

# GCM Patriot Band Handbook



**Belongs to:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Introduction

The Baytown/Highlands community recognizes the purpose of a well-rounded education is more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. An increasing emphasis is being placed on the arts and music. Band serves as a most unique purpose in our lives and the community.

The purpose of the Memorial Patriot Band is not only to serve the school and community through marching at footballs games and playing in concerts, thus providing entertainment and enhancing school and community spirit, but also to furnish the student with an invaluable life experience. The disciplines of a good band develop coordination, cooperation, teamwork, and self-discipline to a degree not possible in most academic classroom settings. The band is not a haven for laziness, as it demands and develops concentration so essential to success in any field or endeavor. In addition to the rewards from discipline and hard work, one belongs to the Patriot Band family because it is fun! There is a genuine exhilaration in making music – both alone and combined with others. There is nothing like being a part of a marching band, looking up and seeing expectant faces waiting for you to perform. The teamwork and dedication that it takes to bring a piece of music to life from a mere piece of paper, to convey an idea so full of emotion, is not something that you can learn just anywhere. There are MANY tangible and intangible rewards that being a part of the Patriot Band can bring to a student. Just know that you are in for a truly memorable experience. It is what you make it.

Our hope is that you will take your love of music past high school and into your adult life and that you will always support the arts through your participation or attendance at live concerts. Maybe some of you will enjoy it so much that you will share your love of music by teaching others. How fortunate that we have this time together to work hard for such a wonderful experience.

***Welcome to the Goose Creek Memorial Patriot Band Family!***

**DISCLAIMER:** This handbook is a “living” document. The band directors and/or campus administration retain the authority to amend policies if such action is deemed necessary to secure the interest of the overall band program.

## Ensembles

### Patriot Band Program

The band program is open to students who have the desire, ability, and proper attitude to be a member of the group. Students desiring membership must be able to perform a placement audition for enrollment into the proper ensemble class. Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Color Guard, Pit Percussion and Battery Percussion are all full year courses, students are required to enroll for the entire school year beginning in the Fall Semester.

### Ensemble Descriptions

**Wind Ensemble:** is comprised of mostly of 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with previous instruction on a wind instrument and is the top performing wind group at GCM. It features a modern band instrumentation and provides fundamental wind pedagogy through different twentieth century wind literature and transcriptions. The Wind Ensemble performs at several required concerts for various events each year, along with performing as our Varsity ensemble at the Region 19 U.I.L Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation. Participating in the Patriot Marching Band is a **co-requisite** for this ensemble.

**Symphonic Band:** is comprised of 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with previous instruction on a wind instrument. It features a modern band instrumentation and provides fundamental wind pedagogy through different twentieth century wind literature and transcriptions. The Symphonic Band performs at several required concerts for various events each year, along with performing as our Non-Varsity ensemble at the Region 19 U.I.L Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation. Participating in the Patriot Marching Band is a **co-requisite** for this ensemble.

**Percussion Ensemble:** consists of multiple groups of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade percussionists. Classical, contemporary, and world percussion repertoire is played in both a competitive and casual settings, while also providing an educational experience to apply all percussion knowledge obtained up until the student's current knowledge. All percussionists are required to participate in percussion ensemble in both the fall and spring semesters and are required to be at each rehearsal and performance. Other ensembles within our percussion ensemble program include the GCM Patriot Marimba Band and Patriot Samba.

## Ensemble Descriptions Continued

**Jazz Band:** Pre-requisite: Jazz audition and previous band experience along with concurrent enrollment in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Percussion Ensemble. Students are **not allowed** to take Jazz Band without being enrolled in another ensemble class. Exception: piano, bass, guitar and drums. Students must have director approval for admission. This course will provide students basic instruction in jazz-related rhythm, style, concepts, listening skills and improvisation. This ensemble will include several required performances that will be planned and announced throughout the year.

**Color Guard:** Co-requisite: Membership in the Patriot Marching Band is required for membership in the GCM Colorguard. Students will learn, practice and rehearse skills required for the visual art. Students will also participate in the Winter guard season during the spring semester. Members must attend all events, rehearsals and performances and communicate all conflicts with the Colorguard director before the beginning of the season.

**Patriot Marching Band:** Membership in the Patriot Marching Band is required for membership in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Color Guard. **All members of the GCM Patriot Band Program must participate in the marching band with the exceptions of students with medical exceptions on an individual basis.** All students must attend all rehearsals, events and performances of the band program and communicate all conflicts with the band directors before the beginning of the season. The Patriot Marching Band is only active in the fall with several varsity football games, local parades and Pre-U.I.L. and U.I.L. Region and Area Marching contests. Rehearsals are held three times per week: Monday from 3:30-5:30pm, Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:30pm, and Thursdays from 3:30 – 5:30pm during a “typical” week.

