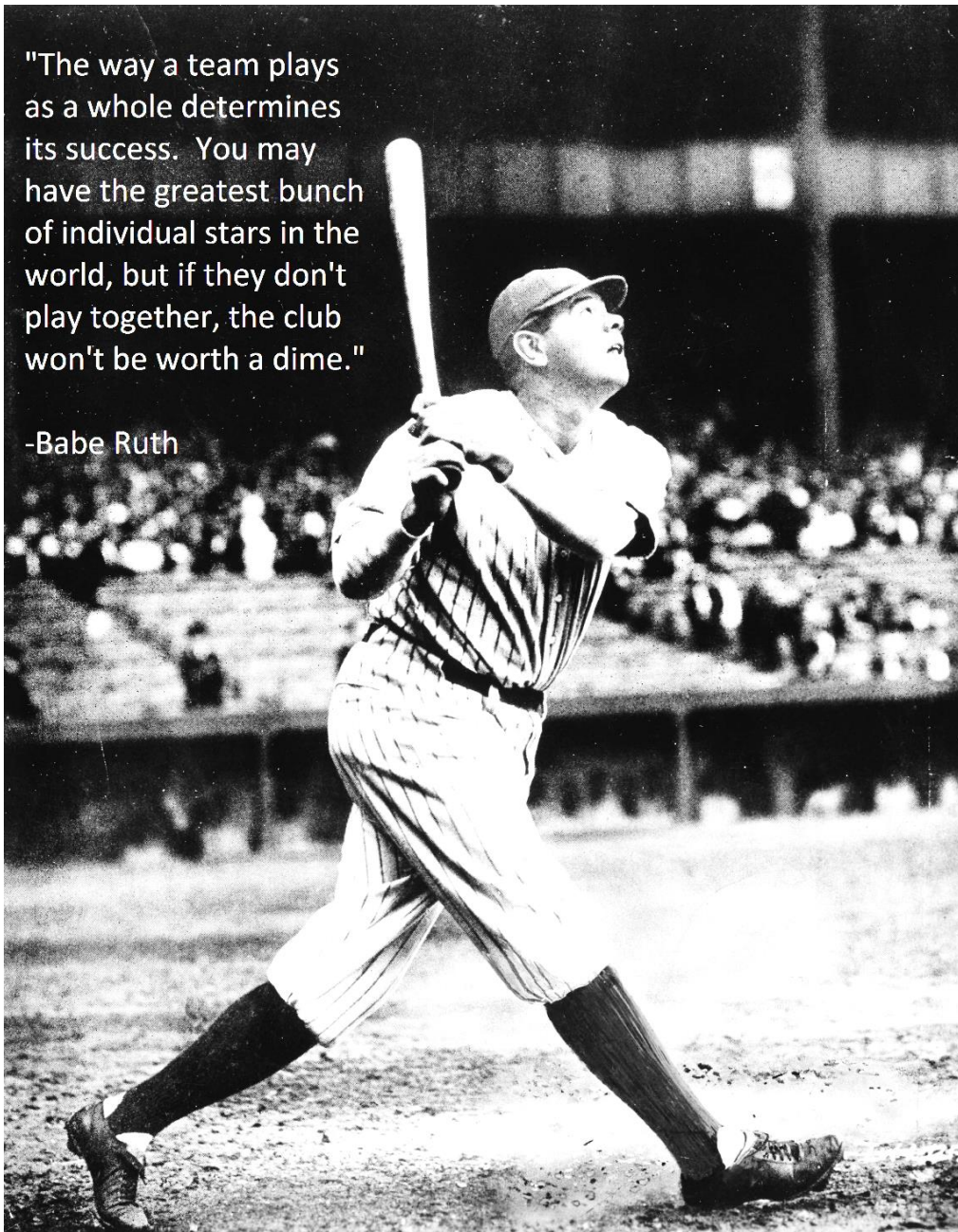


*Gifford Middle School Orchestra*  
Handbook 2021-2022

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."

