

2023 Marching Band Handbook



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2023 - 2024

Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Gretna East Griffin Pride Band Program. I am incredibly excited to have you be a part of this organization! I hope that you will find this program to be a place where you feel a sense of belonging and pride. You are one of the lucky members who will go down in history as the first group in what will be a longstanding tradition of excellence. Wear this as a badge of honor and attack the upcoming season with passion and pride! Let's have a great first year as the Griffin Pride Band Program!

Griffin Pride Band Mission

To create plentiful opportunities for students to gain meaningful experiences and practical skills through effort and the achievement of excellence musical performance.

In the Griffin Pride Band Program, we will focus on giving students the opportunity to gain knowledge through experiences. These experiences will range from performance opportunities, practice methods, travel, competitions, building relationships, cultivating a culture of positivity, and many many more opportunities. Through their involvement in the band program, we want to see your students become more well-rounded individuals. We are not just teaching music, we are teaching skills that will stay with your students for the rest of their lives.

Gretna Public Schools Mission

To accept all students unconditionally and maximize their potential.

In the Griffin Pride Band Program, we will adhere to the mission of the Gretna Public schools by creating an equal-opportunity band program. Students will be accepted regardless of background or belief. Hopefully this acceptance will help create a positive environment where all students are comfortable to push themselves to get better. We hope to stay true to this mission statement in how we approach the band program and its ensembles.



Griffin Pride Directors

Graham Leavell - Director of Bands - Gretna East High School

Graham Leavell is a Missouri Born Music Educator. He grew up in Blue Springs Missouri and was a very active member of the Blue Springs High School Golden Regiment. During his time in the program, he was fortunate enough to be taught by world class educators and to experience marching, concert, and jazz band at one of the midwest's forefront highschool band programs.

During his college years, Mr. Leavell attended Missouri Western State University. He graduated with a degree in Music Education and served as the Fraternity Education Officer and Music Director of the school's chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Men's Music Fraternity. While in school, Mr. Leavell was a saxophone and low reeds tech with the Blue Springs South Jaguar Pride Marching Band.

During his first two years of teaching, he was the Assistant Director of Bands at Papillion - La Vista South High School. He served as the Visual Caption Head for the marching band, the director of the Winter Winds Ensemble, and the director of the Blue Notes Jazz II ensemble. During his short time at the school, he helped the school win a Nebraska State Championship in Marching Band (2021,) Two Visual Caption Awards at the Nebraska State Marching Competition (2021/ 2022,) a Visual Caption at the BOA lowa Regional (2021,) 3rd Place at the BOA lowa Regional (2021,) 2nd place in class AA2 at NSBA State Jazz Competition, and a 4th place finish in the Scholastic A class of WGI's Winds World Championships (2023.) When Mr. Leavell is not actively working with an ensemble, he enjoys spending time with his Fiance Jacqueline and their cat Marbles.

Amber Malone - Director of Bands - Aspen Creek Middle School

Amber Malone is in her tenth year with Gretna Public Schools and serves as the Director of Bands at Aspen Creek Middle School and Assistant Director of Bands at Gretna High School. Mrs. Malone serves as a board member for the MTSS (Multi-Tier Support System), ESports coach, and GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) club sponsor at Aspen Creek Middle School. She student taught under Chris Tucker and Andrew Norris before receiving her undergraduate degree in Music Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2013. She went on to receive her Master of Science in Education degree from Peru State College in 2017 and her Educational Specialist (EdSp) degree from the University of Missouri Columbia in 2020.

While at UNO, Mrs. Malone was involved in multiple performing ensembles including: Symphonic Wind Ensemble, University Band, Orchestra, Marching Band and Jazz Band. She also had the pleasure of touring throughout the United State and Europe while a member of the UNO bands. While at UNO, she held several leadership positions such as: Symphonic Wind Ensemble student representative, section leader in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, University Band, and Marching Band. Mrs. Malone was also an active member of Kappa Kappa Psi where she served as Vice President of Membership and President of the Kappa lota chapter. Mrs. Malone has also served as a board member for the Omaha Chamber Music Society where she helped with education outreach throughout the Omaha metro area. She has also performed with the Nebraska Wind Symphony, Omaha Symphonic Winds, and the Blair Community Band. Mrs. Malone is a member of the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association (NSBA), Nebraska Music Educators Association (NMEA), National Association for Music Educators (NAfME), National Education Association (NEA), Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) and Gretna Education Association (GSA). When she is not teaching or directing, Mrs. Malone enjoys spending time with her wife, Aubrey, her son, Jackson (4), and their three dogs.



