

Friday & Saturday Nov. 13/14
HOAGIE WEEKEND!!
ICES Cafe

Saturday, November 13/14
F-Ball Regional's
Time & Place TBA

Saturday, November 20/21
F-Ball Semi-Finals
Time & Place TBA

Saturday, November 27/28
F-Ball Finals
Time TBA – Ford Field

Wednesday, December 16
5-12 Holiday Concert
Report @ 6:30
Concert Uniform

Saturday, February 6
HS Solo & Ensemble
At Grayling High School
Dress Nicely

February 26/27
HS/MS Band Festival
@ Elk Rapids - Time TBA

March 5/6
HS/MS Band Festival
@ Elk Rapids - Time TBA

Saturday, March 27
HS State Solo & Ensemble
Site & Times TBA
Dress Nicely

SF BAND TRIP
DISNEY BOUND

Saturday, April 17
7th & 8th Solo & Ensemble
At Grayling
Dress Nicely

Thurs./Fri./Sat. - April 22/23/24
MS & HS State Band Festival
Site & Times TBA
Full Concert Uniform

Thurs./Fri./Sat. April 29, 30, May 1
MS & HS State Band Festival
Site & Times TBA
Full Concert Uniform

Tuesday, May 4
Festival of the Arts
Report @ TBA
Full Concert Uniform

Sunday, June 6
Graduation Ceremonies
Report @ 2:00
Full Concert Uniform

Some additional events will be scheduled as more information comes my way (pep band obligations, Pre-Festival Concerts, All-City Bands). I will do my best to give students and parents at least a three week notice.



Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools



Band Handbook 2009-2010



**GTACS Music Department
Performance Calendar
2009/2010**

**Thursday, September, 10
Day of Caring
Report @ 7:00
SF Performance Only**

**Friday, September 11
Football Game – SF vs. East Jordan
Report @ 6:00
Game @ 8:00
Full Uniform**

**Thursday, September 10
5th Grade Beginning Band Fittings &
Information Meeting
7:00 @ ICES**

**Friday, Oct. 2
Homecoming Parade
Report – TBA
Full Uniform**

**Saturday, Oct. 3
HOMECOMING
Football Game – SF vs. Kalkaska
Report @ 11:45
Game @ 1:00
Full Uniform**

**Monday, Oct. 5
Cadillac Marching Exposition (tentative)
Report @ TBA
Full Uniform**

**Monday, Oct 12
Thirlby Field Marching Exposition (tentative)
Report @ TBA
Full Uniform**

**Saturday, Oct. 17
Football Game— SF vs. Grayling
Report @ 5:45
Game @ 7:00
Full Uniform**

**Wednesday, October 28
6-8 Halloween Concert
Report @6:30
Concert @ 7:00 - SEAS Gym**

**Saturday, October 30/31
Round 1 of F-Ball Play-Offs
Event, Time & Place TBA**

**Saturday, November 6/7
Round 2 of F-Ball Play-Offs
Event, Time & Place TBA**



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2009/2010 Calendar



I. WELCOME

Welcome to the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools Band Department. This handbook is designed to explain in detail the workings and guidelines of the GTACS band department. It is my goal to insure positive and open communications between band students, families and the school. Please take some time to read this handbook. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or phone.

I am looking forward to a fantastic school year.

Thank You,

Mrs. Cress H. Smith
Director of Bands - GTACS
csmith@gtacs.org
1-231-929-7282



II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. BE CONSIDERATE - Please no talking or playing when the director is speaking. Everyone has the right to learn, therefore everyone must respect that right and create an environment that is conducive to learning.

B. BE ON TIME - Be in your seat and ready for rehearsal before the beginning of the class period. For rehearsals and performances outside of the school day, prepare to be at least ten minutes early.

*“You are not on time unless you are **10 minutes early**”*

C. BE ORGANIZED-Always look on the board for the daily schedule and announcements. Know when performances are and what the report times are.

