

**LAKESHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ORCHESTRAS HANDBOOK**

**2018/2019**



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**grandhavenorchestra.org**

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## **Grand Haven Area Public Schools Orchestra Program - 1917-2018 Century of Excellence**

**White Pines Intermediate** hosts the first steps into the orchestra journey with GVSU graduates, Melissa Meyers as the 5th grade teacher and Tatyana Walters as the 6th grade teacher. Fifth and Sixth Graders celebrate their beginning accomplishments with an Annual Holiday Orchestra Concert for parents and friends. In the spring, the Fifth graders perform Side by Side with the High School students featuring pieces such as Can Can, Pirates of the Caribbean and ending with a grand finale of Beethoven's Ode to Joy. In the spring, each sixth grader performs a solo in front of a hired string specialist who gives individual feedback as parents attend and witness their child's progression and success. The end of the year concert features the entire music program, finalizing with an arranged piece for all musicians.

**Lakeshore Middle School** is a home for two seventh grade orchestras and a combined eighth grade orchestra. Their year starts with a fall concert with Tatyana Walters and the direction of a hired guest conductor or composer. Over the years, the middle school groups had the privilege of working with Bob Phillips, Steve Brook, Michael Hopkins, Dan Scott, Jed Fritzemeier, Rodney Page, Carol Johnson, and Aaron Dworkin. The groups consistently earn first division ratings at the MSBOA District Festivals, Solo Ensemble Festivals and annually participate at the District Honors Orchestra. All Lakeshore Orchestra students have an additional opportunity to participate in the after school Fiddle Club where they learn to play alternative styles music with Mrs. Walters. They enjoy performing their learned pieces in the community, such as the Grand Haven Assisted Living Home. All Grand Haven orchestra students are encouraged to take private lessons. Several students study with most finest private lesson teachers in Michigan such as Dylana Jenson, Richard Piippo, Mihai Craioveanu, Tim Staudacher and Rachel Torres. Both grades take educational trips. Seventh grade sees Grand Rapids Symphony performance and the eighth grade orchestra students travel to Chicago to hear one of the world's finest symphonies perform, the Chicago Symphony.

**The Grand Haven High School Orchestras**, under the direction of Melissa Meyers, are divided into three ensembles: Concert Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. They have consistently earned first division ratings at the district and state levels. They traveled and performed at Disney World in 2005 and 2008. In 2012, the high school orchestras released a Holiday cd, *A Blue and Gold Christmas*. The orchestra made its big screen debut in 2013 when they filmed an episode for School Zone called *Charlie and Company* which featured individuals from the high school orchestra and the Grand Haven High School Symphony Orchestra. In 2007 and 2015, the groups participated at the Michigan Music Conference in clinics with Bob Phillips and Stephen Benham. Grand Haven orchestra students are active members of Holland Area Youth Symphony, West Michigan Debut Strings, Grand Rapids Youth Symphony, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and MASTA Camp programs. Several high school students performed at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, All State Orchestras and MSBOA District Honors Orchestras. In addition, the high school program has an after school Celtic group, GOTAK, which performs regularly throughout the school year and hosts its own Irish Festival. They performed with Uneven Ground, Moxie Strings, Chelsea House Orchestra, Kennedy's Kitchen and Switchback and Two Strings and a Goatskin.

**Grand Haven Orchestras** value the impact of music and the connection it brings as the universal language. In 2013, the Symphony Orchestra made its debut in Carnegie Hall and then went on to perform in Salzburg and Vienna. That spring, they were also the chosen group to perform a Side by Side Concert with the Grand Rapids Symphony. In 2016, the Grand Haven High School orchestra students traveled and performed in several cities of Italy. In partnership with Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, summer of 2017, Grand Haven orchestra families and community hosted 70 students of Symphonieorchester from Boblingen, Germany. Last October the Orchestra Program held their Centennial Celebration with all of the 500 orchestra students performing a commissioned piece, *Meer Winden*, translated from Dutch, "Lake Winds". The piece, written by Bob Philips was dedicated to past and present orchestra directors and their students. In June, 2019, Mrs. Meyers is planning a trip for high school orchestra members to perform and tour the country of Ireland.