-Babe Ruth



Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Gifford Middle School Orchestra! Whether you are a returning student, a new member, or a parent or guardian, you are a vital part and will play an important role in the success that we will strive for this year. My request is that all of us approach each day with a great *attitude* and strong *effort*.

Parents, please encourage your child to practice his or her instrument on a regular basis, and when they are ready, have them perform for friends and family. From scales to exercises to solos, when practicing, students should aim to:

- Produce beautiful Tone (IN TONE)
- Perform accurate and true pitch (IN TUNE)
- Maintain precise rhythm and pulse (IN TIME)
- Play creatively with expression (IN TOUCH)

Please take the time to review the policies, procedures, and calendar in this handbook. Also, please take the time to visit the updated orchestra website for further information at [www.verobeachorchestra.com](http://www.verobeachorchestra.com).

I am excited to be at Gifford Middle School and to see where the year takes us. I know that together we will create beautiful music. Please feel free to call or e-mail me at any time during the school year. My contact information is at the bottom of this page. If you are utilizing a school instrument, please submit payment as soon as possible with a \$75 check made out to Gifford Middle School or with cash.

Sincerely,

Mark Shuping  
Orchestra Director  
Gifford Middle School  
4530 28<sup>th</sup> Ct.  
Vero Beach, FL 32967

**Important Orchestra Contacts:**

**VBHS Phone: (772) 564-5458**

**Mr. Shuping's e-mail: [mark.shuping@indianriverschools.org](mailto:mark.shuping@indianriverschools.org)**

[www.verobeachorchestra.com](http://www.verobeachorchestra.com) – Check for information, an updated calendar, documents, files, and more. There is a section dedicated to the GMS Orchestra program.

[www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) – This tool allows students and parents to stay in touch with many areas of the Orchestra program.

For new accounts, log in with “vbhsorch” as our group name, and enter your student ID# for your account.

# HOW TO BE AN OUTSTANDING PLAYER

## PLAN

Develop a flexible plan which establishes priorities and helps you act thoughtfully and knowingly.

### **Desire to be successful.**

Set short and long term goals. Revise and redesign. Determine what needs work. Budget time to achieve your goals.

## PRACTICE

A well-prepared part is something you bring to rehearsal – not something you develop in rehearsal.

Nobody knows what you cannot play better than you.

**Take action to be successful.** Physical activity. Build muscle and musical memory. Repetition. Develop your **craft**. Develop consistency. Work on what you cannot play. Use a metronome.

## REHEARSE

You do not come to rehearsal to learn your part. You come to learn everyone else's.

Doing things together that cannot be done alone.

Directed listening and adjusting. Discover the composer's intent. Listen critically. Search for the implied meaning. Solve group problems. Evaluate during the process. Ensemble is the audience.

## PERFORM

Present a gift that comes from the heart and inspires the soul.

Culmination of study and experience.

Spontaneous creation. Focus and target attention. Non-stop energy flow. Learning is more intuitive. Self-monitored listening and adjusting. Formal environment with outside audience.

## Goals and Expectations:

The goal of the Gifford Middle School Orchestra Program is to provide a comprehensive orchestra performance experience. We will perform a wide array of music consisting of orchestral repertoire, terminology, techniques, and composers. Playing in the orchestra will enhance your technical development on your individual instrument while teaching you the essentials of quality musicianship. You will learn about musical time periods, their composers, and the stylistic traits of different genres. Each member of the orchestra is expected to contribute their musical skills to the best of their abilities. Because an orchestra is a team of musicians, strong leadership, individual responsibility, and appropriate rehearsal etiquette is expected at all times. We will be successful if every member follows these *five simple rules*:

