

GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

BOBCAT BANDS

HANDBOOK 2025-2026

Mrs. Jennifer Olis, Director of Bands - Grandview Heights HS

Mr. Scott Heath, Director of Bands - Larson MS

Mr. Thomas Stanley, Assistant Band Director - Grandview Heights HS

1587 West Third Ave.

Columbus, OH 43212

(614) 485-4012

Welcome to the Grandview Heights High School Bobcat Bands!

Membership in this distinguished organization is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The Grandview Heights Bands consistently maintain a performance standard of excellence while providing each individual with an opportunity for growth.

Our band program requires students who are dedicated, determined, and optimistic. Band members are dedicated to the performance of quality music to the maximum of their abilities. They are dedicated to their fellow band members, to Grandview Heights High School, and to the community at-large. They are determined to work hard and diligently to become a part of this disciplined group, and to make their family proud of all they have accomplished. They are determined to persevere when challenges abound, and optimistic that through hard work and practice, they will be the leaders in our school and community.

This handbook is designed to outline the organizational and procedural aspects of the Bobcat Bands. In this handbook you will find information regarding items such as attendance and grading policy, uniforms, and student staff. Please read through the handbook and familiarize yourself with the information. You will come to rely on it heavily throughout the coming year.

We are looking forward to another outstanding year and GO BOBCATS!!!

Jennifer Olis  
Director of Bands

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# **Mission Statement**

The Grandview Heights High School Music Department will consistently strive for excellence in everything we do. Members of the Bobcat Bands operate within an environment of deeply ingrained expectations and values.

Along with these values, Bobcat Band members develop the important life skills of time management, leadership, cooperation, humility, and responsibility. We believe these values, when combined with quality music, lead to an exciting and rewarding musical experience.

## **Objectives of the GHHS Music Program**

1. Developing and enhancing music appreciation, musicianship and artistry through a variety of music literature.
2. Discovering and exploring the fundamentals, technique, and skills of performance.
3. Reading and interpreting music accurately, fluently, and for meaning.
4. Emphasizing professional etiquette of the individual within rehearsal, performance, and audience environments.
5. Providing high quality performance opportunities that are meaningful and relevant to the students - as well as the traditions of the community.

# Member Expectations

- ✓ Be on time to all rehearsals and performances.
- ✓ Enter all rehearsals prepared and focused to accomplish all goals set forth.
- ✓ Respect yourself, your fellow band members, and the staff.
- ✓ Come to rehearsal with a GREAT ATTITUDE!!!
- ✓ Take care of your equipment and yourself at all times: before, during, and after rehearsals and performances.
- ✓ Be considerate of those around you.
- ✓ Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions.
- ✓ Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.
- ✓ Have fun making music!

# The Bobcat Bands

## Marching Band

*“The Pride of Grandview Heights”* is the most visible and recognizable group in the Grandview Heights High School Band Department. Membership is required of all students who sign up for high school band; with the exception of football players.

The Marching Band performs at all Grandview Heights High School football games as well as pep rallies, parades, Marching Band Season-in-Review, and other scheduled events. The marching band rehearses during the school day and select evenings from 8:00-10:00pm throughout the football season. **Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is required.**

## Concert Band

The Grandview Heights Concert Band is made up of students from the marching band; some performing on specialty instruments. The purpose of the Concert Band is to provide its members with the pedagogy and development necessary to perform at each individual’s highest level. The Concert Band performs multiple concerts throughout the school year including the District Level Ohio Music Educators Adjudicated Event. **Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is required.**

## Jazz Ensemble

The Grandview Heights Jazz Ensemble is a select group of mixed instrumentation that rehearses during the school day. Students interested in any/all idioms of jazz should request this course and complete the audition process in the prior spring semester. The Jazz Ensemble performs multiple concerts per year and, schedule permitting, attends a jazz festival in the Central Ohio area.

**Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is required.**

## Pep Band

Pep Band is required for all students registered for band and each student performs at 3 home basketball games. Music selection is similar to the Marching Band. **Attendance at all scheduled performances is required.**

## Solo & Ensemble

In addition to the large group ensembles, the Grandview Heights Band Department also encourages participation in small group performance activities such as the OMEA Solo & Ensemble event. Following the Holiday Concert, students have the opportunity to sign up to learn a solo on their instrument or play as a member of a small music ensemble.

Each soloist and ensemble is provided with weekly instruction from a director for the weeks prior to OMEA S&E. At the conclusion of the lesson and rehearsal schedule, students perform their pieces for an outside adjudicator, who will offer comments about the performance and suggestions for development.

