

Heritage High School Band Handbook 2009 - 2010



Grand Champions

**Georgia Marble Invitational
2005**

**Peach State Marching Festival
2005**

**Warrior Invitational Marching Festival
2006**

**Golden River Marching Competition
2007**

**Lake Lanier Tournament of Bands
2008**

A Celebrated Past...

A Magnificent Present...

A Spectacular Future...

Scott Smith, Director of Bands
Amy Cartledge, Assistant Director of Bands
Greg Fowler, Principal

A Letter from the Directors

Congratulations--you have become a part of the finest organization on the high school campus....the Heritage Band Program! The Heritage Band Program has a long-standing tradition of excellence. Our students develop a tremendous work ethic in order to carry on that tradition with each new band year. The Heritage Band Program continues to move in new directions in music-making. We look back on the past with awe and respect, and we reach for the future with new goals and determination.

The Heritage Marching Band has demonstrated excellence in performance both on and off the marching field since its inception. With a tradition rich in successful performances such as the Orange Bowl Parade in Miami, the Statue of Liberty, United Nations, and the South Street Seaport in New York City, Orlando Theme Park Appearances, and many other parades and performances locally, and many "Grand Champion" titles at local and regional competitions, the Heritage Marching Band has been repeatedly recognized for a high level of performance. At the end of each summer and throughout the fall, we focus on developing a new and exciting field show production that will entertain marching band fans like never before!

As usual, our student's greatest musical growth and experiences come from the core of our program--the concert and symphonic bands. The program has a long tradition of great music-making. Our Concert and Symphonic Bands consistently score superior and excellent ratings at the GMEA District Band Festivals. We believe in teaching our students to play well, to develop listening skills and sensitivity, and most importantly, to develop a love for music.

Other terrific experiences for Heritage Band Students include participation in our Jazz Band, private lesson program, middle school mentoring program, various chamber ensembles, and our award-winning flag & dance program. Our student leadership program offers opportunities for students to develop skills in organization as well as interpersonal skills. There is a place for every type of student in the band program.

The Heritage Band Program is large and varied, and the program certainly offers something for anyone interested in music. We want our students to succeed, and we know they can only do that when they are pushing themselves to new limits of experiences and expectations. Heritage Band Students grow musically, socially, and emotionally.

The Heritage Band Program achieves success year after year because of the many people who contribute to the effort. Our students, parents, and staff work together to create the magic that has become the Heritage Band. We have built a strong foundation to stand:

PITPIE

Pain is temporary.....Pride is everlasting

PRIDE

*Proficiency, Reliability, Integrity, Discipline, Excellence
The Tradition Continues.....*

Awards and Honors

Superior Ratings at every Marching Contest since it's inception in 1976.

GMEA In-Service Convention - Jekyll Island
Tri-State Festival - Florida State University
Band Clinic and Conductors Symposium - Univ. Of South Carolina
MusicFest - Nassau, Bahamas - Grand Champions
Lincoln Center Performance - New York City
Washington Monument Pavilion - Washington, D.C.
Southern Division MENC Performance - Savannah
High School Music Festival - University of Georgia
Statue of Liberty Performance - New York City
United Nations Performance - New York City
Atlanta Falcon's halftime shows in Atlanta-Fulton Co. Stadium and The Georgia Dome.
Disney's MGM Studios Performances
Super Bowl Performances at the "World of Coca-Cola" in Atlanta.
Universal Studios Parade
Disney Magic Kingdom Parade - Disney Recording Session w/ Disney Conductor - 2003
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Christmas Parade
Universal Studios Parade & Nassau Cruise - 2006
1980 Atlanta Classic Marching Competition Grand Champions
1980 Greater Atlanta Marching Festival Grand Champions
1981 Georgia Tournament of Bands - Austell Grand Champions
1984 Atlantic States Marching Competition 1st Place Band
1984 Atlanta Classic Marching Competition Grand Champions
1987 Governors Proclamation - Heritage Band Ambassadors of Good Will Proclamation
1987 King Orange Jamboree - Orange Bowl Parade - Orlando, FL Invitational Performance
1990 LaFayette Classic Marching Competition Sweepstakes Award
1993 Fountain City Marching Festival Grand Champions
1993 Fountain City Marching Festival 1st Place - Class AAAA
1994 MusicFest Orlando Musical Showcase Best Parade and Concert
1994 MusicFest Orlando Musical Showcase 1st Place - Class AAA
1994 Walt Disney World Band Competition Grand Champions
1994 MusicFest Orlando Musical Showcase 1st Place - Parade
1996 Superbowl of Sound Marching Festival Grand Champions
1996 Invitational Tournament of Bands Sweepstakes Award
1997 Golden River Marching Festival Best Overall Band
1998 Superbowl of Sound Marching Festival Grand Champions
2000 Mount Vernon Mills Marching Competition Sweepstakes Award
2000 Bronco Classic Band Competition Sweepstakes Award
2001 Greater Atlanta Marching Festival Grand Champions
2001 Mount Vernon Mills Marching Competition Sweepstakes Award
2002 Mount Vernon Mills Marching Competition Grand Champions
2003 Georgia Invitation Band Championships Grand Champions
2004 Georgia Marble Invitational Grand Champions
2005 Georgia Marble Invitational Grand Champions
2005 Peach State Marching Festival Grand Champions
2006 Warrior Invitational Marching Festival Grand Champions
2007 Golden River Marching Competition Grand Champions
2008 Lake Lanier Tournament of Bands Grand Champions

Heritage Band Booster Association

PURPOSE OF THE BOOSTER ASSOCIATION

The Heritage Band Booster Club, Inc. (HBBC), or known to many as the “Heritage Band Boosters” or “Booster Club” is the support structure for the Heritage Band Program. The name “club” is not synonymous with its duty to the Heritage Band, it’s much more than a club. It is the vital support mechanism that allows the band to function to its full potential. Everyone who has a student in the program is automatically a member. Through the HBBC you can support your child throughout his or her time in high school. We have found that a parent working with the HBBC is a great way to be involved with you child’s high school career.

