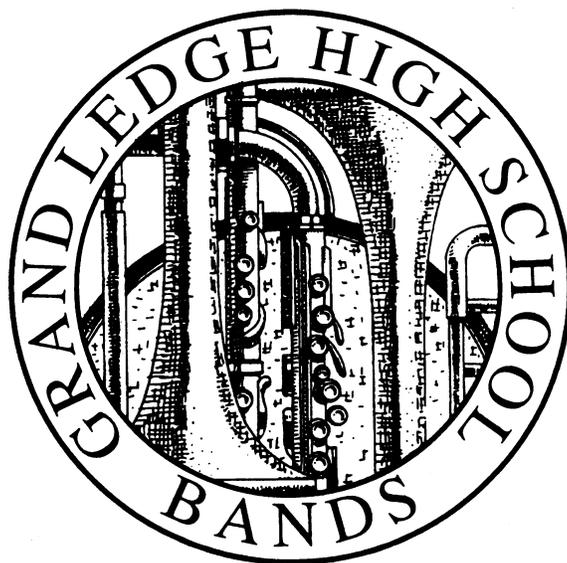


# **GRAND LEDGE HIGH SCHOOL BANDS 1930 – 2012**

**Pursuing Excellence in Instrumental Music Education  
and Performance for 82 Years**



## **Student/Parent Handbook 2012 – 2013**

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## FORWARD

**Congratulations** on your decision to be part of the fine tradition that is the **Grand Ledge High School Bands!** This Band Handbook is designed to guide both students and parents through all aspects of the Grand Ledge High School Band Program. For further information, please contact Mr. Blackmer at [blackmerc@glcomets.net](mailto:blackmerc@glcomets.net), and check the Band website for updates throughout the school year at <http://www.glhsbands.com>.

## CALENDAR

All Band events for the school year are found on the [Music Department Calendar](#). The High School Music Calendar is linked from our Band website at <http://www.glhsbands.com>. You can also access the Calendar directly at [www.calendarwiz.com/glhsmusic](http://www.calendarwiz.com/glhsmusic). It is the responsibility of each individual student (and their parents) to be up-to-date on the calendar. You will also find updates and reminders on the website and through our **Band blog**.

## TRIMESTERS

Grand Ledge High School currently runs on a trimester schedule. While the school year is broken up into three distinct trimesters, the High School Bands function as one continuous, uninterrupted school year.

**Those students wishing to be a part of the Grand Ledge High School Bands need to understand that they are making a commitment to the entire school year (all 3 trimesters), and that any deviation from that commitment is acceptable only for academic reasons.** An example of an acceptable academic reason would be the need to re-take a class needed for graduation during the senior year to regain credit. Should an academic reason arise, it is the responsibility of the student to bring this to Mr. Blackmer's attention as soon as possible, so that another student may potentially be re-scheduled to take their spot.

## ORGANIZATIONS

**THE COMET MARCHING BAND:** This organization consists of all Grand Ledge High School Band members. The Comet Marching Band performs at all home football games that occur within the academic year. The Marching Band also participates in parades (Grand Ledge High School Homecoming Parade – Grand Ledge Christmas Parade – Grand Ledge Memorial Day Parade), various school assemblies, and the annual Grand Ledge Marching Band Exhibition. Students are graded on rehearsal preparedness and performance. The Comet Marching Band rehearses as part of the academic school day, as well as one rehearsal each Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. through the month of September. **The Comet Marching Band is a symbol of excellence in our school and community, and it has a long history of tradition and pride.**

**WIND SYMPHONY:** This concert organization consists of the most advanced instrumental musicians at Grand Ledge High School, and frequently performs college-level literature and programs. Membership is open to high school students by audition. The Wind Symphony performs numerous concerts throughout the year. Wind Symphony students are expected to attend sectionals scheduled outside of the school day unless there is an **unavoidable** conflict. Wind Symphony students are strongly encouraged to participate in our private lesson program, as well as participate in solo and ensemble festivals, audition for the Michigan All-State ensembles, and perform as part of our recital program.

