



Gladewater Middle School Band

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Gladewater, TX 75647

Rhett Pilcher
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GMS Band and parents,

My name is Rhett Pilcher and I am the Director of Bands at Gladewater Middle School. I have had the pleasure of teaching and getting to know your child over the past few weeks. This letter should include a Remind sign-up page, a Gladewater ISD Drug Testing permission form, and a Gladewater Band medical/permission form (Front AND Back). Permission for randomized drug testing is **REQUIRED** by Gladewater ISD and by the state in order to participate in UIL competing school electives. Refusal will result in your student being removed from band.

Below is a list of performances for this year. This is in addition to all home game GMS Pep Rallies done during the school day. Please be flexible as things could be added or canceled as the year goes on.

- **November 2nd** - GMS Band to play at the 8th Grade football game. Gladewater vs White Oak (**Mandatory**)
- **November 3rd** - **8th grade ONLY** Students are invited to sit in the stands and play for the first half of a high school football game. They will be released after halftime. (**Optional**)
- **December 1st** – All-Region Band Auditions (**Optional**)
- **December 7th, 6:30pm (GHS Auditorium)** - GISD Band Christmas Concert (**Mandatory**) (**Does not include 6th Grade Band**)
- **January 12th** - All-Region Band Clinic and Concert (**Mandatory for those who make the All-Region Band**)
- **April 4th or 5th** - Varsity Band UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest (**During the school day. Mandatory for those in Varsity Band. We will not know which date or time until they schedule us closer to the contest.**)
- **May 13th** - SoundPost Music Festival/Splash Kingdom Waterpark (**Optional**. Students must meet requirements to go on this trip)
- **May 14th, 6:30pm (GHS Auditorium)** - GISD Spring Band Concert (**Mandatory**)

In addition to the previous dates, **ONLY** those who make the Varsity Band in the Spring will be required to attend a few after school rehearsals in preparation for UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. These dates are tentative and are subject to change depending on track meets and other conflicts. All rehearsals are mandatory for Varsity Band members.

- **February 15th, 3:45-5:00pm** - Varsity Band Rehearsal - GMS Band Hall
- **February 22nd, 3:45-5:00pm** - Varsity Band Rehearsal - GMS Band Hall
- **February 29th, 3:45-5:00pm** - Varsity Band Rehearsal - GMS Band Hall
- **March 7th, 3:45-5:00pm** - Varsity Band Rehearsal - GMS Band Hall
- **March 21st, 3:45-5:45pm** - Varsity Band Rehearsal -. This rehearsal will possibly be at the GHS Auditorium. We will bus students over there. Parents should pick students up at GHS at the stadium parking lot.
- **March 25th, 3:45-5:00pm** - Varsity Band Rehearsal - GMS Band Hall
- **April 2nd, 3:45-5:00pm** - Varsity Band Rehearsal - GMS Band Hall

Attendance at mandatory events is a requirement for being in the band. If you can't (or won't) come to our required events, your child will be dropped from the band class. Students must stay for the duration of a mandatory event. I can excuse absences from mandatory events in special cases if I am notified well in advance. I will excuse absences for conflicting school events such as scrimmages, volleyball games, football games, etc.

Requirements to go on the SoundPost trip include but are not limited to:

- Band fees paid (\$40)
- Medical Forms/Drug Forms turned in

- All music passed off (For both the Fall and Spring Semesters)
- No missed performances
- No trips to DAEP (Alternative School) or out of school suspensions for the entire year
- Fewer than 6 entries into the "Discipline Card Box" (Each individual day of ISS, Lunch detentions, and bus write-ups are all counted in the card box)
- Passing all classes as of the last report card released before the trip

There are some expenses you need to be planning for. Gladewater ISD has been charging a band fee of \$40 for the year, or \$20 per semester. Please bring this as soon as possible. Checks for this need to be made out to "GMS Band". This money will be used for equipment/supply purchases and repair, contest fees, feeding the students while at band events, student travel to band events, and other items the band director deems necessary for the education, performance, and retention of band students. Students are not required to purchase their own instruments. If you are interested in purchasing your own instrument, **please check with me first.** There are many bad instruments that look great on the market. We use a very select few instrument brands. Any brands purchased outside of our list will not be permitted to be used in class or at performances but is welcome to be used at home for practice.

Please find the Remind page. Sign up for it. I use Remind a lot around contest season or performances to keep band students and parents informed about things we have going on. It will also be the best way to inform you if I cancel a practice due to weather or something. You can also check my teacher webpage on the GSD website for updates throughout the year. Our entire calendar and every letter I send home with the kids throughout the year will be posted on the band website. It can be found through the Gladewater Middle School Webpage or you can scan the QR code below with your phone for a direct link to it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions throughout the year. Email is the quickest way to reach me, but you are welcome to call and leave me a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible. I do not communicate through any forms of social media.



Gladewater Middle School Band Website

I'm looking forward to another great year with the GMS Band,

Rhett Pilcher
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