- ♪ **Always exhibit appropriate rehearsal etiquette.** Students will be held to the highest standards of attitude and behavior. Disrespect shown to peers, directors, guests, and audiences will not be tolerated. Behavior infractions will be dealt with by the director, parents, and if necessary, school administration. Speak or play your instrument only when you have been instructed to do so.
- ♪ **Be on time to daily rehearsals and concerts and come prepared with all materials.** Remember that to be early is to be on time, and to be on time is to be late. As a musician, you need time to unpack, tune, and warm up before rehearsals and performances start. Bring the materials you need – your instrument, music, and a pencil – and not the ones you don't – cell phones, work for another class, food/drink (except bottled water), and other distractions.
- ♪ **PRACTICE.** It's *our* performance on the line, not yours. Please do not waste valuable rehearsal time because you haven't practiced your part. Follow instructions the first time they are given, and mark your music without being asked.
- ♪ **Follow the attendance policy.** Scheduling conflicts must be communicated with the director as far in advance as possible.
- ♪ **No gum, food, or candy in the Orchestra room or PAC. No horseplay in the buildings. See addendum for a full list of Orchestra rules.**

*Discipline: Discipline issues will be handled in accordance with the GMS discipline policy.*

## Grading:

**Grades** will be determined from the following criteria:

- ♪ Individual performance skills (scales, excerpts, and musicianship projects)
- ♪ Active participation and proper materials present and utilized
- ♪ Practical application of repertoire (rehearsals and performances)
- ♪ *Accent* assignments

## Grading Policy for After-School Rehearsals and Concert Attendance:

The Orchestra performance calendar is on the Orchestra website and in this handbook. Mark ALL of these dates on your family calendars and agenda books immediately. You are receiving these dates early so you can plan all activities, doctor and dentist appointments, family vacations, and other events accordingly. Students involved in other school related activities need to check practice schedules, game/playoff schedules, etc. in order to take care of any potential conflicts AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Most of the time, these conflicts can be resolved as long as they are noticed early. There are certain, specific circumstances in which I may excuse a student from an after-school rehearsal because of a school related activity, pending all appropriate and reasonable venues for resolving the conflict have been exhausted to my satisfaction and in a timely manner.

Students are expected to stay for the entire rehearsal or performance. Students will receive grades for every after-school and evening rehearsal and performance. Students who are absent, tardy, or leave early for any unexcused reason may receive a low grade or a zero.

## Attendance Policy:

- ♪ **Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.**
- ♪ Excused absences must be preapproved, except for a medical or family emergency.
- ♪ A follow-up note, signed by a parent and/or doctor, is required for excused absences.
- ♪ See the absence form for a list of make-up options. Make-up assignments are required in order to receive credit for work missed.
- ♪ Appropriate concert attire must be worn at concerts, including shoes, or you may not be permitted to perform, resulting in a zero for the performance grade.
- ♪ Musicians who are not musically ready for a concert may be asked to “sit-out” and will be required to complete a make-up assignment of the teacher’s choosing.
- ♪ Full performance credit will be given only to those students who arrive no later than the assigned call time, perform at the required performance standard, dress in accordance with the assigned code, behave in a professional manner, and remain in attendance until the completion of the performance.

### Excused absences from a performance include:

- ♪ **The student is too ill to attend school.** Parents/guardians should send a written note to the director as soon as possible (including the day of the event). This ensures that the director will be able to fill the holes and reconfigure parts as needed. Students who were present at school on both the day of the after-school event and also the day after the event will not be excused without a note from the doctor.
- ♪ **There is a death in the family or comparable family emergency.** Parents/guardians should send a written note to the director as soon as possible. If the student’s family crisis is a death in the family or comparable, the student will be exempt from making up the grade. (Please do not think it necessary to communicate with the director while the emergency is ongoing. Take care of yourself and your family first. Communicate when you can.)
- ♪ **The student has a prior commitment.** If the student has a prior commitment that was planned before the Orchestra rehearsal or concert was announced, parents/guardians must communicate this conflict using the Absence Form (see page 11).
- ♪ **Observance of religious holidays.** Established religious holidays are excused but should be communicated by the parent/guardian using the Absence Form.
- ♪ **Other circumstances cleared in advance by the director.** Examples include a student who was asked mid-year to be in the bridal party of her sister’s wedding or an athlete whose team made it to the state championship game that was not on the regular calendar. In cases like this, parents/guardians must communicate as soon as they foresee the likelihood of a conflict. The concert make-up grade requirement would be the same as any other prior commitment.