**SYMPHONY BAND and CONCERT BAND:** These are concert organizations consisting of students in grades 9-12, by audition only. The Symphony and Concert Bands perform numerous concerts throughout the year. Emphasis will be placed on the fundamentals of musical development and performance. Concert Band and Symphony Band students are strongly encouraged to participate in our private lesson program, as well as participate in solo and ensemble festivals, and perform as part of our recital program.

**CHAMBER ENSEMBLES:** These ensembles are dedicated to the performance of the finest in wind and percussion chamber music repertoire. Membership will vary according to the instrumentation of the work being performed. Students will be invited to participate in a chamber ensemble by Mr. Blackmer based on their performance in the other concert bands. Chamber ensembles may be organized and rehearsed by students as well. All rehearsals will be held before or after school. Chamber Ensembles perform at various events throughout the year, including concerts and solo & ensemble festival.

## PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

A complete list of Band “events” can be found on the [GLHS Music Department Calendar](#) – either through the GLHS Bands website at [www.glhsbands.com](http://www.glhsbands.com), or directly at [www.calendarwiz.com/glhsmusic](http://www.calendarwiz.com/glhsmusic). Please use this calendar when planning your family schedule for the 2012 – 2013 school year. Each and every student is important to the success of this program, and we must be able to count on 100% attendance at rehearsals and performances. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, a parent needs to contact Mr. Blackmer ([blackmerc@glcomets.net](mailto:blackmerc@glcomets.net)) as soon as possible. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case, we will try to be flexible and work with the student and parents on an individual basis. **These circumstances should be brought to Mr. Blackmer's attention well in advance. Please note that all excused absences from a performance must still be made-up (see Grading).**

**With regard to extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, etc.):** most conflicts between extra-curricular activities and band can be avoided, or alleviated, when pre-planning is done, and advance notice is given. It is critical for students and parents to compare the extra-curricular activity's schedule with the band calendar in advance. When a conflict is unavoidable, the two events will be weighted for "importance." For example, a band **performance** would outweigh an extra-curricular **practice/rehearsal**. An athletic **game** would outweigh a band **rehearsal**, etc.

Student athletes and their parents should use the site <http://www.highschoolsports.net> at the start of a sports season, and compare with the High School Music Calendar. Again, with advanced notice, conflicts can often be avoided! **This is the responsibility of the students and parents!**

### REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Daily **Marching Band** rehearsals begin **5 minutes after the official beginning of the class period**. This allows for extra time to potentially change shoes/clothing prior to rehearsal. The Fight Song is performed at the beginning of each rehearsal, and late students are considered **tardy** once the Fight Song has finished. **Punctuality is reflected in a student's daily grade.**

**Concert band** rehearsals start 2 minutes after the beginning of the class period. In both cases, students must be within the Band Room before the bell – not coming down the hallway. **And, again, punctuality is reflected in a student's daily grade.**

**Wednesday evening Marching Band rehearsals all begin at 6:00 p.m.** (unless otherwise noted). These rehearsals are generally held in the stadium, so please allow for extra travel time to get there. As with school-day rehearsals, you are considered "tardy" once the Fight Song has finished.

**Check with the white board before each rehearsal**, and have the music to be rehearsed out and on your stand in rehearsal order.

*In Band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with a great deal more students at one time than do other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is essential that Band students be organized and prepared for every rehearsal. When a student is not prepared for a rehearsal, it hurts the entire group (as well as the individual). It is also obvious that the creative process cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the rehearsal. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the Grand Ledge High School Bands will be counseled, and, if necessary, removed from the Band Program completely.*

### USE OF THE BAND ROOM AND PRACTICE ROOMS

Students are welcome (and encouraged!) to use the Band Room and practice rooms before school, during lunch, or after school. **However, due to the many thousands of dollars of instruments and equipment in the Band Room, only current band students are invited to be in the Band Room at any time of day.**

Keep all of your equipment stored in your band locker. Locker contents are very visible. **It is critical that anyone using a band locker have a combination lock with the combination stored in an easily remembered location. Grand Ledge High School will not be responsible for equipment taken from un-secured lockers.**

Respect other people's property.

