Grimsley High School Band Information

The following is information about the Grimsley High School Band.

For additional information or questions, please contact Mr. Ray: rayj2@gcsnc.com or call at 336-370-8180 (best time to call is 3:30-4:30 pm). E-mail is the best form of communication.

The high school band offers four band classes (Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble). Marching Band is not a class, but students enrolled in band participate in marching band and must be enrolled in a band class to participate in marching band.

Marching Band

Marching Band is required of all band students. However, there are exemptions.

Exemptions – These are done on a case by case basis.

Examples would include if you play a fall sport such as football, volleyball, or soccer. We have several athletes in the band. SPORTS DO NOT CONFLICT! Other exemptions would also be considered.

The marching band practices Tuesday and Thursday afterschool. Times are 4:30-6:30 pm. Drumline rehearses daily after school (4:30-6:30 pm)

Band Camps 2025
Percussion Camp: July 28-August 1, 2025 (8:30 am-4:30 pm)
*Drumline Tryouts will be the first day of Percussion Camp: July 28, 2025

Full Camp: August 4-8, 2025 – This is required for all marching band members, unless an exemption is approved.
Monday, August 4-Wednesday, August 6: (8:30 am-4:30 pm)
Thursday, August 7: (8:30 am-6:15 pm) - Mandatory Parent Meeting 6:30 pm in Cafeteria
Friday, August 8: (8:30 am-12:00 pm)

Eligible Students: All band students are eligible for the marching band.

Commitment forms will be online for marching band. Deadline to complete the online form is June 1, 2025.

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Band (Honors) Proficient – Percussion Ensemble

The percussion ensemble is offered to all percussion students not in wind ensemble. This group will perform music with the concert band and as a separate ensemble, at a medium level (grade 3-4 level with grade 6 being the hardest, see footnote*). This band will give a minimum of four concerts per year, two per semester with other opportunities for performance and honors group auditions.

Eligible Students: All percussion students (drumline members) are eligible for the percussion ensemble.

*Music is classified on a grade 1-6 level. Grade 1 is usually played in the 6th and 7th grades. Grade 2-3 is usually played in the 7th and 8th grades. Grade 3-4 is usually played in the 9th and 10th grades. Grade 4-5 is usually played in the 11th and 12th grade. Grade 6 can also be played in high school but it is generally meant for the university level.

Band (Honors) Proficient – Concert Band

The concert band is offered to all students in grades 9-12, not in Wind Ensemble. This band will perform music at a medium level (grade 3-4 level with grade 6 being the hardest, see footnote*). This band will give a minimum of four concerts per year, two per semester with other opportunities for performance and honors group auditions.

Eligible Students: All band students are eligible for the concert band.

Band Advanced - Wind Ensemble

The wind ensemble is offered to all band students based on an audition. This band will perform music at a medium to medium difficult level (grade 4-5+ with grade 6 being the hardest, see footnote*). This band will give a minimum of four concerts per year, two per semester with other opportunities for performance and honors group auditions.

This is an auditioned group. Students must meet the minimum audition requirements to be accepted into this group. Auditions for Wind Ensemble are held April 22, 23, & 25, 2024 for the upcoming school year. The audition material is this year's all county band requirements.

Eligible Students: All band students (Grades 9-12) are eligible for the wind ensemble but must first audition and meet the requirements for acceptance.

Instrument accepted into this ensemble (openings for 2025-26 in parenthesis).

1. Flute (2)	6. Alto Sax (2)	11. Trombone (1 or 2)
2. Oboe (2)	7. Tenor Sax (1)	12. Euphonium (1)
3. Clarinet (2)	8. Bari Sax (1)	13. Tuba (2)
4. Bass Clarinet (2)	9. Trumpet (3 or 4)	14. Percussion (2)
5. Bassoon (2)	10. French Horn (2 or 3)	

Jazz (Honors) Proficient - Jazz Ensemble

The jazz ensemble is offered to all band students, based on an audition. This band will perform music at a medium to medium difficult level (grade 4-5+ with grade 6 being the hardest, see footnote* on the previous page). This band will give a minimum of 5 concerts per year, 2 or 3 per semester with other opportunities for performance and honors group auditions.

This is an auditioned group. Students must meet the minimum audition requirements to be accepted into this group.

Instruments accepted into this ensemble (open spots for 2025-26 are in parenthesis):

1. Alto Sax (2) 2. Tenor Sax (2) 3. Bari Sax (0) 4. Trumpet (2 or 3) 5. Trombone (1 or 2)	6. Piano (0) 7. Guitar (1) 8. Bass (0) 9. Drum Set (1)

Eligible Students: Band students in the 9th-12th grade are eligible for this ensemble. Students must audition for this ensemble and meet the requirements for acceptance.

Frequently Ask Questions

When is band camp?

Band Camps 2025
Percussion Camp: July 28-August 1, 2025 (8:30 am-4:30 pm)
*Drumline Tryouts will be the first day of Percussion Camp: July 28, 2025

Full Camp: August 4-8, 2025 – This is required for all marching band members, unless an exemption is approved.
Monday, August 4-Wednesday, August 6: (8:30 am-4:30 pm)
Thursday, August 7: (8:30 am-6:15 pm) - Mandatory Parent Meeting 6:30 pm in Cafeteria
Friday, August 8: (8:30 am-12:00 pm)

If I am in marching band, do I have to buy my uniform or marching instrument (such as drums or tuba)?