**Auditions:** Auditions will be held towards the end of each school year. Students will be given the specific audition music in advance of the audition date and will have ample time to prepare. These audition results will determine both Band and Chair placement for each section of the ensemble.

## Attendance

### Member Expectations

There are very few activities that require your attendance, participation, and success in all areas than that of a performing ensemble. As a member of this program everything you do is connected to every other member in many ways. Any absence, lack of preparedness, or lack of communication will inhibit our ability to continue to improve. We cannot do what we do with your participation in all aspects of our program.

### Eligibility

To participate in our most important events, students must be able to maintain academic eligibility according to U.I.L. standards. This requires students to have a 70 in all classes at the end of the grading period to maintain eligibility. **Students must be able to demonstrate the ability to maintain this obligation to participate in Football Games and competitions during the Fall semester.** Reference the GCCISD student handbook for eligibility periods.

### Attendance Policy

**Band members are required to attend all rehearsal and performances in accordance with the Band Calendar. Rehearsals, performances, and competitions that take place outside of school hours are part of the educational process and are mandatory for a grade and a member's performance eligibility. Students must be on time and prepared for all Band functions.**

### Excused Absences

The Following are the only reasons an absence will be excused by the band directors:

1. Death in the immediate family.
2. Extreme personal illness. The student is expected to have a proof of illness or note state the student's inability to perform/practice. Absence will be marked as unexcused without a doctor's note.
3. Students who are actively representing GCM in another competitive sport, group, or activity may be excused from **rehearsal** at the director's discretion. Excused absences from performances or competitions are very rare and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. All conflicts must be discussed with and approved by the band directors **as soon as you become aware of the conflict** and must **be at least two weeks prior to be excused.**
4. Word of mouth from another band member **DOES NOT** excuse an absence.

**NO ABSENCES WILL BE EXCUSED FOR UIL MARCHING REGION OR AREA CONTESTS, UIL CONCERT AND SIGHT-READING CONTEST, OR MAJOR CONCERTS!**

**Attendance**

**Unexcused Absences**

Any unexcused absence will result in the loss of available points in the grading category for each rehearsal or class period missed, which will result in the lowering of their 9 weeks grade and/or suspension of future performances. Parents will be notified of the resulting penalties.

Unexcused performance absence will result in a failing grade for that event and possible alternate statues for marching band.

**Examples of Unexcused Absences**

Be responsible to know about and keep your parents informed of all Band performances, rehearsals, and activities. Excuses that will NOT be accepted are:

1. "Had to work." Make arrangements with your employer early.
2. "Couldn't get a ride." Be responsible. Arrange this item early. Set up a carpool!
3. "Didn't know about it." Be responsible. Listen and read all information carefully. Check the band website calendar-there is a calendar on the band hallway wall.
4. "Forgot my instrument." Be responsible. No credit.
5. "Don't have any reeds." Be responsible. No credit.
6. "Parents leaving town." Make arrangements early before this conflict arises.
7. "Parents make me stay home to work or study or babysit." Maintain your grades at all times! Be responsible. Uphold your commitment to the Band by being a good student!
8. "I have a doctor's appointment." Be responsible. Schedule it at a different time, if at all possible. If seeing a specialist with no other options, arrange this absence in advance.
9. "Family or relatives visiting." Visit and explain your commitment to the total organization. Bring them to your practice or performance to let them watch!
10. "I'm grounded by my parents." Have them contact the band director for discipline assistance: there is much work to be done around the band room.



## Attendance

### Tardies

Students are expected to be on time to all activities. "On Time" means ready to begin with all necessary items. Not rushing to your chair or running to the practice field at the rehearsal start time.

- ☒ Any student who is late will receive a lowered performance or rehearsal grade.
- ☒ Any student who is consistently late, more than three times, may be placed on alternate status in addition to possible school disciplinary action (referral).

### Summer Band Camp

Attendance at Band Camp is required for all Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Percussion, and Color Guard students. During camp is when we learn all necessary marching fundamentals, playing pedagogy, choreography, and drill spots. Band camp is not something that can be made up or excused to be a fully participating member of our band program. **Students who are not present for Summer Band Camp for any reason may be placed on Alternate Marcher status.**

### Alternate Status

Our success as a marching organization is dependent on all our student's attendance and eligibility. Even one person missing from rehearsal will affect all other members, especially during a marching "drill" rehearsal. We cannot improve the show or effectively make changes if we have "holes" in our drill at rehearsals. Not only do we lose out on the visual effect when we perform with "holes" in our drill, we also create a more difficult environment for the members that are present to be successful musically. Every member's attendance is important.