**There is to be no FOOD or DRINK consumption in the Band Room or practice rooms at any time of day.** Water is always fine, but please dispose of empty water bottles when finished.

Percussion equipment is to be used only by percussionists, and all percussion equipment is to be covered and organized at the end of every rehearsal.

Chairs and music stands set up for rehearsal are not to be disturbed. If you need to borrow a chair or stand for a rehearsal or practice, please return it when finished!

Practice rooms are meant for that – **practicing!** **And private lessons take priority over any other practice room use.**

## MUSIC

**Students are responsible for any music assigned to them.** Lost original parts (not copies) need to be replaced by the student. The standard cost is \$5.00 for concert-size music (this includes the shipping charges from the publisher), \$8.00 for flip folders, and \$15.00 for concert folders.

Please understand the cost of concert music. The typical “high school level” piece of music now costs between \$80 and \$100, and it is very difficult (and expensive) to replace a single lost part.

**When marking your music, use pencil only.** Music is to be kept in the folders provided. Folders are to be kept in your Band locker. **The photocopier is for Band/Choir students only, and only for music-related copying.**

## CONCERT UNIFORMS

**Concert Shoes: Men - plain, black, tie down, polished dress shoe, black socks. Ladies - Plain, black, polished dress shoe. No sandals or flip-flops.**

Men are required to purchase a white wing-tipped tuxedo shirt, and these will be fitted and ordered through the school at the beginning of the year.

No unusually large necklaces, earrings, bracelets, or large rings are to be worn with the concert uniform. Conservative jewelry is acceptable. See Mr. Blackmer if you have questions.

The concert uniforms should be cleaned before every performance. Tuxes should be dry-cleaned (never washed!), and skirts and tops can be hand washed or dry-cleaned. If you take your concert uniform to Baryames in Grand Ledge, and let them know you are “with the Band,” you will receive a discounted rate!

**If any part of the concert uniform cannot be obtained due to financial reasons, please contact Mr. Blackmer as soon as possible.**

## MARCHING UNIFORMS

**This uniform is the apparel that identifies you as a member of the Grand Ledge High School Comet Marching Band. It is to be worn ONLY at authorized appearances and it must ALWAYS be worn properly.**

**REQUIREMENT: A WHITE T-SHIRT or WHITE SWEATSHIRT is to be worn under the marching coat. NO TANK TOPS. Please plan ahead. If a white shirt is not available for a performance, you will not be permitted to perform.**

The adjustable chinstrap is to be worn at all times. The chinstrap should be adjusted so that the hat does not fall back while playing or at attention. **The hat is never to be worn backwards.**

The plume is fastened into the hat by simply inserting it into the plume holder and pushing it down. To take the plume off of the hat, pinch the wire at the base of the plume while pulling it off. This is best done with the help of one of our parent volunteers before and after a performance.

White marching band gloves are \$5.00 and must be purchased in the high school band room **before** performances days – **NOT** just prior to a performance. Gloves must be **clean (white)** and in good condition. Gloves should be washed after each performance. All wind players must wear gloves in performances.

Shoes are made of white leather and must be paid for with band camp fees. Shoes must be clean and white for all performances. Only **WHITE** socks are to be worn with the marching band uniform. White socks must be high-cut. NO LOW-CUT socks. Nail polish remover is an excellent cleaner to use on the white shoes.

**If any part of the marching uniform cannot be obtained due to financial reasons, please contact Mr. Blackmer as soon as possible – prior to the day of a performance.**

## CARE OF THE MARCHING UNIFORM

Proper care of the uniform is essential. Members must pride themselves in taking good care of school equipment. When the Grand Ledge High School Comet Marching Band performs, the visual impact must be as great as the musical impact. This means that each and every member must do their best to insure that the uniform stays clean and that shoes are polished. If your uniform needs cleaning between games please inform the parent helper when returning your uniform.

## MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE GROOMING

To insure the clean, uniform appearance of the Comet Marching Band, the following grooming regulations will be STRICTLY adhered to:

Hair is to be worn off the uniform collar and behind the ears. Band members may choose to meet these requirements by either cutting the hair to a manageable length, or putting hair up in such a way that it will not fall down when the hat is taken off. When the latter choice is made, band members must use hair net, bobby pins, or other inconspicuous devices to hold hair in place through the entire performance day or evening.

No Band member's hair will be cut, shaved, or clipped without her/his expressed approval to do so.

Beards, goatees, and/or mustaches are highly discouraged. The remainder of the face should be clean-shaven while in uniform.

Cosmetics (mascara, lipstick, eye makeup, etc.) or jewelry (earrings, ID bracelets, watches, sunglasses, etc.) will not be worn while in uniform. This includes "spirit paint."

Section Leaders will inspect their section before every performance.

The uniform must be worn in its entirety unless otherwise decided by the director. The only exception to this would be an outside rehearsal prior to a performance where a partial uniform would be acceptable.

## AUDITIONS

### Concert Wind & Percussion

Wind and percussion auditions take place at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester in the fall, and toward the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester in the spring. **Auditions are required of all Grand Ledge Band students.** The only exception to this would be the spring/3<sup>rd</sup> trimester audition for seniors.

Auditions may be recorded, or heard live, and they generally consist of a collection of etudes/excerpts for your instrument, a 2-octave chromatic scale, and sight-reading. The result of your spring audition determines your "field order" for the following marching band season, as well as your tentative concert band placement for the following school year. Student placement in all concert bands is based entirely on "how they perform" the audition music. The grade of a student is not a factor.

Chair challenges may be done throughout the school year, but only within one band. Music for challenges will generally be taken from the folder.

### Drum Major

The auditions for Drum Major take place at the end of the school year (generally the Friday of Memorial Day weekend). The audition consists of demonstrating vocal commands and marching technique, calling off tempos, and conducting. Drum Major candidates must submit two letters of recommendation (one must be from a current Grand Ledge High School teacher), as well as a "letter of intent" stating why they feel they would make a great leader. The position of Drum Major is open to any Band student who has completed at least one year in the Comet Marching Band.

### Color Guard/Drumline

Color Guard and Drumline auditions take place in the spring. Color Guard auditions are open to any student at Grand Ledge High School, however, Drumline auditions are reserved for current Band students – with preference given to percussionists.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

**All students are encouraged to participate in private lessons to improve their individual skill on their instrument.** We are extremely fortunate in Grand Ledge to have Michigan State University's College of Music, as well as so many other local resources. Private lessons are a must for serious Band students, and the many private teachers that we bring into Grand Ledge High School can help take our students to that next level of performance. In addition, the Grand Ledge Music Booster Association offers a three-year private lesson reimbursement scholarship. Private lessons can be scheduled by contacting one of the three parent coordinators listed below:

**Brass** – Kym Hess (517) 290-7608 / hessak@yahoo.com

**Percussion** – Steve Gerhardt (517) 420-7502 / scgerhardt@gmail.com

**Woodwind** – Jill Ford (517) 224-4333 / andrew.jill.ford@comcast.net

## SECTION LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Be able to demonstrate the music – style, dynamics, articulations, etc.
- Be responsible: be punctual, be prepared with your own music, and take proper care of both your instrument and music.
- Help and encourage those who are struggling with the music.
- Challenge those who are not putting forth an effort.
- Show a concern for the members in the section and initiate sectionals *before* they are requested by Mr. Blackmer.
- Share concerns, or suggestions, with Mr. Blackmer for the benefit of the band.
- **Have a positive attitude, no matter how frustrating the situation.**
- Lead in such a way others will follow.
- Set an example of proper conduct.
- Support the policies and expectations of the band.

### DAILY ATTENDANCE (from official school policy)

Grand Ledge High School's attendance policy is based on two facts. First of all, it is the school's task to teach promptness and responsibility. Good attendance habits in school will help make students reliable adults. Moreover, their attendance record becomes part of their permanent record. Many employers consider attendance to be equally as important as a student's grade point average.