## LAKESHORE ORCHESTRAS CALENDAR 2017-2018

September 26	Cookie Dough/Magazine Fundraiser Launch Day -
October 8	
October 16	7pm Lakeshore Orchestras Fall Concert in Lakeshore Aud.
November 15	Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick up in Orchestra Rm after school
December 11	7pm Lakeshore Orchestras Winter Concert in Lakeshore Aud
February 13	7pm Lakeshore/HS Orchestras Pre-Festival Concert at HS PAC
February 27	Lakeshore/HS Orchestras MSBOA Festival time TBA
March 1	7th Grade Orchestras Trip to GR 2:20pm to 11:30pm
March 22	8th Grade Orchestra Trip to Chicago 8am to midnight
May 29	Collage Performances – 7th Gr -6:00 & 8th Gr -8:00 p.m. HS
PAC	
May 30	Collage Performances – 7th Gr -6:00 & 8th Gr -8:00 p.m. HS
PAC	

### Uniforms

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> – uniform will be provided for each student to use for that year and must be returned in mint condition. If any parts of the uniform are damaged or lost, the student is responsible to pay \$90 fee. In order to maintain the condition of the uniform, each student is responsible for a **dry-cleaning fee of \$10.00 when they get the uniform**. The uniforms will be collected after the last concert and then dry-cleaned by *Plantenga's Cleaners*. The remainder of the fee for the dry-cleaning will be paid by the fundraising in October. Students must supply and wear their own black socks, black dress shoes.

### Concert Expectations

*Be Excellent* – prepare yourself for a quality performance and do your best

*Be Kind* – show support and caring by clapping after ea. piece. No talking or whispering.

*Be Respectful* – treat the facilities, performers and guests with appreciation and safety.

Please show acceptance for all musical ability levels and varied musical literature.

*Be Responsible* – display accountability for your belongings and actions. Parents, turn off cell phones. Do not walk around during performances. Keep feet off seats. No food.

### 7,8 Grade Orchestras Grading Policy

The marking period grade of each student will be a combination of several categories.

Assignments, tests and practice grades can be viewed online on *Student/Parent View*.

#### **25% Concert Attendance / Performance**

Maximum credit can be earned in this category by attending the full length of every concert, arriving on time, being fully prepared, dressing correctly, and behaving appropriately. If the student is unable to attend the performance due to family illness, self- illness; the guardian must contact Mrs. Walters right away to be excused. Make-up work will need to be done to count as performance. If the student has a family trip planned, district or state sport championship at the scheduled time of our performance; the student must make up the missed performance. **Mrs. Walters must be notified 2 weeks prior to performance in order to be excused.** This usually involves doing a short research project on the pieces that will be performed at the concert. Students will have a week to complete this project. All Concert dates for the year are in this handbook. The parents are responsible to provide transportation to Solo and Ensemble Festival and school performances. There will be transportation provided for the for MSBOA District Festival events from school and class trips to GR, Chicago.

**25% Practice Charts**

Each student is required to record his or her at-home practice. The students are to practice 100 minutes each week. Once a marking period, students can turn in an orchestra concert program instead of a practice chart. This can be any GH concert (ex. High School Orchestra Concert) or any professional concert (ex. GR Symphony Concert). Students must turn in a program along with the parent signature to get full credit. Please write first/last name, HR on program as well.

**25% Participation, Daily Attendance, Preparation, and Attitude**

Maximum credit can be earned in this category by arriving to each class on time, avoiding any unexcused absences, by being fully prepared for every class, and by consistently contributing to class in an effective, appropriate and positive matter. In addition, you must remember that food, drink (except for water), gum, talking out of turn, and playing after the director stops- all distract from a rehearsal and are not allowed. Taking care of school instruments also fits in this category. All cellists/basses must show proper care to the instruments, bows. All students must be very careful with the music stands and chairs. Students must pay if damage to property.

**25% Playing Tests, Quizzes, Assignments**

Maximum credit can be earned in this category by preparing fully for each playing test and (occasional) written quizzes. Playing tests are a chance for Mrs. Walters to listen to students individually and offer feedback. These are usually done individually – using chromebooks and video taped. The performances are evaluated using a rubric. The rubric is returned with comments for the parent and student to view.

**\* Extra credit opportunities are announced periodically throughout each marking period.**

\*\*\* WITH GOOGLE CLASSROOM, THESE WILL SUBMITTED ONLINE.  
 SAMPLE OF A PRACTICE RECORD – around 6 each marking period

100 minutes - 7,8 grades	<b>NAME _____ GRADE _____</b>  <b>DUE: MONDAY, May 21</b> <b>MONDAY _____</b> <b>TUESDAY _____</b> <b>WEDNESDAY _____</b> <b>THURSDAY _____</b> <b>FRIDAY _____</b> <b>SATURDAY _____</b> <b>SUNDAY _____</b> <b>TOTAL _____</b>
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SAMPLE OF A INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION RUBRIC – one (1) each marking period

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Test:</b>		
		<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
	<u>Right Hand Skills</u>		
	Bow Hand Shape	10	_____
	Bow Parallel	10	_____
	Quality of Sound (Tone)	10	_____
	<u>Left Hand Skills</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
	Body and Instrument Position	10	_____
	Elbow Placement	10	_____
	Hand Shape	10	_____
	Intonation (notes in right place)	20	_____

