

Gahanna Middle Schools String Orchestra Policies 2007 – 2008

GRADING

CATEGORY I – Concerts & Rehearsals (Projects) – 20% of your grade

Concert Rehearsal & Attendance: 25 Points for Rehearsal, 50 Points for Concerts. These activities are a required part of participation in Orchestra.

- A Student with an excused absence (which includes personal illnesses or *extreme* family emergencies) will be required to provide a written note from home explaining the absence. The note must include a parent signature. This must be submitted to the Teacher within one week of the concert date.
- *Students who do not stay during the entire length of a concert will earn a partial credit of 40 points.*
- *Inappropriate concert behavior will result in a deduction of concert attendance points. Please see Class expectations for more information.*

CATEGORY II – Tests & Assignments (Tests) – 70% of your grade

The Student will be given periodic tests that assess development of specific skills, which will include performance of scales, rhythms, and skills covered in method books. In addition, playing tests will be given based on pieces covered in class, and written assignments and/or quizzes based on material covered in method books.

CATEGORY III – Citizenship (Participation) – 10% of your grade

The Student will earn a total of 100 points per grading period for meeting all of the following expectations:

Materials at hand: Music, Book and Functional Pencil

Instrument - (In proper working condition)

Meeting Class Expectations, which includes having NO GUM, FOOD, DRINK OR CANDY. This also includes having finger nails trimmed. There will be NO WARNINGS.

The following deductions will be assessed at the end of the grading period for not meeting the listed expectations:

- Tardy to class - 3% per occurrence
- No instrument - 5% per occurrence
- No music, book or pencil but still participates - 2% per occurrence
- Inappropriate behavior - 5-10% per occurrence
- Failure to meet all other class expectations - 2% per occurrence
(No fingernails or food)

EXTRA CREDIT

- **EXTRA CONCERT ATTENDANCE.** 5 Points per performance. Performances must be approved by the Teacher. This includes both live performances as well as the many excellent musical T.V. programs on P.B.S. or the Arts & Entertainment Network. Simply turn in a copy of the program or a ticket stub, a brief summary of the concert, and your parent's signature. The summary needs to tell what you heard in the concert, who performed, and what you liked or disliked about the pieces performed.
- **SOLO AND ENSEMBLE ADJUDICATED EVENTS (Contest).** 10 Points for participation. This means playing a solo and/or playing in a small group of a duet, trio, quartet or string choir. We highly encourage this activity! This is for 7th and 8th graders only.
- **EXTRA PERFORMANCES.** 5 Points per performance. This includes recitals, churches, or other organizations. This must be on your stringed instrument. Simply turn in a copy of the program with your parent's signature.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. Orchestra Members should be attentive during rehearsals giving 100% effort at all times. This includes demonstrating appropriate posture while playing (sitting or standing tall, away from chair back, feet on floor). *Finger nails must be trimmed so the finger tips can press the string to the fingerboard.*
2. Orchestra members are expected to demonstrate respect to the Director(s) and fellow students.
3. Orchestra Members should be on time for class, all performances and special rehearsals. Being on time means being ready to work.
4. Orchestra Members should be responsible and have all the materials required to perform your part. This includes having an instrument, music, rosin and pencil at hand. Students will be given a 2 *class grace period* for replacing strings before being penalized for not having a functional instrument.
5. Orchestra Members are expected to practice their instruments outside of class on a regular basis to improve their performing skills. When students sign up for this class they make the commitment to be proficient on their parts to the best of their abilities. **Students are expected to strive for improvement of weak areas in all assigned music.** All instruments and/or music should be taken home throughout the week, on the weekends, and on holidays for practice. **Students should be proficient with performing their parts at least 2 weeks prior to a concert.** Failure to meet this class expectation may result in a conference with the Student and/or their parent.
6. Concerts are the equivalent to exams in other subjects. Orchestra Members make a commitment to being at all scheduled concerts, for the entire length of a concert, and activities when they sign up for this class.
7. Orchestra members are expected to demonstrate respect to school property, which includes care of instruments and equipment. Care of the music room within the building is important as well; therefore, no gum, food or candy is allowed.
8. At concerts, seating will be provided in the auditorium for performers to listen to the other performing groups. Your learning experience, as a performer, does not end when you leave the stage. By listening to the other groups, you show support to your peers and other students, and gain an appreciation for your own musical achievements. While in the audience ***you should set the standard for etiquette.*** Proper etiquette includes being attentive, still, and quiet – demonstrating respect to the performers and the audience. Remain seated in the auditorium while ensembles are performing. Express appreciation for all performances with polite applause. *Inappropriate concert behavior will result in a deduction of concert attendance points.*
9. These policies are in addition to Gahanna Middle School rules, policies and expectations of conduct which also apply.