Griffin Pride Directors - Continued

Seth Mckenzie - Director of Percussion - Gretna Public Schools

Seth McKenzie holds a Bachelor degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in K-12 Music Education and Percussion Performance and a Master of Music degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in Percussion Performance.

His principal teachers have been Brad Moran, Tomm Roland, and Ayano Kataoka.

Seth has taught and performed in a variety of musical settings throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. He has given clinics and masterclasses to multiple levels of music education, most notably at UMass-Amherst and Gretna Public Schools in Gretna, NE.

Seth is the Percussion Director for the Gretna Public School's Instrumental Music Program. He is currently in his 8th year of teaching in Gretna and his 15th year as a music educator.



Marching Band

The Griffin Pride Marching Band will be an ensemble that primarily runs throughout the summer and the fall. Auditions for student leadership and drum majors will take place during the spring semester (February/ March) each year for the following season. All GP band students will be expected to participate in this ensemble.

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Marching band is a huge investment on the part of the student. Rehearsals are plentiful and will be purposeful. Please note the following weekly rehearsal schedule for each part of the band:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Winds		Evening Rehearsal 6 - 9		Evening Rehearsal 6 - 9	
Percussion	Morning Sectional 7 - 8	Evening Rehearsal 6 - 9		Evening Rehearsal 6 - 9	Morning Sectional 7 - 8
Color Guard	Morning Sectional 7 - 8	Evening Rehearsal 6 - 9		Evening Rehearsal 6 - 9	Morning Sectional 7 - 8

Please note the following:

- In addition to the above times, students will be working on the music/ choreography for the show during band class time (8:00 8:50)
- On Fridays where there is a game after school, we will have a FULL ENSEMBLE rehearsal in the morning before school.

Marching Band Extra Responsibilities

There are extra responsibilities outside of the school day that marching band students will be expected to participate in. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

 June Band Rehearsals 06/06, 06/13, 06/20, 06/27 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm 	● Leadership Camp (leadership team only) ○ 06/28 - 06/30 ○ 8:00 am - 3:00 pm				
 Percussion Camp (percussion only) 07/12 - 07/14 9:00 am - 4:00 pm 	● Summer Band Camp ○ 07/17 - 07/21 and 07/24 - 07/28 ○ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm				
 Community Performances GEHS Gala Performance 07/15 GP Parent Preview 07/28 Gretna Days Parade 07/29 GP Showcase Concert 10/28 	 Football Games Varsity Home Game ■ 09/01 Varsity Home Game ■ 09/08 Varsity Home Game ■ 09/29 Varsity Home Game ■ 10/20 				
 Competitions Titan Marching Invitational ■ 09/23 Capitol City Marching Competition					



Responsibilities of a Griffin Pride Marching Band Member

- 1. Be on time (early) and present at all required events
- 2. Have all the required materials for class and outside school events
- 3. Put your best effort and attitude on display at all times
- 4. Act with respect and high moral character at all times, inside and outside of the classroom
- 5. Do all necessary preparatory work necessary to make the band successful

Expectations in the Marching Band Classroom

- 1. To adhere to the course syllabus (found later in this document) and to achieve all requirements found within.
- 2. To show up on the daily with the express intent of getting better
- 3. To arrive to class early, with all required materials for the ensemble that is about to rehearse.
 - a. Instrument in working condition, music, pencil, dot book, athletic shoes, and all items necessary for your instrument to function properly (reeds/ valve oil/ mouthpiece/ etc...)
- 4. To ask permission by raising your hand before leaving the classroom for any reason. Only one student will be released to the restroom at a time.
- 5. To be respectful in all endeavors and treat others with dignity.
- 6. To treat ALL equipment and facilities with respect. This includes cleaning up rehearsal spaces after we occupy them and returning all equipment to its correct location.
- 7. To not bring food, drink (other than water,) candy, or gum into the classroom at any time.
- 8. To rehearse with proper etiquette and to prepare for rehearsal outside of the classroom. The better we are as individuals the better we are as an ensemble.

Locker Policy

Students may be assigned a locker for the 2023 - 2024 school year. Any student with a locker will be held accountable for and responsible for all contents within. Students will be tasked with cleaning and maintaining the locker throughout the year.