#### **Reporting Procedures:**

- Documentation in the form of a phone call or written note must be received by the attendance office for each absence (517) 925-5818.
- Documentation must be received within 48 hours of the student's return to class.
- Documentation will be kept in the student's attendance file. This is significant in the appeals process.

#### **There are three types of absences:**

1) **Explained (AE)** – Absences due to personal illness, professional appointments, funerals, or serious personal or family problems. Arrangements for all work, tests, or quizzes missed due to an explained absence must be initiated by the student with all teachers prior to or upon the day of return. All make-up work must be completed and submitted to teachers in direct relation to the number of days absent, i.e. two days absent equals two days to submit all make-up work. Teachers reserve the right to prioritize any make-up assignments, tests, or quizzes within the make-up window.

2) **Unexplained (AU)** – Absences that are not in the explained category. Examples would be shopping trips, barber or beauty appointments, missing the bus, oversleeping etc. In the case of an unexplained absence, the student will not receive credit for any homework or missed test during the absence. The student will be issued detentions or possible suspension depending on the number of truancy offenses.

3) **School Related Absences (AS)** – Absences due to a school field trip, college visit, athletic event or other school related activities. Arrangements for all work, tests or quizzes missed due to a school related absence must be initiated by the student with all teachers prior to or upon the day of return. All make-up work must be completed and submitted to teachers in direct relations to the number of days absent, i.e. two days absent equals two days to submit all make-up work. Teachers reserve the right to prioritize any make-up assignments, tests, or quizzes within the make-up window.

- **Family Vacation Policy** – Parents are discouraged from having their students excused from school for vacations or trips. A student who wishes to take part in a planned vacation will be excused if the request is made at least five (5) school days in advance of the scheduled vacation. Arrangements for all work, tests or quizzes missed due to an excused absence must be initiated by the student with all teachers prior to or upon the day of return. All make-up work must be completed and submitted to teachers in direct relation to the number of days absent, i.e. two days absent equals two days to submit all make-up work.

- **Checking out of School** – A student who must leave school for any reason during the day **MUST OBTAIN A DISMISSAL SLIP AND SIGN OUT IN THE OFFICE BEFORE LEAVING**. Failure to sign out may result in an unexcused absence for those hours missed and detention/suspension will be assigned.

- **Seven Absence Limit** –A student must not exceed seven (7) total absences in each class per trimester. Once a student has accumulated seven (7) absences in a class, he/she must:

1. Earn a passing grade (60%) in the class; and
2. Pass the final comprehensive exam (60%) at the end of the trimester.

If (1) and (2) above are not achieved, the student will receive an “F” for the class and will not receive credit for the trimester.

3. Excessive tardies may result in the loss of privileges and/or disciplinary action.

**Tardy Policy:** Being tardy is not a responsible practice. A tardy is defined as not being in the room when the bell completes ringing. Tardies cannot be excused; however students are given two (2) tardies per trimester without penalty (for emergencies). Teachers will record tardies as part of their attendance taking procedures.

### **ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Effective Fall 2013)**

Band registration materials for the following school year are due in April of the current school year. It is critical that these registration forms and fees are returned in a timely manner. Students who do not have registration materials submitted prior to the end of the school year may be assigned as an *alternate* in their section for the following Fall.

Alternate members are required to be at all rehearsals throughout the season. They will be used to fill in vacancies, either temporarily, or in some cases, permanently. During the rehearsal, if not in “the block,” alternate members must be working on music and/or drill. Alternate members are expected to know the basic show concept so that when they are called to fill a vacancy, they will have a basic knowledge of what will be required. Alternate members are members in full standing of the Marching Band and are subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to the band as a whole.

### **GRADING**

Grading in band is based on participation and playing evaluations. Students belong to the Grand Ledge High School Band Program because they want to, not because they have to! Band students receive a grade for each performance (i.e. football games, concerts, festivals, etc.). Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, playing evaluations. Students must have their equipment in good working order at all times.