### Reasons NOT accepted as excused include:

- Detention, suspension, family or personal vacations, sports or other activities outside of school (leagues, etc), attending another concert, sporting events, parties or other entertainment events, forgetting, minor ailments.
- Students who need to make up or retake assignments for another class should not miss Orchestra events to do so. It is not acceptable to come to the director the day of the event and ask to be excused from all or part of the event. Being absent or arriving late will result in a lowered grade and may prevent the student from being allowed to participate in the concert.
- **Verbal or written statements from students are not excused.**

**NOTE: Concert attendance accounts for a large portion of your quarterly grade. An unexcused absence from a concert receives a zero and will automatically lower your grade. Excused absences requiring a make-up assignment will also be marked as a zero in the gradebook until the make-up assignment has been submitted.**

## Concert Attire:

**Male:** Black dress pants, black dress button-down shirt, black socks, all black shoes

**Female:** Black pants or long skirt (must reach ankles), black blouse, all black shoes

**Acceptable Jewelry:** Stud earrings only. Fine necklace with a single pendant or pearl necklace. Only fine or thin metal single bracelet. Studs and cuff links for the tuxedo shirt.

**Unacceptable Jewelry:** Large earrings, hoop earrings, drop earrings, and any other large flashy jewelry. Plastic bracelets and snap bands are banned as are large chain necklaces or multiple pendants.

## Instruments:

Students are responsible for their instrument at all times. There are a limited number of school instruments available for rental for a \$75 instrument maintenance fee. Any damage or loss incurred to the instrument by the student will be the student's responsibility. At the end of the school year, the instrument will be inspected for damages or loss, and the appropriate amount will be assessed. If necessary, a bill for the damages will be mailed to the user's home.

However, I highly recommend that students rent from a reputable music store. Most music stores do a rent-to-own program and allow you to put the money accrued towards the purchase of either the rented instrument or a "step-up" instrument. Even if your child does not continue playing after high school, you can always sell the instrument to regain some of your initial investment.

Please be careful of where you purchase an instrument. While online deals with places like Amazon or Wish seem great, the instruments are usually poor quality. These instruments are difficult to tune and do not stay in tune for long. They also make it difficult for any player to make a quality sound. String instruments are difficult enough to learn, so the least we can do is find an affordable quality string instrument that is easy to tune and makes a good tone when played correctly. If you need help in purchasing a quality instrument, please contact the director.

## Instrument Care:

String instruments are only made out of wood! Please handle them carefully. Instruments should not be left in a car for any period of time. If the instrument gets too hot, the varnish will boil and the instrument then becomes stuck to the case. If it gets too cold, the wood will crack. Both of these problems are expensive to fix. Avoid having to pay for this by not leaving the instrument in the car for any period of time for any reason. Keeping the instrument away from an air vent or drafty windows/doors is also good.

- ♪ Purchase rosin, a cleaning cloth, and a good quality set of spare strings
- ♪ Bows should be rehaired at least once a year
- ♪ **Violins and Violas:** You must use a shoulder rest
- ♪ **Cellos and Basses:** You must use a rock stop or strap
- ♪ A metronome, tuner, and a music stand are highly recommended for home. There are plenty of free metronome apps!
- ♪ **Wipe off the strings and body of your instrument after playing every day.**
- ♪ High quality strings are a must! Dominant, Helicore, Spirocore, and Evah Pirazzi are examples of good quality strings. Also, *strings should be changed once per year*. Fresh strings will greatly improve the tone quality of your instrument. **Please do not buy strings from Amazon. There are many fakes out there designed to look exactly like the brand you normally buy. Only buy from reputable places such as Shar Music or Southwest Strings.**

## Sheet Music:

Students are responsible for all music distributed to them (originals and practice copies). Number the measures in your part, and bring your music, book, folder, and a pencil to every class, rehearsal, and performance.