The HBBC performs many of the administrative and logistical functions of the band to leave the directors free to do what they do best - TEACH. When the directors don’t have to worry about who has or doesn’t have a uniform or how to get 150 people to the next competition, they can focus on the task at hand. To assist the directors and students, the HBBC must rely on the parent volunteers to raise funds, move equipment, coordinate meals, and a multitude of other jobs. A band program of this size and caliber must have support from parents. As your child begins his or her high school involvement with the Heritage Band, you will find that you will interact continually with the HBBC. Each interaction is an opportunity for you to see what there is to do and get involved.

You will find many opportunities to be a part of the Heritage Band program through the HBBC. If you are unsure what you would like to do, try something. Just because you helped in one area doesn’t mean you can’t help elsewhere next time. With all the things the HBBC does, a place can be found that fits you. If after looking over this information you still are not sure what you would like to do, speak with any of the HBBC board members. It has been said, “If you want to get something done, ask a busy person.” We have a lot of busy people in the Heritage Band Booster Organization. As a parent and a HBBC volunteer, you will share in your child’s pride and accomplishments, something that is difficult to find in any other high school activity. **The personal rewards are MANY!!!!**

This IS a way for you to make a difference with the Heritage Band program. Some parents are in the fortunate position to be able to give many hours to the organization, while others are limited to assisting only occasionally. Regardless of the time you are able or willing to share, your involvement will be positive, productive, fun, and will benefit an outstanding group of young adults. The Heritage Band Booster Organization is acclaimed for its model of excellence in the community and throughout Georgia. Be part of it, and share this extraordinary experience with your student. If you have any questions, please call Co-Presidents Jeannine Goggans (770) 313-5863 or Priscilla Scales (678) 438-1561.

Attendance

Marching Attendance

Conscientious rehearsal attendance is always vital to the well-being of any band program. As we put drill on the field and work to develop our competitive field show, it is essential that all band members are present for the entirety of all rehearsals. Regular attendance at rehearsals will ensure a permanent position in the marching band in good standing. Students **MUST** attend all marching band performances including, but not limited to, all football games and Saturday band contests.

Concert Attendance

After our marching season has concluded, we will begin one of the most important parts of the band learning process, Concert Season. Attendance policies mirror that of marching band with a few differences. There are very few practices after school during Concert season, but all sectional rehearsals and full band rehearsals after school are mandatory. All after-school practices are direct extensions of the school day band classes and are considered an integral instructional component of the band class where the student attends. Students **MUST** attend all concert performances. Because band is a co-curricular activity, students will be given a grade for rehearsals and performances. More more information, see the grading section of this publication.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. Attendance is mandatory.

2. Excused absences are:

- a) Illness (absence from school)
- b) Death in family
- c) An important religious observance
- d) Potentially some other circumstances - *Approved in advance - The Directors will determine each circumstance on a case by case basis.

Personal conflicts such as jobs, homework, school clubs, shopping trips, etc. are not excused.

In the event of a student wishing to receive an excused absence (for a valid reason-determined by the directors), the student must submit the request in writing, signed by the parent or guardian, to the director at least 24 hours in advance of the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. **Unexcused absences will suspend a student from the marching band. Certain situations may be grounds for band expulsion at the director's discretion.**

Illness- In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, the student is asked to call the band director (770-860-1712) to inform him of the absence. Additionally the student is required to bring a parent note to the director on the day of his or her return to school. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. This works in the same way that a student is marked as excused from a school day absence.

Band Fee Structure

The Heritage Band Boosters, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that supports our band organization in many ways. Our annual budget is raised mainly through band fees and fund-raising activities. The following is a current schedule of our fees for the upcoming school term.

Band fees are divided into four parts:

1) \$320.00 payment that includes the following:

- 1) Band Camp -housing, all meals, camp instruction, and use of camp facilities.
- 2) Custom marching show including music and drill
- 3) Band Uniform rental/cleaning fee
- 4) Flag Costume
- 5) Band T-shirt
- 6) Gloves
- 7) Booster Club membership/mailings / newsletters
- 8) Booster Club membership
- 9) Additional Instructional Staff
- 10) Band Equipment
- 11) Flag Equipment
- 12) Scholarships
- 13) Festival/Contest Fees
- 14) Music

*** There is a \$140.00 discount for families with two children in the marching band. (I.e. if you have 2 children in band, your band fees would be \$500 for both.)**

Band fees for non-marching students: \$95.00

This fee includes everything above except marching band items

2) Rock-a-thon

3) Fruit Sale

4) Spring Fundraiser (TBA)

Students have the option of paying a fundraising fee for one or all of the above fundraisers. *Rock-a-thon - \$100, Fruit - \$85, Spring - \$50. This option was presented for those families that do not wish to participate in the sale of goods to others.*

Band Shoes - \$34.00

All students will need to purchase a pair of black band shoes for wearing with the marching uniform. An order form will be included in the Summer band newsletter. This is a one time purchase and these shoes should last all four years of marching.