#### **Trimester Grade (80% of FINAL Trimester Grade)**

- **Performances – 50%**

1. All concert, festival, and marching performances. In addition, Wednesday evening Marching Band rehearsals, and all High School Band concerts (even if they are not performing in that concert), are counted as Performance Grades. **Double check the Calendar!**
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester January Recital (attendance required for all band students). Students are not required to perform, however, they do need to be in attendance for their specific instrument. Of course, all students are strongly encouraged to perform!

- **Auditions/Performance Evaluations – 25%**

Auditions take place during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester each year. Auditions will usually consist of the following:

1. Assigned etudes given by Mr. Blackmer.
2. Sight-reading material of a medium grade of difficulty.
3. Selected scales.

Auditions are required for everyone (except seniors in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester). They are not graded on quality of performance, but simply for “performing” the audition (A or F).

**Performance evaluations** may take place at any point during the school year, and will generally consist of music from the folder. Students may re-take a performance evaluation as many times as they would like to earn a higher grade, however, if

the performance evaluation is over music being performed in up-coming concert, any re-take must be completed no less than five (5) school days prior to that concert.

In addition, it should be understood that performance evaluations may not necessarily affect everyone in the band at the same time. For example, a performance evaluation may be assigned to only a portion of the band (or single section) based on the students' collective preparation of their parts.

- **Rehearsal Procedures – 20%**

Rehearsal procedures includes being prepared for each rehearsal with your instrument, music, mutes/accessories, and a pencil. An unexcused tardy will impact the Rehearsal Procedure grade. An unexcused absence will result in complete forfeiture of that day's rehearsal procedure points.

- **Reading For Understanding Assignments – 5%**

As part of Grand Ledge High School's school improvement initiative, there will be a variety of "reading for understanding" assignments throughout the year. These will be done entirely in class, and students will be given advanced warning so that they may be prepared (loose leaf paper, etc.).

### **Trimester Final Exam (Concert Critique) Grade (20% of FINAL Trimester Grade)**

In your own words, *type* impressions of a performance. You may comment on any area of the performance - instrumentation, particular sections of the ensemble, instruments or soloists, conductors, dynamic contrast, intonation, musical expression, concert etiquette, etc. What is important is that you formulate your own ideas and opinions. Critiques should be of European-American-art music "classical" concerts. Grand Ledge band and choir performances (**that you are not a part of**) are ideal, however, middle school concerts, Michigan State University or other university performances, etc., are perfectly acceptable. Video performances or television performances may not be used. You will find up-coming concert information on the Music Department web Calendar.

Write the first draft of your report as soon as possible after the concert so that your impressions remain fresh, but do not write during the concert. Use the program to remind yourself of what you heard when you write your concert critique. Use the program as a way to help yourself use correct terminology. Do not use program notes as a substitute for your own thinking and personal reactions, and do not cram your report full of historical tidbits about the piece. Before you attend your first concert, do a Google search to find and read "Why So Serious?," by Alex Ross in the New Yorker magazine (September 8, 2008).

**Papers must be submitted no later than five (5) school days following the performance being critiqued, and all critiques are due before the last day of the trimester. Critiques may be submitted as a "hard copy," or sent as a Word document attachment via e-mail at blackmerc@glcomets.net.**

#### **Be sure to adhere to the following format:**

- **Introduction**

- Briefly identify the concert. Who performed? What pieces were performed? Where was the performance?
- *Briefly* describe the performance space, physical surroundings, and the appearance of the performers.

- **Objective Description of the Music**

- Describe instrumentation, dynamics, texture, rhythm and tempo, form and relationships between movements, principles of design in the compositions, etc.
- Note extremes or what was most striking.
- How do these elements work together?

