

**“THE PRIDE”  
*of* GEORGE COUNTY  
BAND HANDBOOK  
2018-2019**



**Mr. Kyle Bozeman-Director**  
**Ms. Leah Dueitt-Asst. Director**  
**Ms. Krysten West-Color Guard Sponsor**

# **Director's Notes**

I am excited about this year's "The Pride" of George County Marching Band. There are many talented veterans as well as enthusiastic new members. We have a great show and many new activities planned for this year. With your participation, this can be one of the most successful years for the GCHS Band Program.

To those of you who are new to the high school band program, I look forward to your participation in one of the most active and rewarding experiences at GCHS. You are the future of the band program at George County High School. I encourage you and your family to become involved. Band is an activity that takes extra effort, but, in return, is also very rewarding!

Each and every one of you are an integral part of this band. No one can take your place or do your part in the rehearsals and performances. With the opportunities that band provides also comes responsibility. We will expect you to do your part: that means doing your best in preparing for performances, and of course, in performing your very best each and every time you step on the field.

This is a winning team and you are an essential member of this team. I am certain that you will enjoy great times as part of this organization, and I look forward to sharing them with you!

Kyle Bozeman

Band Director

## **Vision Statement**

*To foster and maintain a strong band and music program that demonstrates a thorough knowledge of music and musicianship, the skills necessary for successful performances, and both broaden and strengthen the school's environment and involvement with the local community....to be the #1 Band in the state of Mississippi!*

## **Philosophy**

Music education is a vital part of becoming educated and prepared for life. The primary goal of the GCHS Band Program is to provide young people with an experience in music that is both enjoyable and educational. We teach creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and personal responsibility, every day. These lessons are inherent in every music class and will be advantageous to students long after high school. In addition, students learn interpersonal skills and the ability to motivate and influence a group to work together toward a common goal for the common good.

# **Band Rules and Regulations**

At all times, band members should behave in a manner that reflects positively upon themselves, the GC Pride Band, and our community.

The following rules are to help band members establish acceptable standards of behavior:

1. No gum, food, or beverages (other than water) are allowed in the Band Hall....during rehearsals.
2. All instruments and cases are to be stored on proper shelves. **NOT ON THE FLOOR!!**
3. Accept responsibility for keeping YOUR band hall neat and clean by placing trash (yours and anyone else's!) in the trash cans.
4. Only percussionists are allowed to use the percussion equipment.
5. Wear appropriate clothes for coed activities. **Tennis shoes and socks should always be worn to rehearsal.** Bare feet, flip-flops, sandals, and boots are unacceptable.
6. Instruments should not be played going to or from the practice field or line-up area.
7. All necessary instruments/equipment must be brought to every rehearsal. This includes all music, flip-folder, coordinate sheet, and pencil.
8. Band office is not for student use. Students cannot use band hall phone without special permission.

## **Grading Policy**

Grades in Band for each 9 weeks are determined by the following formula:

- \*60% Participation, attendance, and effort
- \*20% Performances/Playing tests
- \*20% State Marching/Concert Evaluation

# **Attendance Policy**

## **Practice and Performance**

### **\*\*Attendance is expected at ALL rehearsals\*\***

1. After-school practices will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:00-5:00. There will also be sectionals held on Monday afternoons from 3:00-4:30. We will rotate Mondays among the different sections: brass, woodwinds, and percussion. Color Guard is to come every Monday until further notice.
2. Tuesday and Thursday practices are sacred as this is when we will be learning/polishing our marching drill. Any student who misses one of these practices without an excuse will receive a ZERO for that practice, and may not march at the game on Friday. The same goes for Monday sectionals, as well.
3. Failure to perform for a football game due to an unexcused absence will result in TWO ZEROS in the grade book and will not be allowed to march if there is a contest that weekend.
4. Excused absences include the following:
  - \*Personal illness that results in the student's missing school for that day
  - \*Death in the student's immediate family
  - \*Pre-arranged conflict which must be cleared in advance (at least one full week) with the band director

Unexcused absences include the following:

- \*Employment conflict
  - \*Make-up test
  - \*Trip made in disregard of band commitment
  - \*Doctor and other appointments that could have been scheduled at a different time
5. ALL rules and regulations from school handbook will apply at ALL times.
  6. The most important thing to do is communicate with the director. Emergencies will arise and with proper communication, confusion can be avoided.

## **Rehearsal/Class Procedures**

All students must be inside the Band Hall when the tardy bell rings. Once the bell has rung, students will have 10 minutes (marching) and 5 minutes (concert) to be in his/her assigned place with all necessary equipment, ready to begin rehearsal, or tardies will be issued. **TWO Tardies will result in a ZERO for a rehearsal, and discipline outlined by the Student Handbook!!**

Cell phones may not be used during rehearsals (except as tuner)! You must wait until after-school breaks for calls/texts/games/etc. One warning will be issued, then your phone will be confiscated...**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Talking will not be permitted or tolerated during a rehearsal. If the director is directing information to a particular section, the rest of the band should remain quiet because in some way that information applies to the whole band. Every member is essential to the performance and must know what is going on in the rehearsal.

## **Academic & Behavioral Expectations**

All GCHS Band members are to maintain at least a “C” average in ALL classes. If you make any “D”’s or “F”’s, you will be placed on probation for 1 9-week term. If you fail to bring your grades up for any given class back up to a “C” average, we will look into getting your schedule changed. Also, we expect our students to be well-behaved in every class. If you are written up for any reason in any class, you will also be on probation. Two referrals to the office for any given semester will also result in dismissal from our group for the remainder of the year, or the following semester...whichever may be the case.