PUPIL EXPENDITURES

A great experience comes at a price. We do not sacrifice quality for the sake of money nor do we get “too extravagant” with our endeavors. The Heritage Band is a fiscally responsible group that has a proven track record of over 30 years of positive and secure financial management without incident. Below you will find an approximate breakdown of the figures of per pupil expenditures for each student of the Heritage Band. You will find that in comparison to the overall per pupil expenditures, the required parent portion is quite modest.

The per pupil cost to be in the Heritage Band program is approximately \$1,025.75 (this does not include band trips). The amount that is subsidized through the county funds is approximately \$62.50 per pupil. This leaves an outstanding balance of \$963.25 per pupil that is not covered. The current annual band fees for the HHS Band are \$320.00. **The remaining balance of \$643.25 PER STUDENT must be fulfilled through other means**, with a majority of this coming from band fund-raising events. This underscores the need for parental assistance in our concession stands and full student participation in our Rock-A-Thon, Fruit Sale, and Spring Fund Raiser.

Earlier, we have discussed the various fund-raisers that the band sponsors. It is no secret that a specific budget must be met in order to maintain a band program of this caliber and size. It is up to each family to weigh the costs and benefits of being in the band. The financial commitment is small, compared with the chance to learn a lifelong skill and a love for music. Students receive a music education, a lifelong skill to play an instrument, and an experience that will be with them forever. There are few organizations that can offer these benefits to students and parents alike. We believe that we, The Heritage Band, are one of those organizations.

Student Accounts

PURPOSE

The purpose and intent of Student Accounts shall be to assist the individual band student with specific expenses related to his participation in the Heritage Band.

ELIGIBILITY

I. All band students are eligible to earn credit toward specific expenses by using their Student Account.

II. This credit is not payable in cash, but may be applied to one or more of the following Band related fees:

1. Band Trip Fees
2. Band Participation Fees
3. Purchase or replacement of uniform and/or uniform accessories for which the student is responsible. (Not including gloves or other small items).

III. Any money remaining in a student's account upon successful completion of the band program, and upon graduation, will receive a check for the remaining funds in the student's account.

IV. Students have the option, upon graduation, of transferring their student account balance to a younger sibling in the band program. This can be a rising 9th grader or a current band member that will continue band the following year.

V. A students' voluntary or involuntary termination from the Heritage Band will forfeit all rights to their Student Account, and the balance will be transferred to the General Fund.

HHS Pit Crew

Our band program could not function without the help of our fine parents and booster organization. If an award was given for most helpful, our parents would win.....no competition! Throughout marching season our band moves many pieces of equipment....podiums to pit trains and somehow they manage to load and unload an “18-wheeler” and have the equipment ready for every halftime performance and every contest. Who are these people? Where do they come from? They’re the Heritage High School Band Pit Crew. A small group of dedicated, determined, and dependable men and women that take on the important task of equipment transport and setup. There is always one person to ‘lead’ the group.....and that person holds the distinguished title of “The Pit Boss.” The Pit Boss has the ultimate last word in the pit.....what he/she says is what goes! How do you become a part of this organization.....just ask a Booster Club Executive Board member. A separate publication will list all of the executive board members that you can contact in order to get involved. We look forward to seeing you on the pit crew next year!

Concession Stand Workers

The Heritage High School Band Booster Club operates the Home and Visitors concession stands at all home football games. All band parents are needed to work 1 football game during the course of each school year. (This includes all 4 quarters of the game) A list of assignments will be distributed in the band newsletter. *Please realize we need your help and be present for your shift. If you are unable to work, please be responsible and find another parent to take your shift.* Your help with this is vital to our band program.

Band Travel

The Heritage Band travels to all away football games, contests, the spring trip, as well as other events. All band and school rules apply when we travel. All students must ride the bus to and from band events. There are no exceptions to this when traveling to an event. If a student needs to leave a game or contest with a parent and will not ride the bus home, they must bring a signed note prior to departure. (This is only acceptable at the end of an event, students will not be allowed to leave early unless there is an emergency) These students must ride bus 1 and must check out with a chaperone or director before they leave. All students must be accounted for before we can depart, this is for the safety of all students. Chaperones will be on each bus when we travel, and students must respect their authority. For the spring trip, students will receive a separate set of rules and guidelines.

Marching Band Discipline

All school rules are in effect at all marching band activities. This includes rehearsals, performances, travel, and camp. In order to maintain good standing in the marching band, students must follow the attendance policy, be respectful to directors, staff, student leaders, and all student members. Students are expected to give their best effort at all times. If any problem arises, they are expected to refer the problem to the appropriate student leader or adult. If any of these expectations are not met, the result could be detention, suspension, or expulsion from the marching band.

Class Expectations

1) All students are to be in the band room when the tardy bell rings. If you have a distance to travel, we suggest taking a route outside the school building. Tardies will be assigned detention with the band directors.

2) You will have five (5) minutes from the time the tardy bell rings to get all materials together, be in your seat, AND warm-up properly. Your personal procedure for preparation for class should closely match this one.

