

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. Now more than ever, 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 becoming 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. Due to Covid 19, we are not sure when they will be allowed to happen in our traditional setting but we will be coming up with another way to bring you music. Stay tuned!

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

Orchestra Member Responsibilities and Expectations

Every individual 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. Please sanitize your hands before and after class.
4. Wear your masks at all times.
5. Social distance when possible.
6. Respect your instrument and your surroundings.
7. Water bottles are allowed as long as they are not left in the rehearsal area. Please no food at this time.
8. No long nails. Please keep them short so you can properly play your instrument.
9. Arrive early to class. We follow the school's policy on tardiness. Be ready to play when Mrs. Meyers is on the podium. Please use the bathroom BEFORE class.
10. Be attentive and quiet during class.
11. Follow instructions.
12. Come prepared with your materials. **PENCIL** to every rehearsal. We cannot share so you must bring your own.
13. Keep a cloth in your case to wipe down instruments after each use.
14. Rosin bow **before** the start of class.
15. Respect the tuning process. Use a tuner before we tune together.
16. Put instruments away correctly and in their proper place.
17. Always give your best!

Equipment for class

Due to Covid 19, all students must have their own following equipment:

Tuner

Rosin

Cloth

Instrument - Cellos and basses are still provided in school only and you will have to sanitize before and after playing them.

Rock Stops - will be assigned and you must have your own at every class

Music - will be provided but you cannot share and need to bring your own to class.

Lockers

Every orchestra student will be given an instrument locker to store their instrument and school materials. Please keep them clean and refrain from leaving food, drink and/or your orchestra uniform for extended periods of time.

Grading Procedure

Musicianship 35%

Every student starts with a perfect grade! The total points are 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) =

- Does not disrupt class learning
- Does not talk at inappropriate times
- Contributes actively at ALL times
(Including, but not limited to: posture, ready to play when appropriate.
- 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) =

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

1 Point (minus 2) =

- Some disruption of class learning
- Talking at inappropriate times
- Lack of contribution
- Shows no leadership skills
- Did not bring music or pencil to rehearsal
- Eating in class without permission.
- Has long nails
- has phone out

0 Points (minus 3) =

- Forgets instrument
- Inappropriate physical contact with others
- Abusing GHHS property
(stands, chairs, instruments, bows, etc..)
- 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

We will let you know as soon as we hear we are allowed to have live, public performances. We have tentative dates scheduled for now.

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

When we are allowed to have live and in person performances, we will then assess if we are going to assign uniforms. Please do not send in uniform dry cleaning fee until you hear from Mrs. Meyers.

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

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

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

There is a dry cleaning fee of \$15 for every orchestra member that is paid to GHAPS..

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. An up- to-date list of teachers teaching via zoom is on grandhavenorchestra.org.

The calendar, along with forms and additional information can be found on our

orchestra website: grandhavenorchestra.org

Potential Concert Dates:

GHHS Orchestras Halloween Concert - Record on October 26 and 27 then post on the 30th

Holiday Spectacular - **Symphony and Chamber Orchestras** - December 4th 7PM

Holiday Lights Concert - **Concert Orchestra only** - December 14th 7 PM

Pre Festival Concert - February 10th 7 PM

MSBOA Festival - Tentative - Wednesday, February 24th

5th Grade with Symphony and Chamber Orchestras - April 19th 7PM

Spring Concert - May 10th 7 PM

We have not heard from MSBOA on Solo and Ensemble Festival. We will let you know what they decide to do as soon as possible.