



GRAFTON BAND CAMP 2024 INFORMATION

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Welcome back to all returning vets and a special hello to all rising freshmen students and freshmen parents. You are about to embark on what will hopefully be one of the most memorable and fulfilling experiences of your high school career.

To help prepare for camp, there will be a band booster meeting on Monday, July 22 at 7:00pm in the high school band room. The meeting is for our executive board members and the committee chairs, but any parent interested in the booster organization is welcome to attend. We will discuss many things that are pertinent to the operation of the band before school even starts, including band camp preparation and show needs for the fall.

MUSIC READING SESSION

The music reading session will be the first event of the summer. The music reading session will happen on Tuesday, July 30 from 5:00-8:00pm in the Grafton auditorium. Attendance is mandatory if you are in town. Drop off and pick up of students can be done from the Grafton High School Band Room door (marked B-2) **Guard and percussion students should NOT attend the music reading sessions at night as they have other practices scheduled.**

The battery percussion (on-field percussion) will meet on Friday July 12 and July 19 from 12pm-4pm in the Grafton Band room. Attendance is mandatory if you are in town.

The front ensemble (pit) will meet on Friday, July 19 from 9am-12pm to set up their instruments and section so that they can be ready to go for percussion camp starting July 30. Attendance is mandatory if you are in town. It is imperative that all school owned mallet instruments be back at school no later than July 30 if they have not been returned already.

MUSIC AND DRILL

Please visit the website and download your music. Please have it at the reading session on July 30.

1. Go to <https://www.graftonband.com/music/>
2. Click on the top link that says "Part Assignments"
3. Find your instrument & name and which part to download.
4. Click on your appropriate instrument and part and download/print your part for all four parts of the show.

Instructions for drill assignments:

1. The drill is on the website as well BUT DRILL NUMBERS WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF BAND CAMP, so please do not download anything yet.
2. All students need to download the latest version of [UDBapp Pro](#) on the [iOS App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). Please do this before the start of band camp.
3. **Log in information and a tutorial will be provided during band camp. The boosters have paid for your subscription to use this app for the season.**

UNIFORM FITTINGS

Please come dressed in gym/basketball type shorts and a T-shirt.

Seniors – July 30 from 12:30-2:00pm @ GHS Band Room

Juniors – July 30 from 2:00-3:30pm @ GHS Band Room

Sophomores – July 30 from 3:30-5:00pm @ GHS Band Room

Freshmen – August 1 during rookie camp

BAND CAMP ATTENDANCE

Band camp is mandatory. If you are going to miss camp for any reason, please email Mr. Kirsch at dkirsch@ycsd.york.va.us

FORMS & FEES

The forms needed for the 2024 season are available at: www.graftonband.com. Please click on the link on the homepage that says "2024-25 Forms and Fees." The Grafton High School Band does NOT fall under the jurisdiction of VHSL (Virginia High School League which governs our sports and some activities within the school); therefore, no physical is required to be in the marching band. However, every student MUST turn in a medical form prior to the start of camp. We ask that the medical form be turned in for every student at the music reading so that we have a medical form on file for every student before rookie camp and band camp starts. Please disregard this if you have already submitted a medical form and submitted your fees for the 2024-25 school year.

STUDENT PARKING

Students should park in the parking lot closest to the band room, not in the main parking lot behind the school. We will be using the large parking lot in the back for our marching field. Please do not park there.

PARENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Please do NOT stop in front of the band room door. The traffic backs up and causes issues on Grafton Drive. Parents should pull into a spot in the teacher parking lot or the band parking lot and drop off their student.

STUDENT PERSONAL ITEMS

Students will bring all their personal items (lunch, water bottles, etc.) into the band room in the morning. We will make every attempt to make sure that each band student has a locker to hold their personal belongings by the end of rookie camp.

LUNCH/DINNER TIMES

Lunch will be approx. 12:00-1:00pm during rookie camp and the first full week of band camp. Dinner the second week of full camp will be approx. 5:45-6:30pm. Students may leave campus for lunch/dinner if they have transportation. Students will be expected to be back on time. **It is particularly important that students eat breakfast before coming to camp. Many of the students that struggle with the heat have not eaten anything before coming to camp.**

LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED FOR CAMP

1. Comfortable tennis shoes (**no sandals or flip flops!**)
2. **SUNSCREEN**
3. A personal refillable water bottle
4. Marching band music (memorized as much as possible)
5. Pep band music (available on the band website)
6. Instrument
7. A hat (optional)
8. Light, comfortable clothing (no swimwear)
9. Sunglasses
10. **DEODORANT** (and don't be afraid to reapply as needed throughout the day)
11. Flip folder to hold their music (this can be purchased at Music and Arts for a nominal fee and can be used for 4 years)
12. Lyre- this holds their flip folder to their instrument (this can be purchased at Music and Arts for a nominal fee and can be used for 4 years)
13. Duct tape (something unique and colorful is best to help you find your drill spots)
14. Sharpie marker to write on your duct tape

GUARD/PERCUSSION CAMP WEEK

The week before the main band camp starts, the percussion and guard will have their own camps. Please see those dates and times on the enclosed schedule. Students may either pack a lunch/dinner or leave campus for lunch if they have transportation. Those camps will be run by the percussion and guard instructors, so please contact them if you have questions.

Guard: Bridget Haigh bhaigh@ycsd.york.va.us

Percussion: Will Rose williamroze123@gmail.com

If you cannot reach them, please contact me and I will forward all your questions to them.

FEED THE BAND

During the second week of Band Camp and before the football games, the GHBPA provides a dinner option for students. Please find the form at www.graftonband.com and follow the directions on the form and submit payment no later than Wednesday the first full week of band camp.

STUDENT HANDBOOK & NEW STUDENTS GUIDE

The student handbook and parent survival guide are available on the band website as well and we strongly encourage all parents to look through this. The handbook will answer many questions that you may have as a parent. It also contains a copy of the syllabus, which will explain how your child will be graded in the band class. We also strongly recommend that all freshman and newcomers read the freshman and newcomers guide. There are many frequently asked questions that have been answered to help ease your transition to the GHS Band.

The marching season is a busy time. We hope every parent will be involved in the band either through the boosters or just by supporting the band at their performances throughout the season. We are very proud of the band program at Grafton. Grafton has a great reputation throughout the area as one of the best bands around. Your involvement and your child's dedication make this possible. There are many things a parent can do, such as chaperone, volunteer to help with the pit crew, concessions, sew flags, etc. We want to thank each of you for allowing your child to be a part of this organization.

We are looking forward to working with you and your kids in the coming weeks. You will be amazed at what these kids can do in such a brief time. Feel free to bring a lawn chair and watch at any point during the camp.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about camp.

Thank you,

Darren Kirsch and Gabe Stone

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