- a) Be in room when the tardy bell rings and get folder from the cabinet.
- b) Put your book bags on the back cabinet.
- c) Remove your instrument from case (large instruments). Small instrument cases may be stored under your seat during class.
- d) If the chairs or stands in your section are not placed correctly or if there are chairs or stands missing from your section, take time to get your section in order so we will not waste rehearsal time working on physical arrangement of chairs.
- e) Have a pencil and tuner on your stand with music/ warm-up method(s) ready for class.
- f) Brass players should own mutes (straight and cup) and use those when required in performance.
- g) Begin a warm-up. (SEE DAILY WARM-UP TIPS in Band Handbook).

3) All band members should warm-up (including percussionists on mallets). A good warm-up routine consists of:

BRASS: Mouthpiece buzzing, long tones in the middle register, lip slurs, and scale practice.

WW: Long tones in middle register, octave/register change exercises, lyrical exercises, and scale practice.

PERC: All percussionists need to warm-up on mallet instruments during regular class time. Scales are a proper method of warm-up.

4) Check board for rehearsal order and have music ready. Do not wait for the director to call up a song. Have music ready in advance.

5) Keep your attention focused to the front of the room. When the director steps on the podium all talking and playing should stop immediately and all attention focused on the conductor. Absolutely no one should be out of their seat or talking at this time. This procedure should always be accomplished by a visual cue and the conductor should never ask the band to be quiet at the beginning of class. There is absolutely no talking during band rehearsals.

6) If you have a question during class, raise your hand. You will be recognized at the proper time.

7) Never get up from your seat without permission.

8) The music library is off-limits to everyone except band librarians or officers. Music needs should be requested to a librarian. Students will pay a fee for lost music.

9) Only directors, librarians and officers are authorized to use the copier (for band business only). No copies of class notes, etc. will be allowed. Unauthorized copier use by anyone will result in disciplinary action. There is a copier for student use in the media center.

10) The percussion room is for percussion storage and the flag room for flag storage. Only members of those groups are authorized to enter those rooms. There will be no loitering in those rooms.

11) The band office telephone is for business purposes. Do not ask to use the phone during school. Remember to inform your parents of band practice start times and end times. Also, be sure they are aware of band inspection times and arrival times from ball games to avoid the need for calling your parents when we arrive back at Heritage.

12) All instruments are either owned by students or property of the Rockdale County School System. Under no circumstances is any student to handle any instrument that does not belong to them (or checked out to them). If a student forgets to bring their instrument to school, notify the band director prior to the beginning of the class. If you use another person's instrument without permission, you are in violation of County Policy and subject to ISS or suspension. Be sure you bring your instrument each day.

13) Food and Beverages are not allowed in the band room.

14) Gum is not permitted in the band room, especially while playing your instrument. This is harmful to your instrument and also poses a choking hazard. Gum chewing will not be tolerated and is grounds for disciplinary action.

15) At the end of class, put ALL FOLDERS AWAY PROPERLY, put instruments away AND CLOSE CASES completely, and pick up any trash you may have left in your area of the band room.

Grading Policies

Evaluation is an important part of the band curriculum. Grades are given at the end of each semester as with all classes taken at Heritage. Band grades will be based on the following 4 categories.

I. PERFORMANCES 30% - Each performance counts as a major test grade. Unexcused absences are not permissible. In the event of an excused absence, an alternate assignment will be given. To "skip" a performance is grounds for expulsion from the band program. This will be determined at the director's discretion after parental involvement. This includes all marching and concert performances.

II. PRACTICE CHARTS 25% - Each student will submit a weekly record of all home practice. Parents are encouraged to spot check students for home practice. Students should be practicing AT LEAST every other day for no less than 30 minutes. A total of at least 90 minutes per week is expected. **Parents PLEASE encourage your child to do this.** All practice charts will be turned in with a parent signature to the band office. Exact requirements may vary and will be explained in class.

III. CLASS PARTICIPATION 20% - Students are expected to practice music, scales, and other items listed in the "how to" sections of this handbook. Students must bring pencils, music, instruments, and accessories to class. Students will be given a

participation grade each band class.

IV. TESTS 25% - Students will be assessed at regular intervals to evaluate their progress. Students **MUST** practice in order to achieve an optimum score on their evaluations. Tests will be based on scales, etudes, and class music.

Extra Credit - Students that take PRIVATE LESSONS!, participate in District Honor Band, All-State Band, Solo & Ensemble, and other educational clinics, activities, or performance in other groups will receive extra credit on their final band grade for the semester.

Required Percussion Accessories

As a percussionist, you are required to play a variety of instruments. Any given song will have between two and twelve percussion parts. In order to play these parts correctly, you must have a variety of sticks, mallets, and accessories. Since each percussionist at Heritage is expected to learn ALL of the instruments, it is important that you own the proper tools. All percussionists are required to own sticks and mallets. Failure to do so will result in loss of points on your grade or placement in a different class.

While some of you might consider this equipment as expensive or unnecessary, others will see the value of being a well-rounded player. If the cost seems high, consider that a saxophone sells for \$1,500.00, a trumpet \$800.00 and a flute \$1,500!!!

Heritage percussionists need to own the following:

1. A pair of general snare sticks (Vic Firth SD1 General)
2. A pair of general timpani mallets (Vic Firth TI or equivalent)
3. A pair of hard plastic xylophone mallets (Musser M28 or similar)
4. A pair of rubber xylophone mallets (Musser M3 or M4 or similar)
5. A pair of yarn Marimba mallets (Musser M8 or softer)
6. A pitch pipe for timpani tuning (optional)
7. A stick bag for carrying your equipment

This entire list will come to around \$150.00, and will enable you to play any music without depending on others or the school to provide sticks/mallets. As you advance, you may want to purchase additional sticks and mallets for more specific applications. Be prepared! You are a critical section in our band program!

