



# **GOLD HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS**

1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Tega Cay, SC 29708 • 803.548.8300

**JENNIFER ISENHOUR, DYLAN SIMS & ZANE FRANCO-WINN, DIRECTORS**

## **WELCOME**

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Welcome to the Gold Hill Middle School Band! Whether you are a new or returning band member, this program has a special place in it for you and it is our honor to play a part in your music education. This document is designed to provide you with all the information you will need about band policies, procedures and events. We ask that parents and students read through and then sign the Statement of Responsibility, acknowledging they understand the expectations of our program.

## **BAND STUDENT FEE**

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All band students will need to pay a \$40.00 band instructional fee due by *Friday, August 15*. This covers the cost of the band binder, the band shirt worn for performances, fundamentals and method books, online music software programs, sheet music and other costs for the year.

## **SCHOOL INSTRUMENT USE FEE**

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Any student who is using a school-owned instrument (*oboe, bassoon, horn, baritone, tuba*) must pay an instrument fee to Gold Hill Middle School of \$100. This fee is for the entire 2025-26 school year and is due, along by *Friday, August 15*.

### **TO PAY FEES:**

Go to the GHMS website, click “Pay Fees” and login (or create an account). Click on the tab for your band student, click on band fees, add to your cart, view cart and checkout.

## **BAND ROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

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- Be respectful of yourself, the teacher, classmates, our band room and belongings.
- Come prepared and ready to learn.
- Give your best effort.
- No gum, food or drink (water allowed with screw top lid) in the band room.

## **BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES**

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1. Verbal Warning
2. Make Today Count point, Parent contact
3. STOP Referral, Parent contact
4. Office Referral (Any severe classroom disruption will be sent as an office referral)

## CONCERTS AND CONCERT ATTIRE

6th Grade Band	7th Grade Band	8th Grade Band
2025-2026 Band Shirt School Dress Code Bottoms	2025-2026 Band Shirt Khaki Colored Pants/Shorts (School Dress Code)	Black Long Sleeve Dress Shirt Black Dress Pants/Socks/Shoes or Floor length black gown *NO JEANS/TENNIS SHOES*
Winter Informance Concert & Spring Concert	-Winter Concert - Dollywood Performance - Spring Awards Concert	-Winter Concert -SCDBA Concert Band Festival - Spring Awards Concert

## GRADING

<b>Formative Assessments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How does the student demonstrate learning on playing assessments, written assessments and at-home practice assignments?</li> </ul>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Summative Assessments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How does the student demonstrate learning at their ensemble's required performances and concerts?</li> </ul>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Daily Rehearsal Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Does the student come prepared to class and participate in the learning?</li> </ul>	<b>10%</b>

## POLICY ON CONCERT & REHEARSAL ABSENCES

No concert or rehearsal absences will be excused without prior written notification. In the event of an emergency, written notification should be provided within 24 hours of a student's return to school. Excused absences include: Illness (with doctor's note), death in the family, unavoidable conflict with other FMSD academic activities. Failure to arrange transportation, athletic games/practices, try-outs or other events WILL NOT be excused. Unexcused absences will result in the student's grade being lowered in accordance with our grading policy and removal from band trips and performances. When a serious conflict arises, notify Mrs. Isenhour as soon as possible.

## SIGN UP FOR THE REMIND APP

Stay connected!! Text the following code to the number 81010.

6th Grade: @ghmsband6	7th Grade: @ghb7th	8th Grade: @ghb8th
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## SUPPLIES PROVIDED BY THE BAND INSTRUCTIONAL FEE

Band Binder, Page Protectors, Pencil Pouches, Pencils, Method Books, Online Music Program, Band T-shirt and all Concert Sheet Music

### ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES NEEDED

<b>FLUTE</b>	Cleaning rod and cloth
<b>CLARINET</b>	Silk swab, Reed guard, Box of Vandoren or D'addario Reeds - Strength 3 ( <i>Recommended mouthpiece upgrade - Vandoren M13 with a Rovner ligature</i> )
<b>OBOE/BASSOON</b>	Silk swab, Reed case, and at least 3 working reeds
<b>SAXOPHONE</b>	Swab or Padsaver, Reed Guard, Box of Vandoren, Hemke or D'addario Reeds - Strength 3 ( <i>Recommended mouthpiece upgrade - Selmer C star and Rovner ligature</i> )
<b>TRUMPET</b>	Valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning snake and polishing cloth ( <i>Recommended mouthpiece: Bach 5C</i> )
<b>HORN</b>	Valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning snake and polishing cloth ( <i>Recommended mouthpiece: Holton Farkas MDC</i> )
<b>TROMBONE</b>	Slide-o-Mix Rapid Comfort, tuning slide grease, cleaning snake and polishing cloth ( <i>Recommended mouthpiece: Bach 6 ½ AL</i> )
<b>BARITONE</b>	Valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning snake and polishing cloth ( <i>Recommended mouthpiece: Bach 6 ½ AL</i> )
<b>TUBA</b>	Valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning snake and polishing cloth ( <i>Recommended mouthpiece: Bach 18</i> )
<b>PERCUSSION</b>	Stick Bag with Snare sticks (Vic Firth SD 1), Yarn Mallets, Plastic Bell Mallets, Timpani Mallets, and Pitch Pipe
<b>ALL SYMPHONIC BAND STUDENTS</b>	On-Stage GTA 7000 Tuner/Metronome with clip mic (Highly recommended)

Also recommended for all band students are a:

## SCHOOL INSTRUMENT RENTAL INFORMATION

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The Gold Hill Band Program offers the rental of very large and/or prohibitively expensive instruments not available through local music stores (Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor and Baritone Saxophone, Horn, Baritone and Tuba). Parents and students renting the school-owned instrument are responsible for the yearly rental fee of \$100 and for all repairs beyond normal wear and tear. Students will forfeit their use of a school-owned instrument and the rental for any of the following reasons:

- Negligent treatment of the instrument by the student
- A failing grade in band for any grading period
- Failure to pay the yearly rental fee

## INSTRUMENT STORAGE

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Students may store instruments in the band room immediately before school begins each day. Instruments should be placed neatly in their designated area. All cases must be clearly labeled with the band student's name, address, and phone number on the outside. Instruments without labels will be placed in the band director's office until it has been claimed and labeled. Students should take their instrument home from school each day.

## LOST OR STOLEN INSTRUMENTS

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The band program, the school district, and the band director is not responsible for student-owned or rented instruments and materials that are lost or stolen. Each parent and student is responsible for recording the instrument's serial number at home and each student is responsible for making sure his or her instrument is always taken home at the end of the school day. If an instrument is lost or stolen:

1. Notify a band director immediately and provide the serial number of the instrument.
2. Determine where your child last saw the instrument.
3. Upon teacher request, file a police report.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

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Private lessons are the best way to improve performance skills on a musical instrument. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention that cannot be matched in a large classroom setting. A recent survey of students in the South Carolina All-State Band revealed that 80% of those students in the band studied privately. Simply put, private lessons work! At Gold Hill, we encourage parents to consider private lessons for their child. Please consult a director for recommendations of instructors.

## HONOR BAND AUDITIONS

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Several audition opportunities will be offered during the year. Eighth grade students will work on the material in class in the Honors Audition Project, but seventh grade band students who are taking private lessons are encouraged to audition as well. The Honor Band opportunities are:

EVENT	Audition Day/Location	Clinic Day/Location
Mock Audition	November 19 @ GHMS	N/A
All-Region Band	January 10, 2026 Blythewood High School	February 27-28, 2026 Nation Ford High School
All-State Band	January 24, 2026 Lexington High School	March 13-15, 2026 Furman University

For the audition, students perform their scales, a solo (provided), and 1-2 sight-reading examples for a judge. They receive a score for their performance and the highest ranked students on each instrument earn placement in the honor band. The audition material is the same for all the auditions, with the exception of the solo ending for the All-State audition.

Those students selected for the honor band attend a clinic where they rehearse with a guest conductor, culminating in a performance on the music they have been working on. It is an extremely fun and rewarding experience for our band students!

## PERFORMING GROUPS AT GOLD HILL

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Each band class meets five days a week for 42 minutes. Performances for each group are listed on the band calendar.

**6TH GRADE BAND:** The 6th Grade Beginning Band is composed of students in their first year of playing an instrument. The goal of this group is to provide students with strong fundamentals in music reading, posture, hand position, tone quality and also to have a lot of fun while doing it! This group performs at a Winter Informance Concert in January and again in May during their Related Arts class time for family, friends and other students.

**7TH GRADE BAND:** The 7th Grade Band consists of second year players and we work to expand on the foundational skills we established in 6th grade. Students in this group are eligible to audition for extracurricular band opportunities like honor bands, jazz band and pep band. This group performs at the Winter Concert in December, and at the Spring Awards Concert and Carowinds Music Festival in the spring.

