



“A Tradition of Excellence”

KMEA State Finalists: 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

KMEA State Champions: 1995, 1998

Grant Co. Marching Band 2009 Handbook

**Mr. David D. Owens, Director of Bands
Mrs. JoAnn B. Owens, Associate Director of Bands**

2009 Grant Co. Marching Band Rehearsal and Performance Season

(Please refer to our Fall Calendar on our website for the latest schedule!)*

July

- 6-10: Guard Camp (M, W, F: 5:30-8:30/T, Th: 9:00-5:00)
6, 9: Full Percussion Rehearsal, 5:30-8:30
Week of the 13: Guard and Percussion Camp continues...
15-17: New Member Camp with Section Leaders/Guard & Percussion Camp (9am-12pm)
20-24: Pre-Camp (9am-5pm)
27-31: Band Camp (9am-9pm)

August

- 3-7: Rehearsals (9am-12pm)
Week of 10th: Regular rehearsal schedule begins (*Attendance Policy* begins)
13: School Begins!
22: Rehearsal (9am-5pm)
29: Rehearsal (9am-4pm), Home Football Game vs. Owen Co. (report at 6:00)

September

- 11: Rehearsal, 3:30-6:30
12: **CONTEST (KMEA)**
19: **CONTEST (KMEA)**
25: Home Football Game vs. Anderson Co. (report at 5:30pm)

October

- 2: Home Football Game vs. Bourbon Co. (report at 5:30pm)
3: **Grant Co. HOME CONTEST (KMEA)**
9: Rehearsal, 3:30-6:30
10: **CONTEST (KMEA)**
16: Home Football Game vs. Oldham Co. (report at 5:30pm)
17: Rehearsal, 12-9pm
24: **CONTEST (KMEA)**
30: Home Football Game vs. West Jessamine (SENIOR NIGHT, report at 5:30)
31: **KMEA Class 4A East Regionals at Madison Southern**

November

- 2-6: Rehearsal 3:30-6:30
7-8: **KMEA State Championships at University of Louisville**

Rehearsal Schedule

Regular after-school rehearsals will begin on Monday, August 10. Please review the *Attendance Policy* located in this handbook. The regular rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays: 3:30-6:30pm

This schedule may change throughout the season. Please refer to the actual calendar for exact dates and times.

* Updated Schedules, etc.

To view the updated schedule throughout the season and school year, please visit us on the web at: www.grantcountymarchingband.org. This calendar is updated in a timely manner and is very helpful in communication. If you ever have any questions, this would be the place to visit to find an answer.

* contests, rehearsals, etc. are subject to change. Notice will be given.

* the Director(s) reserves the right to add and adjust rehearsals. Ample time will be given to the student if the rehearsal is called.

“PREPARING FOR MARCHING BAND 101”

- Stay active outdoors in June. Do not sit in the air conditioning for the entire month of June! Get your body acquainted with the outside warm climate.
- Start to hydrate yourself the day before pre-camp starts. This means start drinking water in June! Rehydrate every evening of pre-camp to prepare for the next day.
- Drinking Gatorade can help to replenish electrolytes.
- EAT BREAKFAST!!! Skipping breakfast is not an option.
- Play your instrument a little every day. Do some routine guard work to keep your body and mind in shape. Everyone can afford 15-20 minutes a day to play your instrument. Learn the warm-ups BEFORE the first day of pre-camp!

Conduct and Rehearsal Technique

To make rehearsals more effective for the band program, the following rehearsal techniques will be expected from all members of the Grant Co. Marching Band. Just remember, **When in doubt, don't do it!!!**

General Conduct: No foul or abusive language or gestures are permitted. Yelling is not permitted at all, at any time! This can cause serious accidents. All staff members and chaperones will be given the same respect as the Director/Associate Director of Bands. Treat peers with respect and courtesy, including the drum major(s) and section leaders.

Please **DO NOT** play someone else's instrument, except your own! All performances will be done in an orderly manner. You are not permitted to play another student's instrument at any time.

Public displays of affection will not be tolerated. All policies will be enforced. Do not touch anyone else's body. This includes (but not limited to) roughhousing, holding hands, necking and kissing. Remember, you are representing Grant Co. High School at all times.

The policies and rules of Grant Co. High School concerning travel, bus rules, etc. will be enforced. Please use common sense!

Students will be divided into different committees for marching band. It is expected that a student serve their committee in full capacity! A list of committees and its membership will be posted in the bandroom:

PODIUM COMMITTEE: Chair TBA

This small committee is in charge of transporting the podium(s) from the rehearsal field to the football field, etc. They are also in charge of placing the podium by the trailer on contest days for loading.

FIELD COMMITTEE: Chair TBA

This committee is in charge of maintaining the rehearsal field. This includes setting up the sound system for the Directors and "roping" off the rehearsal field before rehearsal. It is recommended that this committee report no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to rehearsal to make sure the field is ready for rehearsal.

PROPS COMMITTEE: Chair TBA

This committee is responsible for the various props that may be included in the marching band program. They must transport to and from the rehearsal fields the necessary props. The chair will let the committee know if props are needed for the rehearsal, once they confirm with the director.

Front Ensemble transportation help will be posted in the bandroom by sections. Sections will rotate each week of the season in helping the front ensemble transport equipment to and from the rehearsal field. This will be checked regularly by the front ensemble section leader!

Conduct and Rehearsal Technique continued...

Performance Attire: Performers will be required to be in concert uniform for performances unless announced otherwise by the Directors.