School-Owned Property

Instruments

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of that instrument or piece of equipment. Lost or damaged items shall be repaired or replaced at the student's expense. A **\$25.00** per person rental fee will be assessed at the time of rental. This is a nonrefundable fee to cover the cost of end-of-year instrument maintenance and replacement costs for school instruments. Students that play 2 instruments will only be charged one fee for the

use of both instruments (*i.e. Tuba /Sousaphone*). Students must return any instruments at the director's request.

Music

Each student must maintain music in good condition (clean and unturned). Music that is lost or returned in poor condition will be replaced at the student's expense. See Band Librarians for any problems concerning music.

Music Stands

Music stands are fragile pieces of equipment. Great care must be taken when using stands during class. Students should not lean on stands or use stands for a table. The base and legs bend easily.

Daily Warm-up Tips & Techniques

A. WARM-UP

This part of your daily playing is the most important part, therefore, use it with great care.

1. Don't play high
2. Don't play low
3. Don't play loud
4. Don't play soft

Play in your middle register, mezzo-forte, and gradually extend the register and dynamics as your lips and embouchure begin to respond with agility and flexibility.

B. LONG TONES

1. You should begin each warm up with long tones.
2. Brass play lip slur patterns in whole notes
3. Woodwinds play scale patterns in whole notes.
4. This improves tone, breathing, and control. It gets ready for everything else you will do in class.

C. TECHNIQUES

Strive to master all phases of your instrument, not just one part or the part that you already do best. Work for progress and results.

The "Big 4 DO'S" for focus during a practice session:

1. DO work to increase breathing capacity and support
2. DO work to develop embouchure strength and flexibility
3. DO work to increase strength and speed of fingers
4. DO work to develop tonguing abilities

Each day attempt to strengthen your breathing technique and gain better control, attempt to strengthen your lip muscles to gain endurance in your playing (long tones are good), attempt to strengthen your finger muscles for better dexterity and control (a good metronome is a must), attempt to strengthen your tonguing muscles to gain control, evenness, and speed (in this order-*never speed first*).

D. OTHER PHASES (TO BE COVERED AS NEEDED)

1. Range (brasses especially)

2. Altissimo exercises (clarinets)
3. Scales/Arpeggios
4. Intervals
5. Lip Slurs (brasses)
6. Chords (broken arpeggios)
7. Flexibility exercises
8. Sight-reading skills
9. Tonguing - Double/Triple (Flutes, Brass)
10. Literature

Remember...our progress as a group will only be as rapid as your progress as an individual. The better you play, the better WE play. The practice routine may seem boring, and it is very hard to make yourself play every day, but the benefits will be very apparent when we get back together.

Suggested plan of study:

1. Pick a set time each day (or every other day)
2. Have a set place to practice.
3. Spend a few minutes on tone.
4. Play scales at every practice session.
5. Take a break after 15 minutes.
6. Work on technique (tonguing, slurs, intervals, etc.)
7. Practice sight-reading.
8. Remember to work on MUSICIANSHIP (be aware of the details).
9. Work to increase your dynamic range (practice soft)
10. Work to increase your endurance (30 - 45 minutes continually)

Work to increase your range (scales to your top note, then hold the note 8 - 16 counts). When that note becomes easy and sounds good, add a half-step to the top. Be patient... this takes time. You may increase one note in two weeks or you may increase several notes over the summer. Set specific goals for yourself. Be realistic. Start with: "I will practice ___ minutes every day."

Private Lessons....The Backbone of a Successful Program

We have recently begun a private lesson program where teachers on each instrument will come to school to give lessons. These teachers will come 1 day a week and offer 30 minute lessons for a reasonable price. This program will start as soon as marching season ends and will continue through the end of the year. Signups for the private lesson program will take place during 1st semester.

If you would like to take private lessons on your own, you may contact a private instructor in the area and arrange a time to meet with them individually. Most private teachers either work out of their home or a music store. A list of instructors for each instrument is available through the band office or through the band website.

Why Private Lessons?

When you think about it, band students receive very little independent instruction during school. Band classes in almost every case are quite large and time is limited so the opportunities for one-on-one interaction between student and teacher are minimal. Private study on one's instrument offers an opportunity to explore new ideas and learn new concepts unique to their specific instrument. Private instructors are professional instrumentalists and range from high school students to symphony musicians. These instructors meet at least once per week on an independent basis with the student. The instructor will model characteristic tone, embouchure, posture, and technique, and in turn, the student will perform the assigned literature for the instructor for critique. Private lessons will open a new world for the dedicated instrumentalist. Students wishing to try out for all state or district band or simply improve their chair or class placement should strongly consider lessons.

Band Instrument Quality...There is a difference!

Just as participants in any other specialized activity move to better equipment to improve their performance, musicians are constantly striving to find mouthpieces, reeds, and instruments which enable them to progress toward their full potential. For many students, the first two years of high school is the time to consider investing in a better quality instrument. The beginner model that you started on in 6th grade was fine then, but you have undoubtedly outgrown the limitations imposed by your mass-produced student-line instrument and mouthpiece.

It is an undeniable fact that you will never be able to perform any better than the quality of the equipment you use. Top-notch musicians do not play the instrument that they started on. The more advanced models of instruments do cost more, of course, but it is a worthwhile investment.