No, the school provides the uniforms and larger marching band instruments (tubas, snare drum, quint drum, bass drum, mallet percussion, baritones, mellophones, etc.) Smaller instruments such as flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone and trombone are all student owned instruments. Students do have to buy their shoes for the marching uniform.

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Do I have to participate in marching band to be in the high school band?

No, but you must receive an exemption from Mr. Ray. We strongly encourage you to participate, it is quite a bit of fun and students learn valuable life lessons from this activity.

Is band camp required?

Yes! Drumline camp and full marching band camp are required for those in marching band.

Can I be in the jazz ensemble as a 9th grader?

Yes, 9th grade students are eligible to audition for jazz ensemble. Placement into this group is audition only.

Can I get honors credit for the band class?

Yes, all high school band students receive honors credit.

Can I get honors credit for band all four years?

Yes, students may receive honors credit for band for all four years.

I am an athlete; how does band affect my athletic participation?

Being an athlete and being in the band have very few conflicts. The only conflict will be if you play a fall sport, such as football, cheerleading, volleyball or men's soccer. This conflict would only arise if you wanted to be in the marching band. If you are just taking the band class during the day, there will be no conflict.

I play sports in the winter (basketball, wrestling, etc.) or in the spring (baseball, softball, lacrosse, track, etc.), is there a conflict between band and sports?

No, these sports do not conflict with the band and we work diligently to make sure that there are no sport and band activities on the same day. This is almost impossible to accomplish but we work very hard to minimize any conflict.

Members of the drumline will have a conflict with winter/spring sports. The drumline does indoor competitions during the spring semester.

Do I have to be enrolled in a band class to audition for all-county band, all-district band or central region jazz band events?

Yes, it is a requirement of the county and the state that students are enrolled in a band class to audition for these events.

Does taking band hurt my GPA?

Taking band does not hurt your GPA. GPA's are graded on an unweighted grade of 0.0-4.0 and a weighted grade of 0.0-5.0. Advanced Placement/IB courses are receiving a 5.0 GPA for an A. Students receiving an A in a band class can receive a 4.5 GPA for the honors courses.

I want to go to UNC-Chapel Hill, will taking band all four years hurt my chances of admission?

No, universities such as UNC-Chapel Hill and other high scholar schools look for students that are well rounded. Band students are often selected above other students due to the rigor that band requires. No student has even been denied admission into a university because of taking band.

Can I take band and meet all my requirements for high school?

Yes, band does not interfere with your other high school requirements. We have even had students take multiple bands during their senior year because they have open slots in their schedules after meeting all requirements. We have a high number of IB and AP students enrolled in band. A zero period may be needed, almost all students take a zero period. Freshmen PE is a great option for zero period.

Can I take band and still take other electives?

Yes, band students can schedule other electives during the academic year. As students progress through high school completing required courses, more and more elective slots become available.

Who are the Directors/Staff?

Currently, the Grimsley Band Staff includes Jeremy Ray (director), Zach Baker (assistant director/drumline instructor), Jacob Lewis (assistant director), and Olivia Gerald (Whirlettes). We also bring in additional staff for band camp and MPA.

How much does it cost to be in the marching band?

For the 2024-25 school year, the marching band fee was $135.

The following is included in that cost:

Uniform T-shirt: $15
Winter Uniform Cleaning Fee: $10
Bus/Transportation Fee: $25
Meals for Games: $45
Uniform Gloves: $10
Uniform Shoes: $35

The band fee is reviewed each year and adjusted as necessary to cover the cost of the above listed items.

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Why if I can't pay for the T-shirt, uniform cleaning, drumline uniform, or marching shoes?

Individual circumstances will be discussed on a case-by-case basis between the parents and director. There are several fundraising opportunities to help pay for your band fee throughout the year.

Is there a cost to be in the jazz ensemble?

It does not cost anything to be in the jazz ensemble. There will be field trip costs to competitions.

Is there a cost to be on the drum line?

There is an additional cost to be on the drumline. The drum line wears a wind suit and specific shoes for performances throughout the community. Each drumline member is responsible to pay for this uniform.

What is the practice schedule like?

After school marching band rehearsals begin on the second day of school and are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30-6:30 pm.

Drumline rehearses every day after school (either with the full band or as an individual section).

What is the daily band class like?

The daily band class meets for 54 minutes each day.

1st Period: Jazz Ensemble (9:15-10:14 am)
2nd Period: Wind Ensemble (10:20-11:14 am)
Seminar: (11:20-11:40 pm)
3rd Period: Percussion Ensemble (11:46-12:40 pm)
4th Period: Concert Band I (12:46-1:40 pm)
5th Period: Concert Band II (2:25-3:19 pm)

This is the 2024-25 schedule. It may fluctuate next year, but this is the schedule from this school year. There is no band class currently offered during 6^{th} period.

Please remember:

- You have 24 slots (28 with zero period) to take courses in your high school career. Taking band for 4 years gives you 4 of your elective requirements and they can also be at an honors credit level. There is also a zero-period option for students to take PE or other courses.
- It does not hurt your GPA to take a band class.
- Marching band is required, but exemptions are allowed once approved by the band director, however, you must be enrolled in a band class to do marching band.
- You can be an athlete and a band member without conflicts.