All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble event, as it is one of the best ways to receive additional personalized instruction from a Director and gain knowledge and skill specific to their major instrument.

# Grading Policy

Students participating in the Grandview Heights Band Program receive 1 credit per year. We believe that music is an important part of the school curriculum and should be graded. Rather than grading students on their *ability alone*, the Grandview Heights Band program grades students based on attendance, performance, and musical *development*.

Students in the Grandview Heights Bands earn their grade by fulfilling the academic requirements of each ensemble. Below is a breakdown of how each ensemble is graded.

## Marching Season

Daily Points:	2 points (10 points possible per week)
Rehearsal Points:	50 points
Performances:	100 points (each event)

## Concert Season (Concert Band)

Daily Points:	2 points (10 points possible per week)
Formatives:	Points vary per assignment
Performance Assessments:	Points vary per assignment
Formal Concerts:	250 points (each event)

## Pep Band

Basketball Game Attendance:	50 points (each event)
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## Jazz Ensemble

Daily Points:	2 points (10 points possible per week)
Formatives:	Points vary per assignment
Performance Assessments:	Points vary per assignment
Formal Concerts:	250 points (each event)

## Additional Assignments

Throughout the year, students may be asked to complete additional assignments including, but not limited to the following:

- Concert Reflection Papers
- Short Written Assignments
- Music Comprehension
- Worksheets

## Performance Goals

Throughout the year, the Directors will monitor students' musical (and marching) development through various methods including, but not limited to:

- Short Performance Evaluations
- Scale/Excerpt/Rhythm Performances

## Attendance Policy

All band members make a commitment when they join band. These commitments extend to attending all rehearsals and performances. The dates of such are published and made known well in advance. Additionally, directors ensure reminders of rehearsals and performances are part of the daily rehearsal schedule. It is expected that all members will be in attendance at all scheduled events.

Should a student be unable to make a particular rehearsal or performance, then a parent/guardian notify the director as soon as possible. Please do not wait until the week of the absence.

In the event of a medical or family emergency, the parent/guardian should contact Mrs. Olis at a time most convenient to the family's needs by phone or email. Medical and/or family emergencies are automatically **Excused**. This includes students who are marked 'Excused' absent from school on the day of a performance.

As stated previous, band is **co-curricular**. As such, work is not an excuse. Communicate clearly with your employer and well in advance. Missing school for work is unexcused; therefore; **missing band for work is also unexcused**.

Alternate Performance Assessments (APA) may be assigned to all performance-based absences. The APA will include performing, individually or in small groups, music from the missed performance.

## Calendar of Events

All events can be found at <https://www.grandviewhtsband.org/calendar.html>. Please subscribe to the Google calendar. A list of events for each class will also be posted on Schoology.

## **Code of Conduct**

Members of the Grandview Heights High School bands are subject to the Grandview Heights Student Code of Conduct listed in the student handbook. Any member who violates band or school policies will be dealt with following said code.

### **Evening Night Rehearsals**

The Marching Band will rehearse on selected evenings from 8:00-10:00PM. As stated previously, these are **mandatory** rehearsals. Band members who are in other sports and have a game during this time will be excused for the game. It is the students responsibility to inform the director of their conflict **prior to rehearsal**.

### **Athletics/Extra-Curriculars**

Many students in the band are also participating in vocal ensembles, drama, other extra curricular activities, and athletics. Participation in band, athletics, and extra-curricular groups is encouraged, but students must understand they are responsible for managing their time invested **AND** communicating clearly with all directors, coaches, and advisors.

# Travel Procedures

## **Bus Rules**

The Bobcat Bands travel often throughout the year to football games, parades, and other events. When traveling by bus, students are to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. You must ride the bus to which you are assigned.
2. Attendance will be taken by a director/chaperone prior to departure.
3. Directors/Advisors/Chaperones can reassign seats at any time for disciplinary concerns.
4. No shouting, yelling, or horseplay is allowed.
5. No speakers are permitted for use with portable electronic devices.
6. Listen and respect all chaperones on the bus.
7. Travel privileges can be revoked at any time for not following the rules listed above.

## **Sign-Out Procedure**

‘Sign-out’ is the option for students to return home with their parent(s) from *off-campus events* during the marching band season. This option should be requested when the marching band travel schedule presents an undue burden to the student. (Example: Saturday morning 7:00am report time for cross country meet.)

Parents are required to submit a written “sign-out” request to the directors prior to the event. Only when the parent has completed this is the student permitted to leave.

## **2025-2026 Handbook Agreement**

*Please complete the online agreement form no later than  
Friday, August 22, 2025.*

Go to - <https://forms.gle/4CW5o5Xr9YguosZ67>