patch). In addition, many Honor Band Clinics and the District 6 Select Band award patches to participating students.
 - 5) **End-of-the-year Awards** – At our awards banquet held in May, outstanding students are presented with awards ranging from “Most Outstanding” honors for marching band, leadership, and by class as well as top honors like the “John Philip Sousa Award” and the “Patrick Gilmore Award.” Awards are also given for “Most Improved” in various areas.
 - 6) **Other Patches/Awards** – other patches and awards are given for accomplishments in Symphonic Band and are given out at the spring banquet.
- 

Miscellaneous Information

Private lessons are **strongly encouraged**. The Band Directors will be able to suggest instructors for students based on instrument and experience. Lessons are generally scheduled for a half-hour per week and are on a fee basis. These are one of the greatest tools for your child to truly develop their full potential. Our best students in band take private lessons.

Marching Band Summer Rehearsal begins the first week of July each year. Students need their instrument and a lot to drink. Specific schedules and lists of necessities are sent home in the summer to the address you provided on your information surveys. It is very important that students are at camp every day and on time for all meetings!

Band student leadership takes two forms. Band captains are elected by the band students themselves. Other band officers are appointed by the directors with input from the band. These include section leaders, assistant section leaders, and librarians, etc. The drum major is selected through a competitive process incorporating interviews, conducting auditions, marching skill auditions, and evaluations by external judges. All leadership positions are open to all members of the band who have completed at least one year in the program. These leaders participate in a summer leadership workshop (late June) at Camp Kern in Ohio. Appointments are announced in late spring each year. The band directors work with both elected and appointed officers to develop leadership and communication skills. Encourage your child to take advantage of these special opportunities for learning and service!

Performance anxiety affects different students in different ways. Some kids work through it, and it's no more than a little case of "nerves" that dissipates or lessens to a manageable level as the "new-ness" wears off and doesn't affect their playing or performance. Some need more help. Band and band performances should be fun. If you are worried that performance anxiety is taking the fun out of band performance activities please visit with a band director.

Uniforms are purchased by the school district and assigned to band students by the Booster Uniform Coordinator. Uniforms are kept at the school and are not to leave the building unless we are taking them to a contest. Students will adhere to basic rules while in uniform and will be responsible for damages to the uniform that do not occur as part of the normal "wear-and-tear" associated with performing in them. Careless or reckless behavior in uniform can be expensive.

Travel tips for you and your band participant:

- 1) Students should try to take bills no larger than \$10's.
- 2) Flexibility is the key factor for making any trip fun. When the Band travels, we take about 90 people, 2 buses and several trucks/trailers pulled by volunteers. Traveling with this many people and vehicles means that all of us, individually, have to make adjustments so that the band can be where

it needs to be and do what it needs to do. Planning timetables for such a large group, particularly when the Band is just one of the bands at an event, is more an art than a science.

- 3) If you wish to pick your child up after an out of town game rather than having him/her ride back to Dry Ridge with the band, please be aware that students can only be released at the end of an event as we are loading buses. Students can be signed out by a parent from the lead chaperone on their bus. Pursuant to board policies, no student can be picked up from an away event unless it is by their parent/guardian (example: We go to Mason County to perform – a student cannot be picked up from Mason County unless it is by his/her parent or legal guardian). Band Students will not be released to other relatives and friends. To participate in away events students must be transported to the event by school transportation (for specific scenarios, contact Mr. Owens).

Publicity photos may be taken at any band function for use in the annual band video or other promotional materials. The school district provides a photo release form to students at the beginning of each school year. If you would like your child's photo to appear in the paper, on the website, or in other school publications, please fill this form out appropriately and have your student return it to school.

Appendix 1

CHAPERONE GUIDELINES

Purpose: Provide assistance to the band directors in travel and for performances/contests.