To maintain the quality and competitiveness of the GCM Patriot Marching Band we will make use of an alternate marching program. Alternate marchers are students that are members of the GCM Patriot Marching Band, but do not have designated spot in the drill for the competitive marching show. Students are placed on alternate status for several reasons. They may have missed all or some of summer band camp, they may have one or several unexcused absences, they may be academically in-eligible, or they may be unable to demonstrate the musical or marching skill necessary to contribute to the field show. While it is our goal to get all members to the skill level necessary to successfully contribute to the show, not all students will be able to march with the Competitive group.

**Alternates are required to be at all rehearsals, performances, and competitions.** Alternates are members of the band, and will perform in the stands, on the sidelines and in all parades. All alternates will “shadow” a drill spot to learn the marching show.

## Grading

The majority of student work will take place during rehearsals with a focus on ensemble skills and performance. Students are actively engaged in learning activities throughout every rehearsal and their participation counts as their academic grade. Their attendance and contribution to the rehearsals and performances are mandatory and will contribute their learning experience. Individual student practice is highly encouraged for student advancement and to prepare for formal assessments (tests).

- **40% Rehearsal Participation-During & After School (Non - Major Grade)**

- o Rehearsal is where we learn all the skills, techniques, music, and marching required to put together a work worthy of public performance. All learning in this setting is group learning. We learn by watching, listening, modeling, assessing, critiquing, and supporting each other. Every person is linked to every other's learning, thus making their presence necessary.

- o Class Preparation-Pencil, Music Folder, Sheet Music, & Working Inst/Equip are non-negotiables when it comes to learning. Students who fail to prepare for class are unable to rehearse and learn within our performance-based art. If it is at the repair shop, ask for a loner from the business or GCM (take the mouthpiece out before you send it in to be repaired).

- **60% Performance Participation-Concerts, Games, & Parades, Assessment of Playing/Performance Tests (Major Grade)**

- o A performance is the most important event we have. It is the culmination of all the hard work we do in class, during outside of school rehearsals, and is what we are preparing for. It is the showcase of our student's amazing talents. It is also a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in any other way as we are a performance art. As with any sports team, a band has many players, each player has a part to play in the performance that cannot be replaced or made up. Every person is counting on the next; this is an aspect of band that makes it so great (working together)! We encourage you to make each performance a family event.

- o Students will perform excerpts (parts) of their music/routine (sheet music or from one of their method books) individually or in small groups each unit. This test will be announced at the beginning of each unit and written down in the Charms calendar. The playing test may consist of one or more of the following musical aspects: tone, intonation, rhythm, pitch, phrasing, articulation, dynamics, meter, & steady beat. Tests may also include skills and techniques such as posture, embouchure, breathing, and sight reading. Students will be made aware of the grading rubric which will define the various levels of skill proficiency.

## **Discipline Policies**

Learning music is a skill that takes an incredible amount of time and effort to refine and polish not only individual ability, but the ability to create music as an ensemble. Music is an extremely team-oriented activity and students need to have the maturity level and discipline necessary to always contribute to the greater group. Every single student can affect the whole group both positively and negatively. Our classroom rules are based on maintaining effectiveness of rehearsals and mutual respect each student and the facilities. Students that chose to participate in our program must be able to showcase the ability to always maintain these standards. Not following these expectations will result in consequences listed below.

### **Class Rules**

1. Talking is only allowed if given permission by the director during a rehearsal.
2. Keep your hands and feet to yourself and your belongings. Do not touch or play an instrument that is not yours unless given direct permission from a director.
3. Do not move or play any percussion instruments or equipment if you are not a percussionist unless given direct permission from a director.
4. No eating or drinking in the band hall.
5. Stay in your seat unless you are given permission to get up. You are not allowed to leave the band room during class unless you are given a pass.
6. No phones allowed during any class or rehearsal, unless being used for a tuner. This includes leaving phones on stands, or in your lap.

### **Consequences**

1. Warning by the director.
2. Removal from the rehearsal, and reduction in daily participation grade.
3. Detention with parent contact.
4. Repeated misconduct will result in a referral to administration.
5. Removal from performing ensembles or competitions.
6. Removal from program.

