Dear Freshman Parents,

We would like to take an opportunity to give you some useful information to assist you, as parents coming new into our outstanding band program. There is an amazing sense of pride and energy that flourishes through our hallways, day in and day out, and I'm so excited that you and your child have chosen to be a part of The Pride.

During Full Camp on July 17-26, we will build from the basics and begin to put together our show in marching and in music.  It is very important for your students to practice their music at home and to ask for help when he/she may need it. Your student need not be afraid to ask questions about marching or how to play the music. We are all here to help!

We are asking parents to please donate a case of water or Gatorade/Powerade during camp, as well as to please be sure and pay the $100 band fee for your child (due by the 1st football game).  These fees are used to pay contest entrance fees, purchase music & T-shirts, and to help maintain the band uniforms that your child will wear.  Each child will also need a lyre AND flip folder (with extra pages) by the beginning of Full Camp.

We will order shoes and gloves on Tuesday, July 19, from 9:00-10:15.  Each student will be required to purchase marching shoes, which will run **$44**, but these should last the entire 4 years of your child's high school band career.  Each student must also purchase gloves, which will run **$6.70.** I recommend purchasing as least 2 to 3 pair: 1-2 pairs to be used for games, and an extra pair to be used only for marching festivals and competitions.  A clean pair **MUST** be worn for State Marching Evaluation in Gulfport on October 7.  These shoes and gloves need to be paid by cash/money order at time of ordering. Students will also need long black socks to be worn with their uniforms during marching season and concert season.

During camp, students are allowed to have a one-hour and fifteen minute lunch break…usually noon to 1:15pm. Students can bring their lunch, bring money and ride with another student for lunch, or parents are welcome to pick their students up for lunch.

You will be able to catch a glimpse of your child's hard work at The Pride "Exhibition Performance" to be held in the high school gym on August 15 at 6pm.  We look forward to this first milestone performance, as well as meeting and visiting with you…our parents and support!

Please explore our band website: **gcpride.weebly.com** and sign up to receive text messages by texting ***@gcpride*** to **81010**. The website is filled with valuable information, and is a great way to keep in touch with your band family. Also, you’ll want to sign up for ***Charms.*** This is an app that allows you to view our calendar, keep up with finances pertaining to trips and fundraisers, and serves as another valuable means of communication. Our school code is: GC Pride, and your username is 1st letter of first name followed by last name. (e.g. John Doe would be… jdoe). If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me.

We’re looking forward to expressing our "Rebel Pride" during this upcoming school year.

Your Pride Staff,

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