If the cost of a professional level instrument is too costly for you and your family, at least invest a few dollars in a better mouthpiece and/or reed. What you used in sixth grade is simply too generic for you now.

ADVANTAGES OF STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS

**** Differences between beginner and step-up instruments ****

- **Bigger Sound**
 - Beginner instruments have small bores that give shallow, small sounds.
 - Better instruments have larger bores for bigger, fuller sounds.
- **Better Intonation**
 - Beginning instruments aren't perfectly in tune — doesn't matter at first.
 - Better quality instruments are made with greater precision.
- **Tone Quality**
 - Beginner instruments are made of less expensive materials.
 - Better quality instruments are made of materials that give the best tone.
 - (Plastic clarinets/wood clarinets, nickel flutes/silver flutes, etc.)
- **Features**
 - Beginner instruments don't have extra features.
 - Better quality instruments have features that help the player play better in tune, faster, with more control, and with extended range.
 - (Triggers on trumpets, open hole flutes, extra keys on saxophones, etc.)
- **Benefits of better instruments to the player**
 - Better intonation
 - Improved tone quality
 - Larger sound
 - Better control of sound
 - Extended range
 - Renewed excitement for student
- **Benefits of better instruments to the band**
 - Sound blends better
 - Instruments are in tune with each other
 - Band gets a bigger and fuller sound
 - Students practice more

Suggested Practice Method Books

Suggested Method Books for Individual Practice

FLUTE

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
Selected Studies for Flute - Voxman
Altes Method
Art & Practice of Modern Flute Technique - Kincaid
Eck Method / Practical Studies Tone Development

CLARINET

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
Klose Celebrated Method for Clarinet
Rose: 40 Studies for Clarinet, Book I
Melodious and Progressive Studies - Hite

SAXOPHONE

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
Universal Method for Saxophone - DeVille
Selected Studies for Saxophone - Voxman
Gatti: 35 Melodious and Technical Exercises

OBOE

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
Andraud Practical and Progressive Method
Barrett Oboe Method

BASSOON

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
Weissenborn Practical Method for Bassoon

TRUMPET

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
Arban Complete Conservatory Method
Schlossberg Daily Drills and
Technical Studies

FRENCH HORN

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
Kopprasch 60 Selected Studies (Vols. I and 11)
Pottag Method for French Horn
Practical Studies - Getchell

TROMBONE

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
Arban Famous Method
Rochut Melodious Etudes Book I
Schlossberg Daily Drills and
Technical Studies
Clarke Method for Trombone

BARITONE (Treble)

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
* See Trumpet Method Books

BARITONE (Bass)

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method
*See Trombone Method Books

TUBA

Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method

SNARE DRUM

International Drum Rudiments - Wannamaker/Carson
Rubank Intermediate Method
Rubank Advanced Method

MALLET PERCUSSION

Rubank Intermediate Method for Marimba

How Parents Can Help

AT HOME

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child
2. Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
3. Find a quiet place where he can practice without interruption.
4. Help him with his practice as much as possible by counting, studying music texts, etc.
5. Help the student keep a daily record of his practicing.
6. Give him a safe place to keep his instrument.
7. Keep the instrument in good repair with reeds, etc. in the case. Each student needs his own metronome.
8. Be very careful with school owned instruments. The cost of repairs is very high.
9. Teach your child to be prepared and on time for each rehearsal and lesson.
10. Even though private study is not required, it is strongly recommended as an extension of the classroom.
11. Make faithful attendance at all activities important to you.
12. Encourage your child to play for others when the opportunity arises; in the home, at school, at church, and in the community.

AT SCHOOL

1. Keep a record of the students various musical activities.
2. Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent or tardy at lessons, rehearsals, etc., and explain why.
3. See that he takes his instrument and music to school.
4. Teach him to be punctual at lessons and rehearsals.
5. See that your child keeps up with classroom studies and makes up work he missed.
6. Visit rehearsals and lessons occasionally.
7. Discuss with your music teachers anything that will help them to understand your child.
8. Attend concerts and other performances whenever possible.
9. *Attend Band Booster meetings whenever possible.*
10. *Volunteer for parent committees.*

Band Student Awards / Senior Awards

Most Outstanding Percussionist

This award is presented to an individual that has displayed the characteristics of determination, leadership, superior musicianship, and professionalism. This award is determined by a ballot voting procedure with current percussionists eligible to vote.

David Hudson Jazz Award

Mr. David Hudson is a prolific educator and renowned jazz performer. He was performing jazz at an early age and began a career with solo & big band performances nationally. We had the distinct honor of having Mr. Hudson as the band director of our feeder middle school until his retirement some time ago. During his tenure at Edwards Middle School, Mr. Hudson directed the Heritage Jazz Band and brought an energy and excitement to the sound of the ensemble. This award goes to an outstanding jazz musician that mirrors the characteristics that Mr. Hudson offered to our band program.

Most Outstanding Flag/Dance Member

This award is presented to an individual that has displayed the characteristics of determination, superior dance and equipment skills, and professionalism. This award is determined by a ballot voting procedure with current flag/dance members eligible to vote.

Flag and Dance Leadership Award

This award is presented to an individual that shows great leadership with the flag & dance line. This student leads by example and has the respect of the group. This award is determined by a ballot voting procedure with current flag/dance members eligible to vote.

