



# Gladewater Middle School Band

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Dear 6th Grade Band, parents or guardians,

My name is Rhett Pilcher and I am the Director of Middle School Bands at Gladewater MS. Mr. Smith, Mrs. Marsh and myself have had the pleasure of teaching your child over the last few months. This letter should include a Gladewater Band medical/permission form. We must have this form back as soon as you can possibly get it to us. We legally cannot travel with your child without them.

I am very proud of the work our 6th Grade Band has done this year! We are already hearing some great sounds around the band hall. The kids are doing great and we are excited to see them excel in the many great opportunities they have in front of them.

### Here are the dates for this year's performances:

- **5/10/23** - SoundPost Music Festival in Canton. (Optional Performance. Requirements must be met to earn this incentive trip.)
- **5/14/23**, 6:30pm, GHS Auditorium - GISD Bands Spring Concert (Mandatory Performance)

We will also record a virtual Christmas Concert in December and post it on the band website as well as the GMS webpage.

This year, the 6th grade band will perform at the SoundPost Music Festival in Canton, Texas. SoundPost Music Festival will take place on Friday, May 10th in Canton, Texas. They will travel with the band and miss school that day. We will perform for three judges on stage at Canton High School then go spend the rest of the day at Splash Kingdom Water Park right there in Canton. This is an excellent opportunity for them because the water park and the contest hosts work together. They close the park down completely and open it up only for the bands participating in the competition. Rest assured that not only will all of the Gladewater band directors be watching your child, but also every East Texas band director at the contest along with the life guards that work for the water park. We will not need any chaperones for this trip.

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

- Park/Contest Ticket paid in full (Cash is preferred. Price will be given later in the year.)
- Medical Form turned in
- All Music passed off for the whole year
- No missed performances
- No trips to DAEP (Alternative School) or out of school suspensions for the entire year
- Fewer than 8 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

Your child was informed of these requirements on the first day of school and will be reminded throughout the year. This incentive trip is earned and not guaranteed. Failure to meet just one of these requirements will result in your child not being able to join us on the trip.

Our Spring Concert is scheduled for May 14th at 6:30pm. This concert will be at Gladewater High School in the auditorium. The High School and GMS Bands will also perform that night. This is a mandatory performance and everyone is required to be there and perform.

**TURN OVER —>**

While it is absolutely not required at Gladewater to buy one, you may be looking to purchase an instrument for your child. I normally suggest waiting until they are in high school before doing this. However, if you want to purchase an instrument, **please contact me first** before purchasing an instrument. We exclusively use very specific brands of instruments that perform well with each other in the band. You will see plenty of ads from large retail stores offering instruments for very cheap. Unfortunately, quality Instruments are not cheap. If the deal is too good to be true, it probably is. These instruments may look good and even work for a little while but they are cheaply made and our instrument repair company cannot get parts for them and won't even work on them. Also, beware of instruments that are different colors than normal. We only use silver and lacquered (Gold finish) instruments. This is for multiple reasons but mostly because when the band is on the field in high school, everybody and everything needs to look uniform across the board. Chances are, if you find a red trumpet in an ad for \$300, it's most likely cheaply made and not worth your money. If you do find a deal on an instrument and are interested in purchasing one, please email or call me and I will be happy to give you advice on it. This includes finding an instrument in a pawn shop! I have no problem going to a pawn shop in the East Texas area and testing out an instrument for you! Please understand that any instrument purchased that does not meet the requirements of the GISD Band Program will not be allowed to be used within our rehearsals or performances. You're welcome to use them at home for practicing, however.

You can always check my teacher webpage 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

We have really enjoyed starting these kids in band this year. We have a good group of 6th graders and the future of the Gladewater Band Program is looking bright! Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to get to know your child!

Go Bears!

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