D. BRING ALL MATERIALS TO CLASS - Make sure you have all your music at every rehearsal, including a pencil.

E. BE WILLING TO WORK - Music is an art that takes time, effort, and most of all, patience. It is important to know that the only way to improve is to put time in and practice. Perfection does not happen overnight, it happens after hours of effort.

F. USE YOUR TIME WISELY - When the director is working with another section of the band, use that time to check fingerings, rhythms, listen to how your part contributes to the piece. Don't waste time.

G. PUT YOUR EQUIPMENT AWAY - At the conclusion of every rehearsal and performance store all equipment in its proper area (music to folder rack, instruments to lockers, uniform turned in, etc.)

III. MAINTENANCE OF THE BAND ROOM.

Students in the band program need to take pride in their equipment and rehearsal facility. The following guidelines will be strictly enforced.

A. NO FOOD, DRINKS, OR GUM ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM
(unless a special event is scheduled by the director).

B. Disrespect of the band room or any band property will have direct reprimands by the director.

C. Leave the band room in the condition that you found it—neat, clean , and

IX. GTACS BAND INSTRUCTORS

Cress Smith, Director of GTACS Bands

e-mail: csmith@gtacs.org

office phone : 231-929-7282

Mike Nunn, Instructor, ICES

office phone: 231-947-1252

X. MUISC BOOSTERS

The Music Boosters are an integral part of the GTACS band program. They are responsible for purchasing new uniforms and instruments, paying the fees for band festivals, curriculum enhancement events and band trips. All the hard work and dedication of these parents is fundamental to the success of the GTACS bands.

The boosters raise funds through two major hoagie sales and other events throughout the school year. They are present at every band event assisting the director and students in any way.

Mission Statement

To assist the Music Director in all operations of the Band Department so the director can concentrate on giving direction to the program and attention to the music student. Which will allow the student to learn, to perform and to enjoy the complete musical experience of a great band program

VIII. PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Up to this point, every section has been dedicated to the student's responsibilities. Parents are one of the most important factors in a student's growth, since you have the most direct influence and contact with them. The following are some suggestions that may help you as parents to provide a helping hand for your young musician.

I. AT HOME

- A. Encourage him / her to practice. At least 15-20 minutes a day will have large dividends in your child's playing.
- B. Provide a comfortable place to practice without distractions.
- C. Make sure your child's instrument is in proper playing condition.
- D. Help your child to be prompt for rehearsals, performances, and lessons.
- E. Encourage your child to play for you and other people.
- F. Listen to your student practice. Be encouraging.
- G. Go to outside concerts, musical events, buy professional recordings, CD's, or tapes for your student to use as a model.
- H. Attend your child's band concerts.
- I. Make sure that your child has all uniform parts and that the uniform fits and is presentable for a performance.

II. AT SCHOOL

- A. Know all of your son / daughter's musical activities and make a point to attend as many as possible. A calendar of band events is included in this handbook. Any changes to the band calendar will be given to families and students with as much notice as possible. Modifications to the calendar will be communicated through a note home or e-mail.
- B. Notify the director in advance (3 weeks for pre-excused or prior to the performance by phone for emergencies excused absences) when your child will be absent from any band activities.
- C. Please do not hesitate call or e-mail if you have questions or concerns.

IV. MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

A. INSTRUMENTS

It is the policy to ask students who play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet/cornet, trombone and 7th grade percussionists to provide their own instruments. This can be done by renting, borrowing or purchasing. The school can provide instruments whenever possible for those who play the oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, euphonium, baritone sax, French horn and tuba. The school will also provide some mallets and sticks to percussionists.

The school will only pay for repairs on school instruments or equipment which occurs through **NORMAL** use and wear. You are responsible for any unnecessary blatant damage to your instrument or equipment.