W. Keith Thomas Award

Keith Thomas served as Band Captain of the Heritage Band during the 1993-94 school term. His life was tragically ended in a vehicle collision in April of 1994 during his senior year. Keith attended the Governors Honors Program in Music and was principal saxophonist in the District Four Honor Band and the University of Georgia High School Honor Band. Keith was a model student and strived to do his very best. He loved music and was a dedicated band officer. This award is presented to a student who exemplifies the characteristics that Keith had and shared with us.

Greg Gajownik Leadership Award

This award is given to the student who shows leadership qualities similar to those of Mr. Greg Gajownik. Mr. Gajownik was band director at Heritage for 26 years. He led by example in a calm and confident manner. He didn't yell or lose his temper and his leadership allowed the Heritage band to experience great success under his direction.

Most Outstanding Musician

This award is presented to the student that displays the qualities of a professional musician. Professional attitude toward music, consistent practicing, role model for other performers, and exceptional technical skills are just a few characteristic that are noted criteria for this award. This award is determined by a ballot voting procedure with all current band members eligible to vote.

John Philip Sousa Award

This national award is presented annually to the graduating senior whose peers deem to represent the best in musicianship and dedication to the overall band program. This award is determined by a ballot voting procedure with all current band members eligible to vote.

Marching Uniform Care Instructions

- 1) **Never cut any fabric on a uniform.** If you use a professional tailor, it is your responsibility to inform him/her that no cutting of any fabric is allowed. If cutting does occur, you will be responsible for paying for that uniform.
- 2) Pants should be hemmed so that the cuff hits where the body and heel of the shoe meet.
- 3) Do not wear the uniform over jeans, coats, or other outer garments. You may wear exercise shorts, soccer shorts, or thermal underwear beneath the uniform. You must wear your band shirt under the jacket.
- 4) Pants and jacket always have the same number. Helmets will usually be that number also. **Do not switch uniform parts with anyone.**
- 5) If any part of the uniform or equipment gets wet, please make sure it is dry before it is stored.
- 6) A good suit hanger is best for the uniform. If your student's uniform does not come with one, please try to provide one. The uniform should be hung on a hanger when not in use. **The uniform is NEVER to be rolled up and/or stuffed in the garment bag or the tote bag!**
- 7) The collar liner should be washed after **every** use. Do not wear the coat without the liner!
- 8) Do not wash any part of the uniform other than the collar liner. The directors will notify the students when it is time for uniforms to go to the dry cleaners; this is usually done before the first contest. Uniforms will be collected and sent as a group, this cost has already been paid as part of the band fees.
- 9) Ponchos can be washed and dried with a load of towels.
- 10) If a baldric (sash) gets stained or damaged, please take it to a member of the uniform committee.

Marching Uniform Parts Checklist

*** See "Marching Uniform Replacement Costs" for a complete listing of uniform parts.

Flag and Dance Uniforms

Flag and Dance uniforms change yearly. The flag and dance instructors will give necessary cleaning instructions.

Concert Dress

An audience experiences a concert on many different levels, not all of which are strictly musical. It is an undeniable fact, for instance, that the appearance of a performing group has a significant impact on the audience's perception of that group. To establish the uniqueness of the performing experience the following concert dress guidelines have been established:

All Ladies

All ladies will be issued a full-length (to the ankle) solid black dress. Along with this dress, ladies are expected to wear black dress shoes (no flip-flops). No jewelry or hair adornments should be worn except beaded earrings.

All Gentlemen

All men must wear the following for Concert Attire:

- * Black Tuxedo Style Pants (Provided)
- * Long-sleeve White Tuxedo Shirt (Provided)
- * Tuxedo Vest (Provided)
- * Bow Tie (Provided)
- * Black Dress Shoes / Band Shoes (student provided)
- * Black Socks (student provided)

Uniform Replacement Costs

Pants - \$100

Towel - \$5

Coat - \$180

Collar liner - \$6

Baldric - \$35

Tote bag - \$15

Helmet - \$40

Vest - \$25

Plume - \$18

Bow tie - \$8

Helmet box - \$10

Garment bag - \$20

Poncho - \$5

Tux Shirt - \$20

Hangar - \$2

Tux Pants - \$30

Dress - \$50

Contact Us

We want all parents to fully understand our guidelines and procedures involving the band program. We have made every effort to include pertinent and detailed information in this handbook. If for some reason you have a question or concern, please contact us. Following are avenues of contact that you may pursue:

Band Director – Scott Smith
Office: 770-860-1712
E-mail: ssmith1@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Associate Band Director – Amy Cartledge
Office: 770-860-1712
E-mail: acartledge@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Please make every effort to contact us at work during normal business hours in that our personal time at home is very valuable to us.

BAND MAILING ADDRESS:

Heritage High School Band
2400 Granade Road
Conyers, Georgia 30094

**** Web page address: www.hhsbands.com

2009-10 HHS FLAG/DANCE LINE INFORMATION

The HHS Flag/Dance Line is a part of the HHS Band. We participate in all activities with the band including practices, performances, competitions, camps, and fundraisers. The HHS Flag/Dance Line performs at all football games as a part of the half-time program as well as in 2-3 marching band competitions in the fall. This group is a **year long commitment** having extra performances and parades in the winter and spring.

The HHS Dance Team is a smaller group auditioned in the late fall from the HHS Flag/Dance Line. This group performs at selected school events, community events, and competes at 3-4 dance competitions each season.