THINGS TO DO

1. Give POSITIVE support to the group especially after a performance.
2. Provide CONSTRUCTIVE comments and are FAIR with the students you are to Chaperone.
3. Show your students TRUST by giving them some freedom where possible.
4. Become GENUINELY interested in your students as you get to know them on a personal level.
5. PROVIDE an outlet for individual students to talk over problems with you.
6. Have a good time and ENJOY yourself, but remember that your first responsibility is to the group.
7. Show a good EXAMPLE at all times. Remember that students will mirror what they see from adults.
8. Help dispel RUMORS by not repeating the many rumors that seem to always start on a trip.
- 9 Be CONSISTENT with the rules and regulations of the group.
10. SUPPORT and ENCOURAGE your directors. They are dedicated individuals who work hard to provide the best possible experiences and opportunities for your child.

THINGS TO AVOID

1. Do not complain in front of the students.
2. Do not denigrate other bands we may see at competitions. They have worked just as hard as we have and deserve our respect.
3. Don't hesitate to volunteer your services when needed.
4. Do not grant "special" favors to the students who are under your direct supervision.
5. Do not criticize the director or change policies that he/she has set forth on the trip.
6. Don't pamper students. They want to be treated like adults.
7. Segregate yourself from your own son or daughter unless he or she asks for your assistance.
8. Do not drink, use improper language or engage in any other negative behavior when students are present. If you do smoke, please do so in an area well away from students and/or other boosters.

Appendix 2

2009-2010 BAND BOOSTERS CONTACT LIST/MEETING DATES

OFFICERS:

President: Jeff Shelton

jss0707@insightbb.com

Vice-President: Brad Johnson

sabradenawink@fuse.net

Treasurer: Annette Crimmins

amcrimmins@hotmail.com

Secretary: Colleen Wolfe

cwolfe2472@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Fundraising Coordinator: Tina Helmer

helmerct@insightbb.com

Food/Concessions Coordinator: Wendy Beaudoin

wendy.beaudoin@grant.kyschools.us

Uniform Coordinator: Dena Johnson

sabradenawink@fuse.net

Guard Coordinator: Lisa Mullins

lisa.mullins@grant.kyschools.us

Tax Exempt Coordinator: Anna Fightmaster

afightmaster@aol.com

Equipment Coordinator: Joe Tipton

cjcr2711@insightbb.com

Correspondence Coordinator: Rosie Rose

rosie.rose@insightbb.com

2009-2010 MEETING DATES:

- July 7
- July 21
- August 18
- September 15
- October 20
- November 17
- December 15
- January 19
- February 16
- March 16
- April 20
- May 18

Appendix 3

BAND TRAVELING RULES

BUS EXPECTATIONS

1. Students will remain seated and facing forward while the bus is in motion.
2. Band members will use their speaking voice when on the bus.
3. No food or drink is allowed unless authorized by the driver.
4. Directors, the driver, and chaperones have total authority on the bus and will be respected at all times.

HOTEL AND CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

1. Drinking alcoholic beverages and taking non-prescription drugs is illegal, and against school policy and is cause for immediate dismissal from the band program, being sent home at the parents' expense (from trips), and school disciplinary action (according to school policy).
2. Smoking, chewing, or dipping will not be tolerated at any time.
3. Band members will not be permitted in any room containing members of the opposite sex. No unauthorized persons will be permitted to visit.
4. Students are expected to behave at all times in the hotel. You are representing Grant County High School, your band, and your family.
5. All students are expected to participate in all activities.
6. Parents and students will be held responsible for paying for any property damage or room charges.
7. Students will be fully clothed at all times.
8. Swimsuits are only to be worn at appropriate times, such as going to the pool.
9. Rooms are to be locked at all times when students are not in the room.
10. Courtesy is expected in all respects (hotel, restaurants, bus, etc.).
11. Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
12. All school rules (including smoking) will be strictly enforced. Infractions will be dealt with by the Band Program **and** the school authorities.
13. All students should realize that for the duration of the trip, any personal desires, uniqueness of character or other individualities must be considered secondary to the traits that facilitate large group control and management.
14. Under no circumstances will you be permitted to leave the hotel except when with the entire group.
15. Profanity is not a part of the Grant County Band Program. Make sure that your language is never offensive while with the band.
16. Curfew requires students to remain in their own rooms. Lights-out will be followed by all members.