# Uniforms

GCHS Marching Band uniforms represent the pride we have in our school and community. We must, therefore, take good care of them. Before entering the stadium, a uniform check will be administered to all band members. This uniform check will look for the following things:

- Clean and ***hemmed*** uniform with NO wrinkles
- Band shoes are polished with no dirt on them
- Uniform is complete with all necessary items and equipment (this includes black socks!)
- NO jewelry is visible
- All instruments are clean and in good, working condition
- Long hair is to be covered by the hat so as to not hang over the uniform collar

*\*Uniforms are not to be taken home unless permission is given.*

# School Instruments

GCHS provides instruments to selected brass, woodwind, and percussion players to use over the course of the year. These instruments are quite costly and are not normally owned by individuals. Please help us take care of these instruments, as they can become quite costly to maintain. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued, and an **Instrument Check-Out Form** must be completed. Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the student's expense, as well.

## **Instrumentalist Band Fees**

**(Color Guard has additional fees)**

Band fees for the year are \$100. These fees cover, in part:

- Uniform rental/cleaning
- Band T-shirt(s)/Apparel
- Festival/Clinic Registration Fees
- Music costs

**Band fees are non-refundable, and are DUE BY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FOOTBALL GAME!** Fees must be paid to Mr. Bozeman, and a receipt for payment will be issued. In addition, instrumentalists will also be required to purchase *shoes and gloves* (for those who do not already have them), which will be available sometime during Band Camp.

## **Hazing**

Hazing is any action taken or situation created intentionally:

- that causes embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule
- risks emotional and/or physical harm
- to members of any group or team
- whether new or not
- regardless of the person's willingness to participate

Any form of hazing will not be tolerated and any persons found guilty will automatically be dismissed from the program without question, and subject to school policy.



# **Fundraising/Charms**

Our Band program will hold several fundraisers throughout the year. For many of these fundraisers, our students will be able to earn funds that may be used to offset certain band expenses, including trips, clinics, supplies, apparel (if available), and fees (for extenuating circumstances approved by the director). All of our financial records will be available for students/parents to view on an online program called Charms Office Assistant. All students will have an account which can be reached by visiting ***charmsoffice.com***. Our school code is ***GC\_Pride***, and the password should be ***1<sup>st</sup> letter of 1<sup>st</sup> name followed by last name***. For example the password for John Doe would be ***jdoe***. If you ever have any questions about financial records, please do not hesitate to contact the director to discuss any questions or concerns. Charms also offers a calendar of events, as well as many other applicable features. Other important information can also be found on our website, ***gcpride.weebly.com***. It is recommended that students/parents visit both of these websites for important information about schedules/events/fundraisers/etc.

## **Tentative Fundraising Schedule for 2018-19:**

**Aug.6 – Sept. 30: Discount Cards**

**Nov.1 – Dec. 21: World's Finest Chocolate**

**Jan-Feb: King Cakes**

***Other fundraisers may be added***



## How to access parent/student information in Charms

- Log on to [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com), and click “ENTER / LOG IN” in the upper right corner.
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your student’s program account using the following School Code:

GC\_Pride

- This will bring up the main “Public” page. This will allow you to look at the “public” calendar for your organization, event list, and handouts and other “publicly shared” files, as well as a few other options.
- The first time you go here, enter your child’s ID NUMBER (provided by your Director) into the **Student Area Password** field. You will be directed to the Change Password screen, to set a personal password different from the ID, for future use. You may also be directed to create both a unique Username and Password for the student. There are also mechanisms to recover/reset a lost Username/Password – when you create your new password, create a “hint” as well.
- Whenever you enter using this Username/password, another more detailed screen appears, with various button options for you to access areas in the Charms account. What appears here is partially up to the Account Administrator or Head Director.
- Two areas in which you can help the director/administrator maintain his/her records:
  - **Update Personal Information** – if the director has allowed it, you may help make changes to your and your child’s student information page (such as updating phone numbers / cell carriers and email addresses if they change) to help them communicate with you more effectively. You may also be able to indicate which parent volunteer/resource groups you would like to participate in, if this feature is activated. Click **Update Info** to save changes.
  - **If your program has set up online credit card payments, you can make credit card payments for fees, trips and deposits to your student’s account.** Click **Finances** -- if credit card payment is activated, you will see blue buttons in the four main areas of the financial statement indicating your ability to make online payments.
- You may also see links to enter **Practice Logs**, view **Grades**, and use the **Recording Studio** if the teacher has enabled these options.
- The **Calendar** may list events, rehearsals, and volunteer/RSVP opportunities.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to communicate with each other. Stay up to date on what’s going on with your student!
- You can also download the Charms App to your smartphone – search your App Store for “Charms Parent/Student Portal” (or “Charms Blue”). It’s the way to stay in touch on the go!

# **BAND AGREEMENT**

**I understand that Band is a year-long class, and that I am expected to enroll in 4<sup>th</sup> Block Marching Band in the Fall, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Block Symphonic Band in the Spring. Failure to do so will result in not being able to participate in the future, and/or not being acknowledged at the end-of-year banquet (extenuating circumstances approved by the director may be excluded). I have also read and understand the “The Pride” of George County Band Handbook. Every day, I will strive to do my best, to have a positive attitude, and follow all of the band expectations.**

**Student Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**I have read and understand the “The Pride” of George County Band Handbook. In addition, I give my child permission to travel with the band on all band activities throughout the entire school year, and will not hold George County School District or any of its employees liable for any situations that may occur.**

**Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**