Only Items Allowed in Locker: Instrument, Music, Required Band Clothing (polo, t-shirt, marching shoes, etc...,) and school related items.

No food or drink (other than water,) will be allowed in the lockers at any time. Any that is found by a director will be thrown away.

A student will not be allowed to check out if they have a locker that has not been properly maintained.



Computer Policy

Though the use of electronic devices is not common during the normal instructional activities of the class, students should have their computer with them every day for class. Most assignments and communication are completed in an electronic format.

The following are policies for computer use:

If we are using computers, and you do not have yours.

- 1. Teachers may expect you to do the activity on your own time.
- 2. Teachers may have you work with a partner, then reconstruct on your own time.
- 3. Either of these situations may result in detention time if you need additional time to get caught up. If we are using computers, and your computer is not charged.
 - 1. Plug computers into nearby outlets (outlets are limited).
 - 2. If you don't have a charger, ask a classmate if you can borrow one (he/she has the right to say no).
 - 3. Either of these situations may result in detention time if it becomes a distraction to the rest of the class.

Appropriate use of electronic devices

- 1. Follow Red Zone/Green Zone protocol
 - a. Red Zone No electronic devices are permitted when a red zone is in effect. Use of an electronic device while a red zone is in effect could result in the confiscation of the electronic device.
 - Green Zone Electronic devices are permitted for school-appropriate use when a green zone is in effect. See below for clarification on what behaviors are considered "school-appropriate".
- 2. Your speakers should be set to mute at all times unless otherwise instructed.
- 3. Games, Netflix, or other media are not allowed. Using them may result in detention time and/or confiscation of your laptop for the remainder of class.
- 4. Any profanity or inappropriate videos, images, music, etc. seen on your laptop may result in confiscation of your laptop and/or a trip to the office for additional discipline.

It is recommended that you do not allow someone to borrow your laptop. If your computer or charger is damaged while in someone else's possession, you are still responsible.



Marching Band Attire Policy

All GEHS Band students 9 - 12 are required to purchase the following pieces of marching band attire:

- 1x Griffin Pride Band Polo
- 1x Griffin Pride Band Shirt (athletic shirt)
- 1x Pair of DrillMasters marching shoes.

These items will be used for performances, rehearsals, pep band games, football games, and many other things. As with all things we do, we try not to be frivolous in the items we ask families to provide. These items will be used in the following ways:

- Polo
 - Gretna Days Parade
 - State Pep Performances (Volleyball, Basketball)
- Athletic Shirt
 - Thursday Evening Marching Band Rehearsals
 - Friday Night Football Games
 - Non-State Pep Performances (Volleyball, Basketball)
- Drill Master marching shoes
 - o Gretna Days Parade
 - Marching Competitions
 - Thursday Night Rehearsals

Checks for these items should be made out to the Griffin Band Parents.

Marching Band Uniform Policy

All GEHS Griffin Pride Band Activities will follow the same uniform Policy:

- Full Uniform
 - Any time a student is wearing a GEHS Band uniform they will be wearing the FULL uniform. This helps maintain an air of professionalism and helps students "flip the switch" between performing and not.
- Running In Uniform
 - Unless directly specified by the directors, no student should run in uniform. This, again, reinforces the air of professionalism and limits potential uniform damage.
- Marching Uniform Specifications
 - Under/ With the marching uniform, students will wear the following items:
 - Show Shirt
 - Black Athletic Shorts
 - Long Black Socks
 - DrillMaster marching shoes
 - No jewelry of any kind will be allowed to be worn with the marching band uniform.
 - Items that cannot be removed will need to be covered.
- Football Games
 - Students will need to follow the listed Uniform specifications for football games
 - After the half-time performance, Students will be allowed to change into the following:
 - Griffin Pride Athletic Shirt -or- Current Year Show Shirt
 - Jeans
 - Students may continue wearing their marching shoes or may change into casual shoes

If mistreatment causes a uniform to become damaged. Mr. Leavell will determine/ assign student a fee



Grade Components

Below you will find the components that will DIRECTLY INFLUENCE your student's grade. Students will be expected

1st Semester Grade Determined by:

- 1. Daily Grade
 - Full participation and cooperation in the classroom; instrument and all materials every day; no gum, beverages, or food; proper footwear
- 2. Skills Tests
 - Scales, rudiments, terms tests, rhythm packets, etc.
- 3. Attendance at Marching Contests, Concert, and Pep Bands
 - <u>Music must be memorized to participate in marching performances. If students do not have their music memorized, they may be asked to attend the contest but not perform. The grade for the performance will be 70%.</u>

Grade is determined by an accumulation of points from each semester

All scale and memorization tests will need to be completed within a designated timeline. If a student fails to complete the playing/scale/rudiment test by the due date, they will only receive a 70% upon completion. If late work/missed quizzes or tests have not been made up in one week, the student will meet with Mr. Leavell and an administrator to discuss further options.