REMEMBER: Young adults do not roughhouse or damage property. As Grant County Band members, you reflect not only the values you learn at GCHS or GCMS, but those of your community as well.

BAND MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT – READY TO GO!

Appendix 4

The Grant County Marching Band Competition

There are many people that work to make our annual contest successful. As you can see below, there are many ways to help out. If you are unable to participate the day of the contest, there are other ways to help prepare for this event. We need participation from every parent and student to make this successful and provide the organization and hospitality for which Grant County is known.

Program Coordinator(s)

- Sell ads to local businesses
- Put program order together
- Arrange printing

Trophies

- Contacting trophy sponsors and collecting trophy cost
- Set up of trophy tables on day of contest
- Making list of sponsors for announcer

Hospitality Room

- Donations of food from local businesses
- Donations of food from band parents
- Preparation of food for users of hospitality room
- Decorating the hospitality room and making it welcoming
- Clean up of cafeteria after contest
- Getting with the school personnel on using the cafeteria and equipment

Program Sales

- Selling programs
- Making signs for programs

Bank

- Help treasurer in safeguarding money from concessions, ticket sales, program sales, etc.
- Help treasurer tally funds
- Making periodic deposits to local bank

Equipment Hauling

- Getting band equipment from parking area to performance field and off again
- Needs to be sure band can get equipment to practice area and then to performance field
- Securing all equipment needed such as tractors, mules, and golf carts

Ticket Sales

- Taking up money and stamping hands at gate
- Monitoring gate to ensure everyone coming in has hand stamped
- Working with contest coordinator to set price of admission and young child admission (free or reduced cost)
- Organize parent work schedule
- Prepare and post signs

Band Hosts

- Greeting bands as they arrive
- Direct students to restrooms, dressing rooms, practice areas, etc.
- Responsible for monitoring student guides and hand stampers

Traffic / Parking

- Directing band buses to designated parking area
- Directing public to designated parking area
- Securing needed equipment for parking personnel
- Blocking off parking area where needed

Video

- Filming of each band's performance and giving tape to be included in band's envelope
- Purchasing enough VHS tapes for the show (reimbursable)

Tabulators

- Tabulation of judges' scores for each individual band – if needed, volunteers in this area may secure an outside experienced tabulator
- Securing recorders and tapes for judges or checking equipment we already have (purchases are reimbursable)

Water

- Keeping water at the end of field for bands as they finish their performance
- Securing large jug type coolers and having them at the warm-up areas
- Securing cups for serving water
- Securing tent for shade at the field watering station

Concessions

- Order food
- Man the concession stand
- Needs the most volunteers

Hall Monitor

- Directing band students to proper dressing areas
- Create a shift schedule for staffing the hallways
- Assign bands to classrooms and monitor

Judge Runner

- Provide assistance to the judges
- Contact person for the announcer

Gate Keeper

- Responsible monitoring the large gate and opening/closing at appropriate times
- Responsible for monitoring the stands during performances

Medical Tent

- Responsible for arranging first-aid assistance (Dry Ridge or Williamstown Paramedics)
- Set up table at the field a the medical tent

Restroom / Clean-up

- Monitoring restrooms and portable potties for cleanliness and supplies
- Making rotation sheet for clean up
- Supervising students during clean up to make sure they work and actually pick up trash
- Making sure students periodically empty trash cans

Appendix 5

Robert's Rules of Order

Used at Booster Meetings

For Fair and Orderly Meetings

They provide common rules and procedures for deliberation and debate in order to place the whole membership on the same footing and speaking the same language. Robert's Rules provides for constructive and democratic meetings, to help, not hinder, the business of the assembly. Under no circumstances should "undue strictness" be allowed to intimidate members or limit full participation.