- **Rehearsal**

Band and Guard members:

1. White shirts is preferred, keeps student cooler and easier to read drill
 - a. includes t-shirts, sweat shirts, and jackets
 - b. sports bras, halter tops, and spaghetti straps are unacceptable at all times
2. Shorts and pants are acceptable, but pants are not recommended.
3. Tennis Shoes
 - a. Absolutely no boots, sandals, etc.
 - b. Students must wear socks at all times!
 - c. Bare feet are never allowed!
4. It is required that students with long hair put it up out of the face and off of the neck to keep cool.

- **Pre-Contest Attire**

The Marching Band t-shirt, supplied by the Band Booster Association, **must be worn to all contests**. For football games, unless otherwise announced, students will wear the marching band uniforms.

- **Uniforms**

The Grant Co. Band Boosters Association is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the band uniforms. The portion of the expenses that each band member pays at the beginning of the school year is used by the Band Boosters to dry-clean our uniforms several times during the school year. Each uniform consists of: pair of pants (white), a jacket, a hat, hat plume, white socks, and white shoes.

Students are expected to furnish white socks and white shoes. The shoes will be measured and purchased early in the marching season. The shoes cost is approximately \$30.00. Fitting for the school-supplied portion of the uniform will also occur early in the season. If the student has hair that goes below the collar of the jacket, it should be put up for the proper fitting of the hat.

Students must wear a Band t-shirt and shorts underneath their uniform, as it may be necessary for us to change in and out of uniforms on the bus while traveling.

It is recommended that the student put their name in their band shoes, and that they memorize their uniform number. A "Uniform List" will be placed in the uniform room in case it is forgotten. Shoes should be cleaned and polished for every performance. Jewelry may not be worn if it can be seen. Hair cannot be below the collar, or the student must wear a hairnet. The entire uniform will be stored in the uniform room.

The band uniform is the responsibility of the student! It must be maintained and not left in any unoccupied space! Consequences will follow if this rule is not obeyed! The Grant Co. band uniform is to be honored with pride.

Grant Co. Band Travelling 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!

Materials

- **Water bottle/Jug with name (MANDATORY!)**
- **Pencil**
- **White shirts preferred (keeps students cooler and easier to read drill)**
 - Shirts can have writing on them, but dominate color is white
- **Instrument/Equipment**
- **Music**
- **3-ring binder with plastic sheets to hold music and drill**
- **Low-top tennis shoes (no sandals or high-tops)**
- Hat (not mandatory)
- Sunscreen (not mandatory)

DOT-BOOKS WILL BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS AT PRE-CAMP!

You must have all materials at every rehearsal and be prepared. If a student is unprepared, the necessary consequences may be carried out:

- Cardiovascular workout (running)
- Required to stay after rehearsal to help with equipment wrap-up
- Cleaning the bandroom
- Contact of Parent/Guardian for being unprepared

Attendance Policy (effective as of August 10, 2009)

Attendance Policy

TIPS for PARENTS

- Let your child know you think band practice is important.
- Provide a plan of transportation for getting your child to and from practice, on time.
- Schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments around the practice schedule.
- If your child must be out of school part of the day, allow him/her to miss only the time necessary for the appointment.
- Do not view tardiness as acceptable behavior.
- Refuse to write an excuse for anything other than a legitimate absence.
- Discourage any early checkouts from school.
- In case of prolonged absence due to illness or hospitalization, etc., notify the band director ASAP.
- There is a direct relationship between attendance and achievement. Students who have good attendance generally achieve higher grades, have fewer problems at school, enjoy school more, and are much more employable after school.

Excused Absences

For up to three (3) days during the marching season, parent notes or an excusable admit slip from the appropriate teacher will be accepted for certain reasons. An Excuse Absence occurs when the student does not attend band practice, having the consent and/or knowledge of the parent, for one of the following reasons:

1. Personal Illness of the student
2. Serious Illness in the immediate family
3. Death in the family
4. School related activity that cannot occur outside of band practice
5. Church related activity that cannot occur outside of band practice
6. Music related activity that cannot occur outside of band practice
7. Special cases of an emergency nature may be ruled excusable by the director

(Missing band practice on the same day the student is absent from school will be excused ONLY upon presentation of an excused admit slip from the school)

4th Excused Absence: Student will not march with the band in the next performance. However, the student will dress in uniform and stand at attention on the front sideline facing the audience.

5th Excused Absence: Student will not perform with the band for the remainder of the season. The position will be filled by an alternate (if available) or eliminated.

Unexcused Absences

An Unexcused Absence occurs when the student is absent from band practice without the knowledge and/or consent of the parent or director and when the absence is not for one of the reasons listed above in the excused absence category. It is important to note that parental consent or knowledge does not constitute an excused absence, unless the reason for the absence falls under the listed excused absences.

Unexcused Absences could include the following:

1. Skipping band practice, or a large portion of the practice
2. Student asking boss to work, or not asking to be off on rehearsal days
3. Going to another activity during band practice that could be done at another time
4. Anything not listed as an excused absence

1st Unexcused Absence: Student will not march with the band in the next performance. However, the student will dress in uniform and stand at attention on the front sideline facing the audience.

2nd Unexcused Absence: Student will not perform with the band for the remainder of the season. The position will be filled by an alternate (if available) or eliminated.

Special Circumstances: The director will make the final decisions determining excused or unexcused absences. Special circumstances may need to be evaluated on an individual basis.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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**To view information about the Grant Co. band program, including the Marching Band,
please visit our website:**

www.grantcountyband.org

**Here you can view the 2009 Fall Calendar, Contact Information, Contest Itineraries and
Directions, and much more!**