**\*\*\*All rules outlined in the GCM Code of Conduct always apply and will be subject to school discipline procedures. Students found to be in violation of the GCM High School Band Student & Parent Band Handbook may also be removed from all outside of class/school day band activities including performances and trips for a length of time determined by the band director according to the terms of the contract.\*\*\***

## **Rehearsal & Performance Procedures**

### **Band Classes, Jazz Band, Percussion and Guard Classes**

#### **Daily Classes**

- All GCM High School policies and procedures apply to all classes.
- All band students are to be setup and ready to rehearse with all materials (including music, pencils, Dot Book etc.) three minutes after the start of class to receive full credit for their daily grade.
- Follow the instructions on the board for daily procedures and objectives.

#### **All Outside of School Day Rehearsals or Performances**

- Students must arrive with ample time to be prepared at for their rehearsal or performance. If rehearsal begins at 3:30, that means the student must arrive earlier to be ready to go and in their spot at 3:30. **ARRIVING AT 3:30 IS NOT ON TIME AND WILL BE CONSIDERED TARDY.**
- Students must be picked up within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the event.

#### **Concert Performances**

- The call time for all band students is 30 minutes before the start of the concert regardless of the concert order. The band that performs later in the program must sit in the reserved section of the audience for that band at the call time.
- Concert attire must be worn at all times before, during, and after the concert until you change into your street clothes in a changing room.

## **Patriot Marching Band**

#### **Rehearsals**

**Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 P.M.**

**Tuesdays 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

- Attendance will be taken via concert arcs/basic block at 3:30 P.M.
- All members are required to wear athletic clothes and shoes. No jeans or flat shoes are allowed.
- Required materials for full credit at all rehearsals: Patriot Water Jug, music in binder with sheet protectors, flip folders (when needed), updated Dot Book, pencil and working instrument or equipment.
- Students must always be present during rehearsal and must ask permission before exiting rehearsal. Students roaming around the campus/band hall will not receive full credit for the rehearsal.

## **Performances**

### **Football Games**

- All students will travel with school transportation to and from every game. All exceptions must be approved with the **Band Directors** on a case-by-case basis.
- All students must have the required game materials to travel with the band: Black Patriot Head Band Shirt, athletic shorts/pants, clean white gloves, long ALL BLACK socks, and black band shoes and working instrument.
- All students will take their instruments to their loading area by section at their designated time. They oversee making sure all parts of their instrument are in their cases prior to loading (mouthpiece, cloth, valve oil etc.) Battery percussion, front ensemble, Sousaphones and loading crew will oversee loading and unloading of all instruments and equipment on the trailer.
- If food is being provided, all students are not allowed to eat until all equipment and instruments are loaded.
- Once all instruments are loaded, students will check out their uniforms by section at their designated times. Students must have their correct Jacket, Pants and Shako. Students will then change into their uniform and prepare for inspection.
- Following uniform inspection, we will make short announcements and load buses by number. Students will always sit on their assigned bus.
- Once we arrive at the stadium, students will await instructions from a band director or Drum Majors. Once the instruction is given, Drum Majors, Sousaphones, Percussion, loading crew and Color Guard will leave the buses to begin unloading

the trailer. These students may remove their Jackets and hang them neatly on the trailer as they unload but must remain in full uniform otherwise.

- All other students will wait to be called in reverse score order to un-pack their horns and stack their cases neatly near the trailer. All students must be always in full uniform when in public unless otherwise directed by a Band Director.
- Once students have their horns stacked neatly, we will carry all materials to the stands in a single file line with those seated at the top leading, remain standing and await instruction from Drum Majors or Directors.
- All Students must stand and play during all stand tunes.
- Play only when the band is playing. Hacking or extra playing is not allowed.
- Only current band students, staff, or chaperones are allowed in our section of the stands. No exceptions.
- Remain in full uniform at all times unless you are in the changing room or instructed by a band director.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the band stands except for your water. If you damage or stain your uniform, you will be responsible for its cleaning costs.
- We will always lead down the stands in a single file line starting from the top. Students need to grab their plume and continue to their warmup spot. Once there, students will begin to setup in the Dazzler block and wait for further instruction from a Band Director or Drum Major.
- All Band Students are required to remain in the band section for the entirety of the game. Any students needing to use the bathroom must have permission from a director and must be accompanied by another student or chaperone. Make sure to leave your instrument in safe way.
- Following the game, students will return to GCM to return their uniforms and instruments. Uniforms must be properly hung on their hanger and correct rack. Section leaders will oversee this process to make sure it is done correctly. Students must communicate with their parents on their location on or before the drive home. Students must be picked up within 30 minutes of arrival.