B. MUSIC

Students will be assigned music and folders. ALL music must be present at every rehearsal. The music stays in the music folders. DO NOT fold music to carry in your instrument case. Unless your case has a folder slot, do not store your folder in the case. Storing a folder in a case without a music slot causes damage to the folder as well as the instrument.

Students are encouraged to purchase the following books at one of the local music stores.

5th Grade: Standard of Excellence, Book I (red cover)

6th Grade: Standard of Excellence, Book I (red cover)

7th Grade: Standard of Excellence, Book II (blue cover)

8th Grade: Standard of Excellence Book III (green cover)

C. UNIFORMS

The school provides the major pieces of the High School uniform. High School students must purchase their own pair of black shoes for marching and concert season from our approved vendors. You will be required to wear **black socks** for performances. Failure to wear black socks at a performance will result in a 100 point deduction from performance points.

The MS Band members (5th, 6th, 7th & 8th) are expected to wear black pants, socks and shoes with a white collared dress shirt (no tee shirts please) to performances. If you have difficulty attaining these items, do not hesitate to contact the director.

It is the students responsibility to care for and maintain all uniform parts and pieces.

D. REPAIRS AND SUPPLIES

There are several local music stores that stock band instruments and accessories. The school will have some items on hand for students to purchase, however I encourage you to take advantage of the better selection and price that can be obtained at the retail shops. Students should feel comfortable asking for advice on what to buy.

V. REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

The band class is unique in that there are a large number of individuals working together off the same material all at once. In order to create a productive learning environment, you are asked to do the following:

- A. At the start of class, be in the rehearsal area and ready to go with instrument, music and a pencil.
- B. Check the board for the rehearsal schedule and put your music into order.
- C. When the director steps up in front of the band, all playing and talking should stop immediately. Your full attention is expected to be given to the conductor.
- D. NO unnecessary talking or playing out of turn during rehearsal. If you have a question, be polite and raise your hand.
- E. Students WILL NOT be allowed to do other school work or reading during band rehearsal. If such materials are confiscated, they will not be returned.

VI. PERFORMANCES

Performances are the final product of many weeks and sometimes months of preparation. The quality of the band's performance is dependent upon everyone's participation. Therefore, performances are **REQUIRED** activities. Students, parents, and faculty are notified weeks in advance to all band events. Please do your best to plan family events around the required band events. In the event that a conflict is unavoidable, please look to the performance attendance policy below.

Excused Absences - are for last minute family emergencies or severe personal illness ONLY. As a courtesy to the rest of the band, **call prior to the start of a performance**. Mrs. Smith has voice mail at the school which can be accessed 24 hours a day - 1-231-929-7282. A parent or guardian needs to call and leave a message **PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE** and a follow up note is required the following day of school. If the director receives a phone call and a follow up note, no performance points will be lost. If the director does not receive a call and note, performance points will be lost.

Pre-Excused Absences—are for those unavoidable family circumstances (family reunions, vacations, 4-H fairs, etc.). A parent or guardian must let the director know of a performance conflict **3 WEEKS IN ADVANCE IN WRITING**. If an excuse is received within three weeks prior to the performance, no performance points will be lost.

VII. GRADING

Students grades are based on the assessment in three areas:

Daily Participation (40%)

Students are graded daily on the following:
Attentiveness, work ethic, prepared with all materials, following classroom guidelines and actively participating in class. Lack of necessary materials or lack of involvement will result in loss of participation points for that day.

Performance Participation (40%)

Grading is based on participation in marching band events, concert band events and pep band performances. Timeliness to rehearsals and performances, attendance at dress rehearsals and appropriate behavior on/off stage are also considered in your over-all grade. A unexcused absence from a performance will result in total loss of assigned points.

Written/Playing Tests (20%)

Written work will include homework assignments and basic music foundation assignments (rhythms, note names, vocabulary, etc.).
Playing tests will be over material in the folders, text book assigned excerpts (primarily 6th, 7th & 8th) and scales.