## Private Lessons:

Private lesson teachers tailor a regimen that is specific to your developing needs as a musician. Students enrolled in private lesson study accelerate their musical development and become better players. If you need help finding a good private lesson teacher, ask the other students in your section or see the director for recommendations. You can also find a list and contact information on the Orchestra website.

## Seating:

Orchestra is a unified, team effort, and all students, no matter where they sit, are equally important. Everyone is a "starter." Stands may rotate within all sections for specific pieces, daily rehearsals, or performances throughout the year. Periodic performance assessments may alter seating. A permanent seating change may be made because of persistent talking and/or poor rehearsal etiquette.

## Orchestra Trips:

These are all considered a privilege, and students must meet all performance, attendance, and behavior expectations in order to take part. They must also meet the minimum eligibility requirements as set by the school district. Students must behave in the most professional manner and follow all directions set forth by the director and chaperones.

## Solo & Ensemble MPA:

Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment is a valuable experience for students to perform for a professional adjudicator who provides written feedback. All students who have played for at least one year are encouraged to prepare a solo and/or an ensemble (duet, trio, or quartet). Consult with Mr. Shuping about appropriate literature. I recommend memorizing the piece. You must provide the judge with an original part (no photocopies) of your music with the measures numbered. If your piece has accompaniment, you must perform with an accompanist. **You are responsible for contacting and paying your accompanist.** If your piece is not memorized, you must also use an original part (no photocopies). See addendum for the Solo & Ensemble form, which is due on Nov. 5. MPA is Dec. 4.

## Financial Obligations:

Throughout the year, there will be a few expenses not covered by the school district that will come up. Most of these are optional activities. However, parents should be aware of the possibility. Below are some activities with their anticipated costs:

- All-State Auditions (\$25) – Optional
- Solo & Ensemble MPA (registration fee + accompanist fee)

### Addendums:

1. Orchestra calendar
2. Solo & Ensemble form
3. Accent assignments
4. Living Room Concert form
5. Instrument Pick-up Pass
6. Turn-in sheet to sign

### Parents – a few hints to help your child succeed in Orchestra:

- Encourage your child to practice and commend them for jobs well done
- Ask questions about their schoolwork and Orchestra
- Make sure their instrument is well cared for and brought to class each day
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including classical concerts
- Encourage your child to perform for family and friends
- Help your child build a personal music library
- Arrange private lessons for your child
- Become involved with other Orchestra parents and volunteer at events

**Volunteers** – Please contact Mr. Shuping if you are available to volunteer in one of several capacities to help the Orchestra students.

## Required Materials (all items except binder can be purchased from [www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com)):

- ♪ Quality rosin such as Hidersine (violin, viola, cello) or Kolstein (bass) (**DO NOT PURCHASE ROSIN IN A WOODBLOCK**)
- ♪ Required book:
  - Beginning Orchestra – Orchestra Expressions Book 1 AND A Scale In Time
  - Advanced Orchestra – A Scale In Time
- ♪ Cleaning cloth (can be an old t-shirt, washcloth, towel, etc. – must not be abrasive)
- ♪ Strap or rock stop (cellos and basses)
- ♪ Shoulder rest (violins and violas)
- ♪ Three ring binder with plastic page protectors

**\*\*\*Cello and bass students are required to bring their own strap/rock stop this year\*\*\***

**You MUST have the required items. If you need help purchasing them, please talk to Mr. Shuping. Help is available for students who need it.**

# Gifford Middle School Orchestra 2021-2022 Calendar

(dates are subject to change)

Visit the website regularly to see the updated calendar. Dates will be added as needed.