FLAG/DANCE LINE RULES AND REGULATIONS HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

ATTENDANCE

All members are required to be present, on time, and dressed out for **ALL** performances and practices. Performances are not just limited to football games. They include parades, marching contests or any special events or trips the band participates in **ALL YEAR**. The Flag/Dance Line practices with the marching band. The fall schedule is as follows: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. (Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 for the first month of school) Football games are on Friday evenings and there will be 2 contests held on Saturdays. **Summer flag camp begins on July 17.**

Excused absences will be permitted for the following reasons only: **1. illness 2. family emergency 3. religious holidays**. A note from a parent must accompany these absences. Any other conflict with the schedule must be discussed **ahead of time** with the band directors.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

According to the State and Rockdale County Board of Education, a student must have a 1.00 GPA, have passed 5 subjects in the preceding semester and be “on track” for graduation to be eligible for Flag/Dance Line. “On Track” units are 4 for sophomores; 10 for juniors and 16 for seniors.

COST

Flag & Dance fees are divided into four categories:

1. \$320.00 (this includes all band camp fees, uniform fees, instructional fees, equipment, props, contest fees, band T-shirt, and booster membership). This fee can be paid in 4 installments of \$80 due May 1st (non-refundable), June 1st, July 1st and July 18th.
2. \$100 of donations towards the Rock-a-thon
3. \$85 of profit towards the fruit sale
4. \$50 of profit towards our spring fund raiser.

There will also be an additional cost of \$50 for special flag/dance uniform needs and shoes and approximately \$90 for an embroidered warm-up suit (for new girls only). Participation in Heritage High School Flag/Dance Line is a very rewarding experience. The hard work, good times and friendships developed will be remembered a lifetime. Costs involved with the winter dance team will be announced at a later date but usually run between \$300 and \$400.

COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS

The Heritage High School Band Directors and Band Parents will have the following lines of communication open to parents to students to disseminate information:

1. Monthly Newsletter
2. Monthly Band Booster Meetings (3rd Tuesday)
3. Band Website www.hhsbands.com
4. Automated phone messaging system
5. E-mail messages to students and parents
6. Telephone Committee for special events
7. Printed information given to students

BAND CLASSES/GROUPS

The Heritage Band Program offers the following groups/classes:

1. Marching Band
2. Symphonic Band
3. Concert I Band
4. Concert II Band
5. Drumline Class
6. Flag and Dance Line
7. Dance Team
8. Jazz Band
9. AP Music Theory
10. Music History Class
11. Various small group performing ensembles

Everyone in the Heritage Band Program must participate in the marching band 1st semester unless you participate in a fall HHS sport (football, cheerleader, volleyball, cross country, or softball). However, these students can participate fully in the concert portions of our program both semesters. For those of you that play an instrument that we do not use in the marching band (oboe or bassoon) we will talk with you on an individual basis about your options.

HHS Band Leadership 2009-10

Staff

Scott Smith - Band Director
Amy Cartledge- Associate Band Director
Heather Bragg - Head Flag & Dance Instructor & Choreographer
Laura Bashaw - Flag & Dance Instructor
Beckie Alread - Administrative Secretary
Deitre Ffrench - Dance Team Instructor & Choreographer
Shannon Lemon - Head Drumline Instructor
Gincy Moon - Drumline Instructor
Neal Sawhney - Drumline Instructor
Darius Freeman-Drum Major Instructor
Erin Gawron - Marching Instructor

Officers

Band Captain – Molly Ginnane
Drum Major – Kathleen Goggans
Drum Major – Stephen Shephard
Band 1st Lt. – Quinton Upshaw
Band 1st Lt. – Anthony Singleton
Band 2nd Lt. – Erin Walker
Band 2nd Lt. – Nadia Bryan
Band 2nd Lt. – Lauren Riggs
Band 3rd Lt.- John Greer
Band 3rd Lt.- Tanvi Gala
Drumline Captain – LePaul Archer
Drumline 1st Lt. – Trevor Armstrong
Drumline 2nd Lt. – Tiffany Rattery
Flag & Dance Captain – Jenna Huckaby
Flag & Dance Captain – Abbey Justman
Flag & Dance 1st Lt. – Cheltsey Crawley
Flag & Dance 2nd Lt. – Kara Fambrough

Band Booster Executive Board

Band Booster Presidents - Jeannine Goggans & Priscilla Scales
1st VP - Gina Walker & Donna Howard
2nd VP - Lori Gasque, Sherri Harbin, & Georgia Walters
3rd VP – John and Terri Anschutz , Anthony and Genethea Singleton, Trent Goggans, and Tonjia Dukes
Secretary - Holle Stapp & Lisa McMillan
Treasurer - Bob & Laurie Ashmore and Stephen and Sandra Bassett
Pit Boss - Eddie Potts

Marching Section Leaders

Flute – Lauren Rhodes, Clarinet – Nadia Bryan and Wright Dickerson, Saxophone – Bobby Trickett, Trumpet – Quinton Upshaw and Erin Walker, Horn – Lauren Riggs, Trombone-Molly Ginnane and Anthony Singleton, Tuba – Yannick Vinson, Snare-Trevor Armstrong, tenors- LePaul Archer, Cymbals – Jordan Cumbey, Pit – Robert Ricks

Librarians

Lauren Rhodes(Head), Erika Darden, Kaitlyn Spotts, Jasmine Bethea, Katie Kirchoff, Tori Hurst, Quantesha Simpson, and Khadija Dukes