Grading Policy

Quarter Band Grades will be taken in the following areas:	Grading Scale:		
A.25% - Daily Points (Rehearsal Participation)	94 - 100	1	
B.50% - Performances	86 - 93	2	
 <u>Marching/ Concert/ Contest Performances</u> 	78 - 85	3	
 <u>Pep Band Performances</u> 	70 - 77	4	
C.25% - Plaving Tests/ Assignments	69 - Below	5	

Cheating Policy

Students caught cheating on an assignment will redo the assignment on their own and may only receive up to a 70% upon completion. In the case of students doing work for others, all students involved will be held to this standard.



Communication

Here is an overview of our primary means of communication for the season:

Primary Communication Methods

Email

- Consistent information
 - Weekly Updates
 - Reminders
 - o Important Band Related Information
 - Upcoming Events

Stack Team App

- Important Updates
- Day-of Communication
 - Meeting locations
 - Changes in timelines
 - Performance Times
- Reminders

Readily Available Information for Students/ Parents

Band Website

- griffinpridebands.com
 - Calendar Password: GP2023!
 - Functional
 - Some areas are still under construction and might not be ready until school starts
 - o Calendars
 - Up-to-Date Information
 - Handbook
 - Student Resources
 - Music
 - Drill
 - Parent Resources
 - BPO Contact Information
 - Upcoming Dates

Google Calendar

- Up-To-Date Information
 - Full Band Calendar
 - Specific Ensemble Calendars as well

QR Codes to Join







Stack Team App

Band Website

Google Calendar



Schedule

				June 2023	
Doto		Ctort			Location
Date	00/00/0000	Start	End	Event	Location
	06/06/2023	18:00		Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
	06/13/2023	18:00		Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
	06/20/2023	18:00		Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
	06/27/2023	18:00		Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
	06/28/2023	8:00		Leadership Camp	GHS
	06/29/2023	8:00		Leadership Camp	GHS
	06/30/2023	8:00	15:00	Leadership Camp	GHS
				July 2023	
Date		Start	End	Event	Location
	07/12/2023	9:00	16:00	Percussion Camp	GEHS
	07/13/2023	9:00	16:00	Percussion Camp	GEHS
	07/14/2023	9:00	16:00	Percussion Camp	GEHS
	07/17/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/18/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/19/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/20/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/21/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/24/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/25/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/26/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/27/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/28/2023	9:00	16:00	July Band Camp	GEHS
	07/28/2023	17:00	20:00	Parent Preview Night	GEHS
			A	ugust 2023	
Date		Start	End	Event	Location
	08/08/2023	18:00		Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
	08/10/2023	18:00		Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
	08/11/2023	7:00		Morning Sectionals	GEHS
	08/14/2023	7:00		Morning Sectionals	GEHS
	08/15/2023	18:00		Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
	08/17/2023	18:00		Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
	08/18/2023	7:00		Morning Sectionals	GEHS
	08/21/2023	7:00		Morning Sectionals	GEHS
	08/21/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS



	08/22/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal GEHS			
	08/24/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	08/25/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS		
	08/28/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS		
	08/29/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	08/31/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	September 2023						
Date		Time Start	Time End	Event	Location		
	09/01/2023	7:00	8:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/01/2023	17:00	22:00	Varsity Football Game	GHS		
	09/05/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/07/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/08/2023	7:00	8:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/08/2023	17:00	22:00	Varsity Football Game	GHS		
	09/11/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS		
	09/12/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/14/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal GEH			
	09/15/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals GEH			
	09/18/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS		
	09/19/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/21/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/22/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS		
	09/23/2023	TBD	TBD	Titan Marching Invitational	PLSHS		
	09/25/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS		
	09/26/2023	17:00	20:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/28/2023	17:00	20:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/29/2023	7:00	8:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS		
	09/29/2023	16:30	20:00	Varsity Football Game (HOCO)	GHS		
	09/30/2023	TBD	TBD	Capitol City Marching Competition	LSHS		
			О	ctober 2023			
Date		Time Start	Time End	Event	Location		
	10/02/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS		
	10/03/2023	18:00	21:00	00 Full Band Rehearsal GE			
	10/04/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal GEH			
	10/05/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals GEHS			
	10/09/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals GEHS			