<u>Musicality</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Rhythmic Accuracy	10	_____
Bowings, Slurs	10	_____

### **Parental Involvement**

Parents are asked to submit emails for communication. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend all of the performances if your child is participating. Your student needs your support, encouragement and motivation. Your involvement is greatly appreciated. Orchestra Boosters meet in Sept., Jan and June- [www.grandhavenorchestra.org](http://www.grandhavenorchestra.org). The website has all updated info. Like us on fb, Grand Haven Orchestra. If you encounter any problems or concerns, please contact me asap. Communication is the key that will give a successful and enjoyable year!

### **Scrip Program Policy**

Orchestra Boosters of Grand Haven run a scrip program. It's basically buying giftcards before you shop and a portion of the giftcard goes directly into your account. Accounts will be set up from this program for each family participating. Money from your account can be used on anything school related. Funds will be reimbursed after submitting the appropriate Scrip Funds Request Form. A copy of this form can be obtained upon request. For more information, attend a meeting and ask for a Scrip Program Policy; or go to [www.grandhavenorchestra.org](http://www.grandhavenorchestra.org)

### **Scholarships**

The OBGH provide scholarshipsto attend summer music camps. Applications can be obtained from the director or at the meetings or on WEBSITE.

### **Private Lessons**

Because orchestra focuses more on the group instead of individual instruction, it is important to get a tutor that can help you achieve excellence through one on one teaching. Professional private teachers – Jenny Butcher ([jennyalman@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyalman@hotmail.com)), Becky Parks ([parksbecky@gmail.com](mailto:parksbecky@gmail.com)), for violin/viola; Tim Staudacher ([staudachert@gmail.com](mailto:staudachert@gmail.com)) for cello/bass. Orchestra Boosters reimburse (\$5.00/adult teachers; \$3.00 high school tutors) for each lesson from approved private lesson instructors. Complete policy rules/form and contact information on the “Private Lesson Rebate Program” is available at [www.grandhavenorchestra.org](http://www.grandhavenorchestra.org)

### **Equipment**

Students must have an instrument to use with proper parts such as bow, rosin, rock stop, shoulder rest and music stand at home. Renting instruments from Guarneri House or Meyer Music are recommended. Cellists and basses will be able to use the school instruments during class, but must have an instrument to use at home for practice. Please contact me for any concerns/questions regarding this matter.

### **Lockers/ Shelves**

The orchestra room will have a designated area for placement of all instruments. Lockers are issued, it is a full responsibility of the student to keep the combination of the locker private. The case of the instrument must remain in the locker due to the limitation of space

in the orchestra room. If shelves, locks or lockers are damaged, the students will be required to pay a replacement fee.

### **MS Orchestra Classroom Procedures**

#### **Entering Procedures**

- Grab your instrument out of your case and place the case back in locker please
- Greet Teacher, Classmates, follow social contract established
- Look at the Agenda on the board - Learning Targets for the day
- Tune your instrument using your tuner – we will check the overall tuning of the whole orchestra when class starts
- TUESDAYS - TECHNO TUESDAY - ONLY day to bring Chromebook!!!!

#### **Exiting Procedures**

- You will be given time to put things away
- You may not leave the room unless you are dismissed after daily launch

#### **Trip Procedures**

- make sure to wear proper uniform if it's a formal performance
- when getting on the bus, carefully carry your instrument and stand, making sure not to cause any damage to the bus, instrument, self or others
- you are responsible for your own instrument and folder and must sit with them
- cello/bass students are responsible for the school instruments which are used during our trips and must sit with their instruments, they are responsible financially for any damage done
- the bass students must use the rear exit door to enter the bus and has to sit in the back of the bus with the bass
- the cello players- due to the size of instrument must sit in the front of the bus

#### **Music Folders Procedures**

- any papers that you get associated with orchestra MUST go in the folder- handbook, music, quizzes, playing tests, reminder sheets, practice records...
- make sure to put your pencil back in the folder
- Scale/rhythm books will be handed out in the beginning of year – keep these with your folder and if you lose your book, the replacement fee will be issued

### **Fiddle Club Information/Participation**

- all 7/8 orchestra, band, choir students can be participants
- Fiddle Club will begin 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY of September, meeting weekly 2:45-3:45
- Students will learn varied repertoire – Celtic, Irish, Blues, American Folk
- Guitar, mandolin, banjo, percussion, bass, viola, cello, violin, cajon, piano
- Students will have a provided snack before practice
- Club shirts - \$10.00 later in the year
- Fiddle Club will perform at 2-4 events/concerts throughout the year