- **Subjective Reactions to the Music**

- Did you like individual pieces?
- Did you have an emotional reaction to any particular piece? Why did you react the way you did? Was it in the composition or the performance, or both?
- What held your attention?
- Did your mood change in the course of the concert?
- Was the concert full of variety, or was it all more or less the same?
- Could the performance be better? How?
- Was this a familiar or new experience?
- Was there a theatrical dimension to the performance?
- How does your concert going experience compare to those discussed in the Alex Ross article, "Why So Serious?"

- **Conclusion**

- Did you like or dislike the experience overall?
- Critiques must be typed.
- Use a 1-inch margin on all four borders.
- Double space.
- 12-point Times New Roman font.
- 2-page minimum. 3-page maximum.
- Spelling and sentence structure will be graded.
- One critique for each trimester is required.
- **Seniors are exempt from the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester concert critique, however, they will need to submit a “Senior Reflection” paper on or before the seniors’ official last day of school.**
- **Concert Review Suggestions**
  - Begin with a clear topic sentence and introductory paragraph.
  - After giving a general sense of your impressions in the introductory paragraph, give details and specific examples.
  - Always try to be as specific as possible. One could write, “the performance was exciting,” but is that entirely true? Surely some parts of the performance were more exciting than others, and some were not exciting at all.
  - While details are good, do not just list a bunch of details. The reader will not know what they mean. Remember that the reader was not necessarily there.

### **High School Grading Scale**

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

### **ALCOHOL/DRUG POLICY**

The possession, consumption, and distribution of alcohol or drugs by the members of this organization at any Grand Ledge High School Band event is strictly prohibited. The Grand Ledge High School Band will not tolerate alcohol or other drugs at any school sponsored activity (i.e., bus trips, rehearsals, etc.). Any violation of this policy may result in automatic expulsion from the Grand Ledge High School Band in addition to any discipline administered by the school district’s administration.

### **HAZING/HARASSMENT POLICY**

The Grand Ledge High School Band believes that a positively functioning student organization is nurtured by an atmosphere of social and moral responsibility, respect for authority, and loyalty to the principles of higher education.

The Grand Ledge High School Band further believes that, despite the fact that much progress has been made, one of the most damaging agents in any school environment is hazing. This unproductive and hazardous custom has no rightful place in education.

The Grand Ledge High School Band defines hazing as any action taken or situation created which is intentionally designed to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities and actions include: creation of excessive fatigue; physical or psychological abuse; wearing apparel which is not in good taste; engaging in public stunts, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, and any other activities which are not consistent with policies of the organization or rules and regulations.

The use of degrading names in the Grand Ledge High School Band is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Nicknames are not an official part of the Comet Marching Band. It is important to be aware that the use of degrading nicknames could be considered a form of hazing and could be found offensive by some members.

Any violation with the Grand Ledge High School Band Hazing Policy will result in a meeting with Mr. Blackmer. An immediate dismissal may be issued to any student in violation with this policy. Mr. Blackmer, the band council, section leaders and individual members will monitor actions within the organization and will report behaviors which violate the intent outlined in this policy.

## **BAND LETTERS & BAND BLANKETS**

Band letters and blankets are provided to band students by the Grand Ledge Music Boosters Association based on the following qualifications:

### **Band Letters**

- Must have successfully completed three (3) complete years (nine trimesters) of high school band.
- Students who transfer into the Grand Ledge Public Schools during their high school career will be eligible for a Band Letter based on their band participation in the previous school system.
- Letters are presented at the Band Banquet (Tuesday following Memorial Day weekend).

### **Band Blankets**

- Must have successfully completed four (4) complete years (twelve trimesters) of high school band.
- Students who transfer into the Grand Ledge Public Schools during their high school career are NOT eligible for a Band Blanket.
- Blankets are presented at the Band Banquet (Tuesday following Memorial Day weekend).

## **BAND COUNCIL**

The Band Council is responsible to Mr. Blackmer. The band council will be the governing body of the band. The council will help promote internal discipline and serve as a sounding board for students. The council may recommend changes within the band structure and organize social events for the band members. The council will consist of the following nine students:

**President** -- In charge of conducting periodic meetings and consultations with Mr. Blackmer.

**Vice President**-- Assists the president and will take over meetings when the president is absent. The vice president will be in charge of all publicity for the bands.