10/10/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
10/12/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
10/14/2023	TBD	TBD	Omaha Marching Invitational	OBHS
10/16/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS
10/17/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
10/19/2023	18:00	21:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
10/20/2023	7:00	8:00	Full Band Rehearsal	GEHS
10/20/2023	17:00	22:00	Varsity Football Game	GHS
10/21/2023	TBD	TBD	NSBA State Marching Competition	MSHS
10/23/2023	7:00	8:00	Morning Sectionals	GEHS
10/24/2023	17:00	20:00	Showcase Prep	GEHS
10/26/2023	17:00	20:00	Showcase Prep	GEHS
10/28/2023	11:00	15:00	Showcase Concert	GEHS



Additional contact

Marching Band Member Contract

Student Name:		Please Return this contract by <u>06/13/2023</u>		
I understand that, as a member of the 2023 Griffin Pride Marching Band, I will be expected to understand/ adhere to the following: 1. I will abide by all policies put forth in this handbook AND the general Griffin Pride Band Student Handbook. 2. I understand that attendance and daily participation make up 25% of my Band Grade 3. I am expected to represent myself, the school, and the GEHS band program respectfully at all times 4. I understand that attendance and participation in Performances is 50% of my Band Grad 5. I will be unable to participate after the due date without returning this signed form 6. I will Abide by all school rules and regulations at all times 7. I understand that this group is a team and needs me to be successful 8. I will follow all expectations set forth by the directors and any Griffin Band Staff member. 9. I will communicate with the Directors of any impending absences 10. I will show up and do my best at every rehearsal 11. I understand that my fees help pay for the attire that I wear for marching band and the instruments I use for marching band/ the whole year Student Signature				
By signing below, I am verifying that I understand and will follow all of the aforementioned rules and regulations to be a member of the 2023 Griffin Pride Marching Band				
Student Signature	Date	Date		
Parent/ Guardian Signature				
By signing below, I am verifying that my student understands and will follow all of the aforementioned rules and regulations to be a member of the 2023 Griffin Pride Marching Band. I also understand that if I check the box labeled "Band Parent Organization Email List Opt-In" that I am okay with receiving Information and updates from the Griffin Band Parent Organization.				
Student Signature	Date	Date		
☐ Band Parent Organization Email List Opt-In Contact Information (PARENTS/ GUARDIANS ONLY)				
·				
Parent/ Guardian Email #1		Parent/ Guardian Email #2		
Parent/ Guardian Phone #1		Parent/ Guardian Phone #2		

Additional Contact



Band Attire Financial Sheet

Please Circle Needed Sizes

Base Band Attire Fee Total: **\$65.00**

	vvnat is included					
Griffin Pride Athletic Shirt	Griffin Pride Band Polo	2023 Show Shirt				
S M L XL Other:	S M L XL Other:	S M L XL Other:				
	Additional Items					
☐ Marching shoes (\$35)	ALL STUDENTS NEED - If a pair is need to purchase another one. Size:	already owned, students do not				
Additional Show Shirts (\$13) (Optional)	(Quantity/ Sizes)	l VI Othor				
(* -) (-)	SM	_LXLOther:				
☐ Griffin Pride Jacket (Optional)	Size S	M L XL Other:				
*A Jacket will only be ordered	Name to be Embroidered:					
for a student if payment has been received*	Instrument to be Embroidered:					
In	strument Rental/ Maintenance	Fee				
☐ Marching Instrument Rental Fee (\$50)	☐ Year-Long Instrument Rental Fee (\$90)	Percussion Maintenance Fee (\$90)				
	<u>Total Fees</u>					
Base Attire Fee: <u>\$65</u> + Addition	nal Items Total: + Instru	ıment Fee:				
= \$	= \$ Total Fee for 2023					

Fees due 06/20/2023

Band Attire Fee Checks Can Be Made out to <u>Griffin Band Parents</u>
Instrument Rental/ Maintenance Fee Checks can be made to <u>Gretna Public Schools</u>
(memo GEHS Band Instrument Fee)