### **Parades**

- Attendance will be taken upon inspection before departing. Students will follow all uniform and instrument procedures from game day.

## **Uniforms**

### **General**

- Students and parents are responsible for replacement or repair of the school owned uniform, whole or parts, if it/they should be damaged or lost. Students should avoid kneeling, sitting on, and brushing up against surfaces that will dirty the uniform.
- Students are required to hang their individual uniform up following all performances on the correct rack while following the quartermaster's instructions for hanging up each part of the uniform.
- Students will be required to purchase uniform parts or custom uniforms that are considered personal items that cannot be used again by other students. The items may include but are not limited to: gloves, socks, custom guard uniforms (entire), marching shoes, dress shoes, Patriot Head Band shirt, show shirt, tux shoes, etc. These items must be purchased through the band program (with the exception of socks) to ensure that models and styles match. An order form will be available online once prices for this season are determined.

### **Marching Uniforms**

- All students must wear athletic shorts and their show shirt to the performance and wear it under their uniform enabling them to change in a designated area with all other band members.
- Students will wear their informal uniform for all pep rallies and parades. It will consist of blue jeans, and their Patriot Head Band t-shirt. Students not in this uniform will not be allowed to participate and will be graded accordingly.
- **No hats are allowed** unless provided by the band program for all members.
- Gloves and socks should be free from holes and must be the same color as a new pair.
- Shoes must be polished and appear in like new condition.

### **Inspections**

It is required of all band members to always keep their uniforms and equipment in excellent shape. All members of the band will be inspected before each performance. The leadership officers will be inspected by the director and in turn will inspect their sections. The following is a list of what is expected at inspections. Any infraction will result in a grade reduction and/or suspension from the performance.

### **Personal Appearance**

- Members with long hair must put it in a ponytail and put it up inside the band hat (Only black scrunchies or hair ties)
- Members do not wear excessive make-up.
- Members must wear clear nail polish only.



- There should be no visible jewelry: rings, necklaces, watches or facial piercings.

### **Inspection Position**

- Feet should be together and toes apart at attention. V
- Chin up, shoulders down, hips back, elbows out.
- Eyes do not move to the left or right but remain forward at attention.
- No movement or talking at attention.
- Instruments are to be held properly in designated manner.

### **Uniform**

- Should be worn in the proper manner.
- Pant length should touch the top of the shoe without folding.
- With the hat on, no hair should touch the forehead – bangs must go up inside the hat.
- Shoes must be cleaned before each performance (shoelaces included) with your name printed inside each shoe.
- Black LONG socks must have no extra designs on them. Solid black only!
- Gloves should be white and clean. The tips of fingers should be cut out and sewn under for woodwinds.
- The Patriot Head Band Shirt and athletic shorts must be worn under the uniform.

## **Instruments**

1. Cleaned on the inside and outside. Brass instruments and percussion must be polished.
2. Mouthpieces must be cleaned and undented.
3. Reed players need one extra reed at performances in a reed case or protector.
4. Brass slides must move easily.
5. Saxophone players must have solid black neck straps.
6. Brass valves must be well oiled.
7. All Colorguard equipment should be clean and properly taped. Colorguard members should have all accessory items with them.

## **Music**

1. All members must have their flip folders with all stands and show music and a lyre (even if the student's music is memorized).
2. Flip folders should be clearly labeled with the student's name/assigned number.

## **Concert Attire**

### **Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band/Jazz Band UIL & End of Year Concert**

- All members must have checked out concert attire and have all parts properly maintained
- Gentlemen must have these items; tux shirt, tux pants, tux jacket and black tie. You will need to purchase all black dress shoes and long black socks separately.
- Ladies must have checked out black dresses and black character shoes or flats. No excessive heels or boots.

### **Christmas Concert**

Students are allowed to wear festive Christmas attire to celebrate the season, with some added guidelines. Students must always adhere to GCM school dress code. Students not in dress code will not be allowed to perform and will result in a loss of credit.

- Dress nicely for this occasion, no shorts, t-shirts, or torn jeans are allowed. Think business casual.
- Students are allowed to wear festive hats at the discretion of the director.