**Secretary** -- Responsible for all council correspondence, taking minutes of meetings, and relaying information to all the bands. The secretary will serve as band historian, gathering all news articles about the organizations.

**Treasurer** -- In charge of all the band council money. The treasurer will also assist the vice-president in publicity.

The above officers will be elected from the GLHS Band. The freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior class will have one elected representative on the council.

### **Constitution of the Grand Ledge Band Council**

#### **Article 1 - Name and Purpose**

##### **Section 1**

We, the Grand Ledge High School Band Council, are organized to represent the Grand Ledge High School Bands. The council will uphold all of the rules and regulations stated by the band council constitution. The band council must abide by this constitution in any council meeting. A democratic process will make decisions.

#### **Article 2 - Membership**

##### **Section 1**

The Grand Ledge High School Band Council shall be made up of nine members - president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, senior representative, junior representative, sophomore representative, and two freshmen representatives. The Grand Ledge High School Band members shall elect them.

#### **Article 3 - Elections**

##### **Section 1**

Those candidates seeking election for the position of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and representatives from each class must be nominated for that position. Those seeking election for any office will have the option of a one-minute audience with each of the three concert bands.

##### **Section 2**

The officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) will be elected by a plurality vote of all the members of the Grand Ledge High School Band.

### **Section 3**

Representatives will be elected by a plurality vote of their respective classmates.

### **Section 4**

Candidates running for positions on the band council must be in the band program prior to and during their time in office.

### **Section 5**

No person may hold more than one elected office at the same time in any given year. Elected officers and representatives will serve a term of one year, (June to June), in addition to one month of training with the previous year's council after the election (May).

### **Section 6**

In the event of a vacancy on the council, the members of the council shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the term.

## **Article 4 – Duties of Officers**

### **Section 1**

The president shall preside at all meetings of the band council, appoint special committees as necessary, and see that the rules and regulations set forth in the constitution are enforced.

### **Section 2**

The vice-president shall preside at meetings of the band council in the absence of the president and keep the written history of the band up to date. The vice president will also hold the duty of calling each member of the council the night before a meeting as a reminder of the time and location of a meeting.

### **Section 3**

The secretary shall be responsible for recording minutes of all council meetings, including attendance of all the band members present. The minutes must be distributed to the band director and posted for the band members not present. A complete file of all minutes should be maintained. The secretary should also take care of all council correspondence.

### **Section 4**

The treasurer shall maintain complete financial records with the help of the Grand Ledge Music Booster's treasurer. A financial report should be given at each meeting. Authorized expenditures shall be those deemed necessary to finance projects of the council and must be approved by a majority vote of the council.

### **Section 5**

The class representatives shall be an indication of the opinions of their respective grades, and should voice any concerns their peers have brought up with them.

## **Article 5 – Band Director**

### **Section 1**

The band director will act as an advisor to the council.

### **Section 2**

The band director will be informed of the agenda of the meeting prior to the meeting by the president or acting officer.

## **Article 6 – Meetings and Quorum**

### **Section 1**

Meetings must be held on a predetermined basis. All members must be notified of any regular meeting at least seven (3) days before the predetermined date. Attendance is mandatory at all meetings unless a valid excuse is discussed with president or vice-president.

### **Section 2**

All meetings are open to all members of the Grand Ledge High School Band, unless the meeting is called by Mr. Blackmer to discuss matters that should be kept confidential to uphold the integrity of the band.

**Section 3**

Only members of the council may vote on motions/business of this organization.

**Section 4**

For any motion/business to be voted on, fifty percent (50%) of the elected council must be present. Lacking this fifty percent, no business shall be conducted.

**Section 5**

Motions/business must be passed by a vote of no less than fifty-one present (51%) of the Council present.

**Article 7 - Amendments****Section 1**

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by two-thirds vote of the council present, notice of the proposed amendment having been presented in writing at least fourteen days before the meeting.