The fundamental right of deliberative assemblies requires all questions to be thoroughly discussed before taking action.

- Meetings follow a published agenda which are sent to the executive board in advance of a meeting and are available to the general membership at the meeting. The agenda will consist of Roll Call, Reading of Prior Minutes, Treasurers report, Old business (may have multiple items), New business (may have multiple items), and a "State of the Band" report from the director.
- The meeting will be "called to order" which should end any and all side discussions.
- The President will call a roll of the executive board. Board members will answer here if present.
- Items on the agenda will be discussed in the following manner:
 1. Presentation of information (one person or head of standing committee)
 2. Discussion by executive board (set amount of time)
 3. Discussion by the booster group as a whole (set amount of time)
 4. Call for a motion/vote (if necessary)

How to have your voice heard:

- Obtain the floor (the right to speak) by raising your hand and being called on by the presiding officer. You must be recognized by the presiding officer before speaking! The presiding officer will signify the appropriate time for discussion.
- Motions/Votes occur only after the set periods of discussion are over. Motions can be made to vote on an issue, table an issue until the next meeting, or to extend discussion if the set discussion time has elapsed.
- When a motion is made, the presiding officer will restate the motion. If clarification of the motion must be made, then it must occur after the presiding officer states the motion.
- When the assembly is in agreement on the motion, a vote can be taken.
- No member can speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once.
- All remarks must be directed to the presiding officer. Remarks must be courteous in language and deportment - avoid all personalities, never allude to others by name or to motives.
- The agenda and all committee reports are merely recommendations. When presented to the assembly and the question is stated, debate begins and changes may occur.

Appendix 6

Band Parent's Guide to Marching Competitions

In an effort to make sure parents understand how a marching program works and what to expect at a show, we've put together the following information based on the most frequently asked question:

Q – How does a marching competition work? / How do they decide who wins?

A – The Grant County Marching Band participate in KMEA (Kentucky Music Educators Association) sanctioned events each season. KMEA is just one group that sponsors competitions – some others that we do not compete in are MSBA and BOA (Mid-States Band Association and Bands of America). Most KMEA shows that we attend are in a prelims/finals format meaning that all the bands registered for the event perform earlier in the day in preliminary competition and, based on performance, may qualify for finals competition later in the evening. In 2004, 2005, and 2006, and 2007 Grant County qualified for every finals competition at all regular-season competitions it attended, so the chances of two performances for us each Saturday are very good.

Our band is class AAAA. There are 5 classes (A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA). These are divided by school size. At the beginning of each year, KMEA takes the total number of bands who send in KMEA marching band registration forms, puts them in order based on school size, and divides by 5 to get the five classes. Each class contains roughly 29 bands. Each class is divided in half into a West Region and an East Region. We are class AAAA East.

Each competition will have at least 8 judges. Two will judge Visual (how well we move and control our forms and the use of colorguard, etc.), two will judge Music (how well we play our music), two will be General Effect judges (how well the whole show works when elements of music and visual performance are considered together) and the percussion and color guard each have a judge. Each judge gives each band a score and, when factored together, a composite score (out of 100 possible points) is given. Bands in preliminary competition at regular-season competitions compete against other bands in their class. In finals competition at regular-season competitions, the bands that qualified for finals (usually 8 to 10) will draw for finals performance order following the preliminary competition awards and will go head-to-head (regardless of class) for a final placement. The overall winner of the competition is called Grand Champion and second place is called reserve grand champion. In addition to their score, each band receives a rating. 80-100 is the highest Distinguished, 60-79 is Proficient, 40-59 is Apprentice, and 39 and below is Novice. Any band that receives a 60 or higher during preliminaries or finals of any regular-season competition qualifies for post-season competition.

Post-season competition is made up of three parts: Regionals (a.k.a. State Quarterfinals), Semi-Finals, and Finals. At regionals, all the bands in each of the five classes that qualified by getting a 60 or above go head-to-head with the other bands in their class and region. The top 8 from each class/region continue on to State Semifinals. Example – in 2006, the Grant County Band finished third in class AAAA East Regional Competition at Rowan County High School; this qualified us for State Semifinals.