## Requirements for Band Letter

The following standards are necessary for fulfillment of letter requirements:

1. Students must complete two full school years as a member in **good standing** of the ensemble. Action resulting in suspension, either in or out of school, at any time during the school year may disqualify a student from being eligible for a letter.
2. Students cannot have an unexcused absence from any required performance (concerts, football games, festivals, etc.) or have excessive absences from sectionals and rehearsals.
3. A grade of C (70%) or better in each band, each year.
4. Any student found using drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco products during a band function (rehearsal, performance, trip, game, etc.) will automatically forfeit their letter for the current school year.
5. Any student who is out-of-school suspended for any reason more than once will automatically forfeit their letter for the current school year.
6. Students must audition for at least one honor/All-Region Band to be eligible for a letter early.
7. Students must participate in a judged U.I.L. Solo/Ensemble festival to be eligible for a letter.
8. Students are expected to be ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS in the music program to obtain a letter. This includes activities such as: auditioning for All-Region Band, All-Region Jazz, Solo and Ensemble Contest, volunteering for band related events.
9. A student who has participated in the program for 4 years, including his/her senior year, without EARNING a letter, may be awarded a letter in their 4<sup>th</sup> year.

**Students must earn a total of 10 points to qualify for their letter jacket:**

*Cumulative Points* – These points will roll over into future years.

- Freshmen will be awarded 2 points at the end of their 1st year of participation.
- Sophomores will be awarded 2 points at the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of participation.
- Juniors will be awarded 3 points at the end of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of participation.
- Seniors will awarded 3 points at the beginning of their 4<sup>th</sup> year of participation.

*Yearly Points* – These points must be earned each year and do not carry over into future years.

4 points – for achieving membership through audition in a performing all region or jazz band.

2 points – for achieving membership through audition in the ninth grade all region band.

2 points – for advancing to the Area level audition in band

4 points – for achieving membership in the TMEA All-State Band

2 points – for achieving a division 1 rating on a solo or ensemble at the UIL Solo and Ensemble contest on a class 1 or 2 solo or ensemble. These points may be earned for multiple events in a single year.

## **Financial Obligations**

**ALL:** Band Fee: \$50

\$25 will be used for band Show Shirt and extra expenditures, such as; flip folders, reeds, mouthpieces \$25 fee is used for GCCISD district instrument usage fee.

**Percussion Only:** Fee: \$75

This fee will cover costs in purchasing required items for percussionists only, including a percussion jacket with custom embroidery. A polo to be used for performances and other events will also be purchased with this fee.

**ALL:** Black Marching Band Shoes: \$40

This is a one-time purchase that student's will be able to use throughout their High School career. Students will be sized for these during band camp. If students still own the previous year's marching shoe, they are not required to buy another new pair.

**ALL:** Band T-Shirts: Patriot Band shirt will be available through the TMF store.

## **Band Boosters**

The Goose Creek Memorial High School Band Boosters Club is a non-profit organization providing support to the GCM Patriot Band and Guard Program. Our goal is to provide all support needed for musical development, leadership formation, UIL contest and team building activities for the Patriot Band & Color Guard Program. The Boosters are a mix of Band Parents, Color Guard Parents, Community Members and Sponsors. We set up Fundraisers for the students so that we can bring our community together in Music and to help get involved in these students' educational decisions to succeed. All parents or community members can become a booster via our online application that can be found on the Booster Website. [Home \(gcmbandbooster.com\)](http://gcmbandbooster.com)

## Communication & Information

Effective and efficient communication is paramount to our success as an organization. The band program has many events and requirements that are unlike any other activity on campus. It is crucial that students, parents, and directors always maintain clear communication, and stay involved with current and future band events.

### Charms

Charms Office Assistant, [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com), is an online database that houses contact information and student account records for all band students. It also serves as a tracking system for all student forms and provides us with a variety of tools for processing them. We can send out emails via Charms to specific groups within the band or the whole band. Additionally, it receipts and logs all band student purchases (uniforms parts etc.) and fundraised monies. You can access this from any computer with internet access or through the Charms App on your smart phone. You will need our school code: **gcmhsband** and your student ID number as the password. Please keep your contact information up to date if you should move, change email addresses, or phone numbers.

### Band App

Band App is another program that is helpful to our organization by having an open line of communication from for directors, students, parents, and boosters. Reminders, announcements, and event updates can be made quickly, along with an easy sharing of photos or videos from all our best moments. Please remember that all members will receive notifications on this app, so refrain from using it for casual conversations or anything not Band related. All students and parents need to join by downloading BAND – App for All Groups on their smart devices, or by joining online at <https://band.us/en>. Once you create an account, search up GCM Patriot Band. You will see Mr. Schultz as the admin, and you can then request to join the group. Be sure to include your first and last name, as well as a profile picture to be added to the group.