Class Consequences

Following the listed expectations will lead to:

- increased proficiency on your instrument.
- understanding of musical concepts
- pride in personal and group accomplishments.
- a greater enjoyment of Orchestra.

Not following the listed expectations will lead to:

- a warning for the first offense.
- a detention or removal from class for the second offense.
- a call to parent(s) for the third offense.
- a conference with the Teacher and Principal for the fourth offense

Class Withdrawal Policy

Students who find it necessary to withdraw from this class must contact the Teacher with a written note stating the reason for withdrawal from the class and must include a Parent Signature. Students cannot withdraw from the class in the middle of a grading period. Withdrawal may only take place at the end of the first grading period.

Concert Dress Policy

Students are expected to dress appropriately for concert performances. If you should have any questions about the policy, please feel free to contact Ms. McKown or Mr. Kinser.

Girls

White Blouse
 Black Skirt or Dress Pants (no denims or jeans)
 Black Dress Shoes (no tennis shoes)

Boys

White Shirt & Black Ties (no bow ties)
 Black Dress Pants (no denims or jeans)
 Black Dress Shoes (no tennis shoes)

MIDDLE SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA STUDENT SUPPLY LIST

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<p><u>Orchestra Expressions – Book 1</u> \$8.95 by Brungard, Alexander, Anderson & Dackow. Alfred Publications.</p>	<p><u>Winning Rhythms</u> \$3.55 by Edward L. Ayola, Kjos Publishing Co. (You still need this book if you have lost your copy or need a new one)</p> <p><u>Essential Elements for Strings for Strings – 2000 Book 2</u> \$6.50 by Allen, Gillespie, & Hayes Hal Leonard Publishing (This book will be used this year and completed next year)</p>	<p><u>Winning Rhythms</u> \$3.55 by Edward L. Ayola, Kjos Publishing Co. (You still need this book if you have lost your copy or need a new one)</p> <p><u>Essential Elements for Strings for Strings – Book 2</u> \$6.50 by Allen, Gillespie, & Hayes Hal Leonard Publishing (You still need this book if you have lost your copy or need a new one)</p> <p><u>Essential Techniques for Strings - 2000</u> \$6.50 by Allen, Gillespie, & Hayes Hal Leonard Publishing (Will be needed later on in the year once we have completed Book 2 and will be used throughout High School – no \$ now!)</p>

Please make all checks to: **GLIMB**
 (which stands for: **G**ahanna **L**incoln **I**nstrumental **M**usic **B**oosters)

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

The following is a listing of all equipment students should have for all orchestra classes and rehearsals:

- Instrument – All Students must have an instrument and bow in good working condition.
- Rosin – Make sure it is not chipped into many pieces.
- Cleaning cloth – Should be clean in order to clean! Never use any type of furniture polish or cleaner.
- Pencil – In working order with an eraser. **NO PENS.**
- Spare set of strings (for violin & viola players) is highly recommended. Students will be given a *2 class grace period* for replacing strings before being penalized for not having a functional instrument.
- **Shoulder Rest (Violin & Viola students) – All violinists and violists are strongly encouraged to invest in a good quality shoulder rest.** The purple sponges you receive as a sixth grader will be sufficient for this year. These sponges are not sufficient for the level of musicianship required in the 7th or 8th grade. Students must have this equipment before entering high school. See Ms. McKown or Mr. Kinser if you have any further questions.
- **Tuner and Metronome – All students are strongly encouraged to have their own tuner and metronome for home practice and preparation.** Students should have this equipment before entering high school. See Ms. McKown or Mr. Kinser for help.
- A folding music stand for home use is highly recommended.

Repairs

All instruments, at one time or another, will need to be repaired at a reliable instrument repair shop. Whenever a student is unable to participate because of a broken instrument (including bows) a note is required from the student's parent or guardian. Only a reasonable amount of time for repair will be allowed.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need help.

Patricia McKown

mckown@gjps.org

LHS Instrumental Music

478-5519

Mark Kinser

kinserm@gjps.org

M.S. West

478-5570

**Keep up-to-date by checking our website:
www.geocities.com/gahannastrings**