

## **Grand Haven High School Orchestra Handbook**

“Our mission is to educate and inspire our children through music, thus enhancing the quality of life.” -GHAPS Music Department

### **INTRODUCTION**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Orchestra program at Grand Haven High School (the best in the west!). I am looking forward to an exciting and successful year! Participation in music programs is a right of all students but there is a set of expectations and standards for the students in orchestra:

1. Respect for others and yourself
2. Dependable
3. Strive for musical excellence
4. Commitment to the orchestra

My goal is for students to improve and grow as musicians and for them to enjoy performing and become more knowledgeable and competent players. Throughout the year students will be challenged in many ways. The following are a few important highlights to take note:

- Students should be practicing on a regular basis. There is always something to work on!
- Performances are a required part of orchestra. Evening concerts and performances that may occur during the school day are a normal part of being in orchestra. Performances are the culminating activity of everything we do in orchestra class. Performances are our “finals.”

“Without music life would be a mistake.” – Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

## **Orchestra Member Responsibilities and Expectations**

Everyone in orchestra is an important team member. Each and every one of you is equally important to the success of the team. Therefore, the musicians in this group are asked to abide by the following:

1. Respect yourself and others. Never judge another student's playing ability.
2. Cooperate with the teachers, section leaders, and other orchestra members.
3. Respect your instrument and your surroundings.
4. No food, drink or gum of any kind allowed in the rehearsal rooms – water bottles are allowed as long as they are not left in the rehearsal area.
5. Arrive to class early. We follow the school's policy on tardiness. Be ready to play when Mrs. Meyers is on the podium.
6. Be attentive and quiet during class.
7. Follow instructions
8. Come prepared with your materials. **PENCIL** to every rehearsal. Take notes in your music.
9. Keep a cloth in your case to wipe down instruments after each use.
10. Rosin bow **before** the start of class.
11. Respect the tuning process.
12. Put instruments away correctly and in their proper place.
13. Always give your best!

## **Trips and Travel**

In the event the orchestra is traveling to or from an event, all of the school's rules will apply. Any student found in violation of a school rule will be subject to the prescribed consequences.

## **Private Lessons**

Although private lessons are not required for orchestra participation, they are strongly encouraged. A student can greatly increase their knowledge and skill level in a short amount of time when taking private lessons. Ask for an up- to-date list from Mrs. Meyers.

## **Grading Procedure**

### **Musicianship 35%**

Every student starts with a perfect grade! The total points is based on our daily rehearsal points for a 9 week period. Below is a description of how a student earns daily points.

3 Points (minus 0) =

- a. Does not disrupt class learning
- b. Does not talk at inappropriate times
- c. Contributes actively at ALL times  
(Including, but not limited to: posture, ready to play when appropriate.)
- d. Shows leadership skills – positively contribute to class climate  
(Helps others in a positive manner, values playing, participates in class discussion, etc...)

2 Points (minus 1) =

- a. Does not disrupt class learning
- b. Does not talk at inappropriate times
- c. Contributes willingly, but not actively at ALL times
- d. Shows potential leadership skills, but participation is mediocre
- e. Late for tuning

1 Point (minus 2) =

- a. Some disruption of class learning
- b. Talking at inappropriate times
- c. Lack of contribution
- d. Shows no leadership skills
- e. Did not bring music or pencil to rehearsal
- f. Chewing gum or eating in class
- g. Has long nails

0 Points (minus 3) =

- a. Forgets instrument
- b. Inappropriate physical contact with others
- c. Abusing GHHS property  
(stands, chairs, instruments, bows, etc..)
- d. inappropriate teasing/showing lack of respect to other students or teacher

### **Performances 30% (100 points each)**

Timeliness

Display course content/standards to captive audience

Proper attire

Concert etiquette

**Written Work/Playing Tests 35%** - Any missed assignments must be made up by the next school day. Any playing make up work must be by appointment.

## **Performance Make Up Policy**

If you miss a performance and it is excused, you must make up the time to receive a grade for that missed performance. Excused absence make-up work is due one week after the performance. A form must be submitted to Mrs. Meyers to request consideration for a missed performance to be excused. **The form (online or requested from Mrs. Meyers) must be completed at least 2 weeks in advance for ANY missed performance to be considered.**

**Some of the following are absences that will not be excused (not limited to):** Less than 2 week notice, work, non-school activity, photography appointments, hair appointments, homework, birthday parties, family visiting in town (invite them to the concert), horse shows, dance practice or shows, no notice given prior to absence (except emergencies)

**Please plan ahead to avoid schedule conflicts.**

## **Uniforms**

Students will be assigned a concert uniform. All students must purchase a formal white tux shirt and a decorative button.

Shirt - \$25

Decorative Button - \$5

Dry Cleaning - \$10

**Boys** – Will need black dress socks and black dress shoes –Please no tennis shoes.

**Girls** – Will need black nylons or tights at least knee length and black dress shoes  
-Please no sandals

**If the uniform needs to be hemmed, please do not cut material.**

## **String Mentors**

Students interested in becoming a string mentor to an elementary or middle school orchestra student, please see Mrs. Meyers. You can either mentor for community service hours or be paid for each half hour lesson.

**The calendar, along with forms and additional information can be found on our orchestra website: [grandhavenorchestra.org](http://grandhavenorchestra.org)**