### Student to Parent Communications

Although technology helps to bridge the gap between teacher-student-parent communications, we will still experience challenges from time to time. Keep in mind that all students will become aware of any changes or new information along with it being communicated via Charms, Band App or email. If you are unable to have access to email or the internet, please let us know and we will accommodate whatever needs that you may have to the best of our ability.

**Website - <https://gcmpatriotband.weebly.com/>**

Our website will be updated regularly with new information about upcoming events and fundraising projects. Links to the Charms calendar, information about the schedule and other forms will all be available.

## **Facilities and School Owned Instruments**

### **Facilities Policy**

**“Leave it in better condition than we found it.”**

The band hall is like our second home, and it is all our responsibility to keep it safe and clean. Students should only be in the Band Hall if they are in a band or music class, and only when a director is present. Students should not be in the band hall without a director present. The Band Hall is to be used for practicing or other band related work only. This applies to all practice rooms and other band facilities.

### **Practice Rooms**

Students are only to use practice rooms with permission from a band director. Practice rooms are meant for one student at a time unless otherwise permitted by a director. Non band/orchestra/choir students are **NOT ALLOWED** in our practice rooms for any reason. Students should not be in practice rooms while a band director is not present. The light in the room must always stay on, and students must be in clear view of the window. Students not following these rules will lose practice room privileges or face disciplinary actions through the school. (Referral etc.)

### **School Owned Instruments**

All Students requiring use of a school owned instrument must have a School Owned Instrument Contract Signed by parents and students. This contract makes everyone aware that the student and parent are responsible for the instrument for the school year; this includes any damage or theft that may occur. Students are responsible for keeping these instruments in proper playing condition and to purchase all necessary accessories for the instrument's proper maintenance.

## Travel

As a music organization we will do quite a bit of traveling for various events, performances, clinics etc. To travel to all these different events, we must be able to demonstrate superb behavior and respect for all members, chaperones, facilities and general public. Traveling with the group is above all a privilege and not a right of any band student and program. Qualifications for travel with the group is determined by a student's ability to demonstrate all member expectations for travel.

After a trip has been planned, these will be our rules and regulations on trips:

1. All GCCISD District Rules, GCM High School Rules, and Band rules are in effect on trips.
2. You must treat the driver and chaperones of your bus with courtesy and respect.
3. Bus Lists will be posted. Once you sign up, you may not change your seat.
4. You may not stand up while the bus is in motion.
5. While on the bus, you are expected to conduct conversations in a normal talking voice with the people immediately surrounding you. If your voice is loud enough to be heard above others, you are too loud.
6. Cheering and singing on the bus may be done only with the permission of the driver. The person in charge of your bus will check with the driver to determine whether cheering or singing will interfere with driving safety.
7. Chaperones on the bus are to be respected and obeyed. They have the same authority as a teacher and are the Band Director's delegated adult in charge.
8. Keep all hands and feet to yourself. NO BLANKETS ALLOWED. Bring a jacket if you think you will be cold.
9. Never leave valuables on the bus.
10. Music devices must have headphones. Music with profanity may not be broadcasted publicly.
11. All talking, and noise must cease at railroad crossings.
12. Keep the bus clean; use the garbage bag for trash.

13. Students may ride home with parents or legal guardians at the conclusion of an activity if a note is presented to the Band Director prior to the day of the trip (home football games excluded). You will not be allowed to ride with anyone except your parent/guardian even with a note. The parent should **personally appear** to the director prior to the student's release at the event.

14. Please make your parents aware of your return time to the school, use cell phones to call for your ride at least 20 minutes out.

15. Stay on the bus until you are dismissed by the director, Drum Major, or chaperone.

16. Do not throw anything from the windows, yell out the windows, or put your hands or head out the windows. Upon arrival, close all windows.

### **Special Trips – Overnight etc.**

To be eligible to attend special trips, the following criteria must be met:

1. The student must be an active member of the band for the entire school year.
2. The student must have done his/her fair share of necessary fundraisers for the school year.
3. The student must have a good record of attendance, behavior, and dependability.
4. The student must be academically eligible.
5. The student must have no major behavioral incidents on previous trips.
6. Students that are ill or injured may not attend or travel with the band. This will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
7. Students that are removed from or drop band, have discipline problems with school, have family emergencies, etc. prior to a trip will not be reimbursed in any way for monies earned or deposited for the trip.
8. No student may enter the room of a member of the opposite sex under any circumstances. Boys are not allowed in girl's rooms and vice-versa. This is a serious



offense, and you will be sent home at your parent's expense.