**8TH GRADE BAND:** The 8th Grade Band is the premier performing group at Gold Hill. These students continue to develop their individual musical skills as well as ensemble skills. Students are highly encouraged to participate in the honor band auditions and many are selected at the county, region and state level. 8th Grade students are eligible to audition for the Gold Hill jazz band and pep band as well. Performances for this group include the Winter Concert, SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment, Performance in Orlando, FL and the Spring Awards Concert.

### **JAZZ BAND**

The Gold Hill Jazz Band is an auditioned group of students, performing music from the jazz repertoire. It consists of traditional jazz instrumentation (sax, trumpet, trombone, bass, guitar, piano, and drum set) but non-traditional instruments are invited to audition if they'd like. This group rehearses before school on Tuesday and Thursdays from 7:20-8:00am during the months of October-December and March-May and performs at the Winter Concert and the Spring Awards Concert, with the possibility of other performances in the community.

### **PEP BAND**

The Gold Hill Pep Band is an extracurricular group, open to any 7th or 8th Grade student. Depending on the interest, students may be asked to audition. This group rehearses during flex periods in January and performs at one boys basketball game and one girls basketball game, with the potential of performing at a school pep rally.

### **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

The Gold Hill Percussion Ensemble is open to any 7th or 8th grade percussion student, and 6th grade percussion students by director invitation. This group rehearses before school from 7:20-8:00am on Wednesdays in the band room and performs at the winter and spring concerts.

# GOLD HILL BAND PROGRAM CALENDAR 2025-2026

*Times and dates are subject to change.*

*Any changes will be communicated well in advance to families.*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
Friday, Aug 15	First Days Checklist Due	Turn in to Band Director	Deadline for forms/fee
Tuesday, Aug 19	Roper Music Instrument Night Make-Up	Gold Hill Band Room	6th Grade
September TBA	Jazz Band Auditions	Google Classroom	Interested 7th/8th Grade
Monday, Sept 8	Gold Hill Band Fundraiser Kickoff	Online	All Band Students
Saturday, Sept 20	8th Grade Band Night @FMHS Band Community Preview	High School Band Room/Stadium	All 8th Grade Band 6:00-8:00pm
Saturday, Sept 27	CatawbaFest Performance	Catawba Park Tega Cay, SC	Select 7th/8th Graders 10-11:00am
October TBA	Bandorama Fundraiser Incentive Party	GHMS Cafeteria and Band Room	Qualifying Students
Friday, Oct 31	SCBDA Honor Band Registration Deadline	Pay Fees/Band Room	Select 7th/8th Graders
Wed, Nov 19	Honor Band MOCK Auditions	GHMS	Select 7th/8th Graders
Tuesday, Dec 9	Winter Concert	FMHS Auditorium	7th/8th Grade Bands 6:30pm
Friday, Dec 12	6th Grade Informance	GHMS Gym	6th Grade Band 4:00pm
December TBD	Jazz Band Tour	Elementary Schools	Jazz Band Students
January TBA	Pep Band play at GHMS Basketball Game	GHMS Gym (during Related Arts)	Pep Band
Saturday, Jan 10	All Region Band Auditions	Blythewood High School	Select 7th/8th Grade Students
Saturday, Jan 24	All State Band Auditions	Lexington High School	Qualifying Students
Friday-Saturday, Feb 27-28	All Region Band Clinic	Nation Ford High School	Qualifying Students
TBD	Gold Hill Band	Rock Hill Symphony	Any interested Band

	Night @ the Symphony	Or Charlotte Symphony	families
<b>Tentative Mar.</b>	CPA Preview Performance	GHMS Gym	8th Grade Symphonic
<b>Friday-Sunday, Mar 13-15</b>	All State Band Clinic	Furman University	Qualifying Students
<b>Week of March 24</b>	SCDBA Concert Performance Assessment	Nation Ford High School	8th Grade Symphonic Band
<b>Friday, April 3 Tentative</b>	Dollywood Trip & Performance	Dollywood Pigeon Forge, TN	7th Grade Band
<b>Saturday, April 26</b>	Solo and Ensemble Field Trip	Irmo, SC	Interested Students 6-8
<b>Thurs-Sun April 30-May 3</b>	Disney Performance Series	Disney World Orlando, FL	8th Grade Band
<b>Thurs, May 7</b>	Spring Awards Concert	GHMS Gym	6th Grade Band 4:00pm
<b>Thurs, May 7</b>	Spring Awards Concert	GHMS Gym	7th/8th Grade Band 7:00pm