At State Semifinals, the top eight bands from each class and regions go head-to-head with each other (ex. AAAA East vs. AAAA West). These 16 bands are competing for one of four spots for State Finals. The top four bands from each class compete against each other in State Finals for the crown of State Champion in their class. Grant County has been to State Finals 7 times and has been State Champion in their class twice. In 2006, the Grant County Band place 5th in State Semifinals – 0.7 points behind the 4th place band.

Q – How is someone expected to act at a Marching Band Competition?

A - A word about etiquette – many people have asked about this topic, and it's not our place to tell parents about how they should act at a contest. We're all adults here. A few bits of info may be helpful to know/consider however:

1. It is perfectly OK to cheer for every band you see – just cheer louder for us!
2. Please be careful about comments you may make about other bands; chances are good that they have a parent or fan sitting near you – do you really want them to overhear the comment?
3. When a band is performing, think about the folks around you – would you want somebody to get up and leave, talk over the performance, or talk on a cell phone while your child was on the field?
4. After we perform, please don't run up to Mr. Owens, Mrs. Owens, or any staff member and start asking about scores or how we think they did. Our answer will always be the same – they did great! We never share scores with anyone until we share it with our kids first. They are why we're here.
5. Whether we win or lose, it will be important for your child and the rest of the band to hear your words of support. Parents are our cheerleaders!
6. Students may only be signed out by a parent (no one else can pick them up – school board policy) as the rest of the band boards the bus.

Q – How can I find out more information about the Grant County Band and the other Marching Bands in the state?

A – There are lots of ways to find out info, but two of the easiest are to register your email address for updates at our website: www.grantcountyband.org or to check out www.kyband.com

Appendix 7

Band Parent's Guide to Additional Costs

Understanding what your child's fees go for and what is not covered is very important for all participants. The uncovered costs can often take parents by surprise and we feel that it is very important for you to be able to plan for them accordingly. Below is a list of some typical costs that come up and when you can expect them to be due:

A. Marching Band Shoes – There are special shoes for everyone to order. Shoes for percussion, brass, and woodwind members of the ensemble are specifically designed for marching. They are also solid white and match our uniforms. Guard members will also be ordering their own special shoes designed for dance. Each student will be fit for marching band shoes in July. Order forms will go home shortly after students are fit. The costs for the white marching shoes will be around \$30-\$35 and the guard shoes are typically around \$25-\$30.

B. Gloves – There are gloves that are part of the uniform ordered at the same time shoes are ordered. Percussionists and guard members do NOT need to order gloves. They are usually about \$2 per pair and students typically order multiple pairs so that they always have a clean set. We will cut the fingers out of woodwind players' gloves so that the glove does not affect their playing.

C. Show Shirts/Hoodies – We have show shirts and hoodies that are designed to go with our show theme. All members will be required to purchase a t-shirt and it is used as part of our competition day uniform when we are not in the full marching uniform. Hoodies, although optional, are always very popular as well. T-Shirts usually run \$15-\$20 and hoodies are usually \$25-\$30. Parents, friends, and family members are always encouraged to wear show shirts/hoodies to contest too!

D. Competition admission – We typically travel to 3-4 regular season contests before the State Marching Band Competition. If you plan on attending, be aware that admission usually averages \$7 per person. Admission to State Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals is more expensive. Preograms are usually available and will cost between \$3-\$5 for most competitions. We hope to see you there!

E. Food Money – Some weekends that we travel we take food (donated) with us for the kids. Other times, we ask that they bring money for concessions there. How much is entirely different per child and we leave that up to you. Occasionally, on long rehearsal days, we may ask students to bring in a few bucks (\$2-\$3)

F. Gatorade – at the beginning of the camp season (July) we ask everyone to bring in Gatorade. For specifics, see your summer mailing. As always, we're always on the lookout for donations of food/Gatorade for the kids.