9. Public displays of affection must not take place.

10. Members will not enter areas of the hotel that are off limits. Any private rooms other than your own are off limits. Pool/hot tub use is strictly prohibited.

11. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine coolers, wine and/or liquor) controlled or uncontrolled substances (drugs) are strictly prohibited. The possession or use of drugs is a criminal activity and will be treated as such. Any student found to have the odor of alcohol/drugs on his/her breath, or who is found using alcohol/drugs, or about whom it is reported and can be substantiated that he/she is under the influence of alcohol/drugs, or have alcohol/drugs in his/her possession will be disassociated from the trip at once and sent home at your parents' expense.

12. Smoking/vaping is not permitted at any time. Possession of tobacco or vaping devices will result in a school discipline referral.

13. Room Checks will be strictly enforced. You may not switch rooms at any time.

14. Telephones in rooms are not to be used unless serious illness or an emergency occurs.

15. Room doors are to be securely locked. NEVER open the door unless the person on the other side identifies themselves as recognized and an authorized member of our staff.

16. Members are not to fraternize with persons other than our own members. STAY AWAY FROM STRANGERS!

17. A group is quickly judged by how they look and what they say. Watch your language.

### **Trip Fees**

There will be additional costs for special trips that will need to be paid in full by the due date for a student to be eligible to travel.

## GCM High School Band

### Student & Parent Band Handbook Acknowledgement & Permission to Travel Form 2023-2024

*\*This form must be completed and turned in by Friday, September 1st or upon entering the band program. A digital copy of this form will be available on our website <https://gcmpatriotband.weebly.com/> & hard copies will be available upon request.\**

#### **Band Handbook Acknowledgement (Parent & Student)**

By signing this form, we acknowledge that we have read and agree to abide by policies set forth by the GCM High School Band Program as stated in the 2023-2024 GCM High School Band Handbook. We will do our part to help the band achieve the goals set forth by the band program. We also understand that band is a full year commitment and agree to commit to the GCM High School Band Program for entire 2023-2024 school year. We will support the program by doing our fair share of fundraising throughout the year.

#### **Picture and Video Permission (Parent & Student)**

By signing this form, we give permission for digital pictures, audio, and video recordings of my child/self to be posted on the GCM High School Band Website/social media platforms and to be released to community publications.

#### **Required Band Activities Permission & Permission to Travel (Parent)**

We give our child permission to participate in and travel to all required band activities for the 2023-2024 school year according to the GCM High School Band Calendar (please detach and retain) and at: <https://gcmpatriotband.weebly.com/>. We also understand that outside of the school day performances and rehearsals are **required** academic events that count as a grade for the enrolled fine arts course.

#### **Events Requiring Off Campus District Approved Transportation (Buses etc.)**

By signing this document, you are giving your child permission to travel for all required events listed on the band calendar via GCCISD approved transportation provided by the GCM Band.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name, First name (Please print clearly)

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

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## GCM Owned Band Instrument Contract

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Brand/Model \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Locker Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Supplied with the following accessories (circle each provided):

Case - Mouthpiece - Ligature - MP Cap - Lyre - Neck Strap - Bits - MP Adapter

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List any other supplies

provided: \_\_\_\_\_ Condition: \_\_\_\_\_

We acknowledge the receipt of the above instrument and accessories and agree to the following:

1. To be personally responsible for the safekeeping of this instrument and to return it to the school upon the request of the Director or Principal.
2. To maintain the instrument in good playing condition at all times, keep the instrument clean and polished, and have it repaired at our expense as deemed necessary and/or requested by the Director. The Director is the only individual that may authorize repairs. All repairs must be made by a repair technician authorized by the Director.
3. To pay the current replacement value in the event of loss or total damage. Note: instruments can be placed on homeowner or renter's policy or covered through independent coverage.
4. To have the instrument assessed at the end of the contract period and pay a fair assessment for all damage in excess of normal wear and tear.
5. To allow no unauthorized person to play, handle, or use this instrument without specific permission of the Director.
6. To encourage my child to use the instrument to the best of his/her ability for serious study including regular attendance at all organization rehearsals and performances, regular home practice and additional instruction and study when possible.

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

(Instruments checked out will appear in your Charms account)

Instrument Return Evaluation (Director Use Only)	
Instrument: _____	Serial Number _____
Date Returned: _____	Condition _____
Director's Signature: _____	