October 14, 6:00-8:00PM	Spooktacular dress rehearsal
October 19, 7:00PM	Concert: "An Orchestral Spooktacular" – Advanced Orchestra only. 6:00PM call time @ VBHS.
November 5, in class	Solo & Ensemble forms due
December 4, time TBA	Solo & Ensemble MPA @ IRCHS
December 9, 7:00PM	GMS Winter Concert, at GMS
March 1, 6:00PM	Pre-MPA Concert, at VBHS
March 9, time TBA	District MPA, at VBHS – Advanced Orchestra only. During school day. Chaperones and instrument transportation will be needed. Thanks!
May 17, 7:00PM	GMS Spring Concert, at GMS

**Be inspired by a professional orchestra in Vero Beach:**

## Indian River Symphonic Association Concerts

Concerts 7:30PM at Community Church

Tickets can be purchased by calling 778-1070

Jan. 21: **Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Brahms *Variations On A Theme by Haydn, Op. 56*  
Wieniawski *Violin Concerto No.2 in D Minor, Op. 22*  
Schubert *Symphony No. 9 in C Major "The Great"*

Feb. 4: **Brevard Symphony Orchestra**  
presents *The Wondrous World of John Williams* featuring  
music from *Harry Potter, Star Wars, Jurassic Park,*  
*Indiana Jones Schindler's List,* and *Superman.*

Feb. 10: **Russian National Orchestra**  
Beethoven *Egmont Overture, Op. 84*  
Prokofiev *Piano Concerto No.3 in C Major, Op. 26*  
Prokofiev *Symphony No. 5 in Bb Major, Op. 100*

March 3: **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields**  
Bach *Violin Concert in A Minor, BWV 1041*  
Barber *Violin Concerto, Op. 14*  
Beethoven *Symphony No. 3 in Eb Major "Eroica"*

March 6: **New World Symphony**  
Haydn *Sinfonia Concertante in Bb Major*  
Beethoven *Symphony No. 7, II. – Allegretto*  
Simon *Fate Now Conquers*  
Debussy *Nuage and Fêtes* from *Nocturnes*  
Debussy *Ibéria*

March 13: **Brevard Symphony Orchestra**  
Beethoven *Leonore Overture No. 3, Op. 72*  
Tchaikovsky *Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35*  
Shostakovich *Symphony No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 10*

April 8: **Brevard Symphony Orchestra**  
Berlioz *Roman Carnival Overture*  
Chopin *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 11*  
Respighi *The Fountains of Rome*  
Respighi *The Pines of Rome*

## Vero Beach Chamber Orchestra

### Concert 1

Rachmaninoff *Piano Concerto No. 2*  
Beethoven *Symphony No. 4*

**Concert 1 – Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Concerts begin at 2:00PM in the VBHS PAC

### Concert 2

Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 3*  
Beethoven *Symphony No. 7*

**Concert 2 – Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

## Atlantic Classical Orchestra Concerts

Concerts 7:30PM at Community Church

Tickets – call 772-460-0850

Jan. 26: **Masterworks I: Technicolor Dance**

Kodály *Dances of Galánta*  
Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*  
Beethoven *Symphony No. 7*

Feb. 23: **Masterworks II: Classical Grace**

Saint-Georges *L'amant anonyme: Overture*  
Mozart *Symphony No. 29*  
Haydn *Symphony No. 104*

March 23: **Masterworks III: Strings Attached**

Walker *Lyric for Strings*  
Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*  
Tchaikovsky *Souvenir de Florence*

April 20: **Masterworks IV: Italian Postcard**

Wolf *Italian Serenade*  
Tchaikovsky *Variations on a Rococo Theme*  
Mendelssohn *Symphony No. 4 (Italian)*



# Solo & Ensemble Form

**THIS FORM IS DUE NOVEMBER 5.**

**PERFORMANCE IS DECEMBER 4.**

**DATE:** December 4

**LOCATION:** IRCHS. You will be assigned a specific time slot for your performance.

**WHAT?** You will prepare a classical piece in its entirety (or a single movement) and perform it for an adjudicator, who will provide valuable feedback and assign a rating.

(Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, or Superior. "Superior with Distinction")

"Superior with Distinction" may be assigned to truly special performances which are memorized.

- Memorize your piece! - Check your piece with Mr. Shuping for approval.
- You must provide the judge an original part (no photocopies) of your music with the measures numbered
- If your piece has accompaniment, you must perform with an accompanist.
- You are responsible for contacting and paying your accompanist.
- You must secure an accompanist before turning in this form on TBD.

## Available Accompanists:

**Suzy Reiser** – All levels  
[sreiser@bellsouth.net](mailto:sreiser@bellsouth.net)  
772-584-9543  
Please e-mail or call

**Ryan Kasten** – All levels  
[Ryan.kasten@cbparadise.com](mailto:Ryan.kasten@cbparadise.com)  
772-584-9744  
Please call or e-mail

**Sue Lorimier** – Beginning and Intermediate  
[suelorimier@gmail.com](mailto:suelorimier@gmail.com)  
413-427-1441  
Please e-mail

**Joanne Knott** – All levels  
[jjknott@att.net](mailto:jjknott@att.net)  
772-913-1010  
Please e-mail or call

- If your piece is not memorized, you must also use an original part (no photocopies) for your performance

-COST: \$12. Make checks payable to "Gifford Middle School." Include address and phone number.

A sample judge's assessment sheet is located here:

[http://www.myfoa.org/sites/default/files/mpaforms/Solo\\_Assessment.pdf](http://www.myfoa.org/sites/default/files/mpaforms/Solo_Assessment.pdf)

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STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SOLO TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPOSER/ARRANGER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOMPANIST: \_\_\_\_\_

Your grade will be determined by your adjudicator's rating:

Superior With Distinction = A++	Superior = A+
Excellent = A	Good = B
Fair = C	Poor = D
	Did Not Play = F

## CHECKLIST:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piece approved by Mr. Shuping            | <input type="checkbox"/> Original music for myself, accompanist and judge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contacted and rehearsed with accompanist | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorized my music                               |

\_\_\_ Listened to recordings of my piece

## Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Solo & Ensemble MPA

### What is Solo & Ensemble MPA?

MPA stands for Music Performance Assessment and is a requirement for all orchestra students. The MPA is an all-day event that takes place on a Saturday in November. You perform a solo piece for an adjudicator (also called a judge), who gives you feedback and a rating. Possible ratings are: Superior (A), Excellent (B), Good (C), Fair (D), and Poor.

**You will be given a form that needs to be filled out and returned to Mr. Shuping.**

**To fill out the form:**

#### 1. Choose a piece

- If you are not sure what level you are at, ask Mr. Shuping.
- Choose a piece that will require some work, but not something too far above your level.
- You need to choose a classical piece, or something that Mr. Shuping approves.  
(For example, "Theme from Star Wars" is not an approved piece.)
- The most commonly chosen pieces are from the Suzuki level books.

#### 2. Contact a piano accompanist

- On the form, there is a list of piano accompanists who are available.
- Piano accompanists have their own rates and you are responsible for paying your accompanist.
- You may have a friend or family member accompany you on piano.
- Contact an accompanist through email, text, or phone.
- If your accompanist does not already have the piano music for your piece, you are responsible for purchasing a copy of music for them.

- For example, *"Hi! My name is Luke Skywalker and I am an Orchestra student at Gifford Middle School. I play the violin and will be playing Minuet by Boccherini from Suzuki book 2. Are you available to be my accompanist? Do you have the piano accompaniment music for my piece, or do I need to purchase it for you? How much do you charge? Thanks!"*

**After you turn in your MPA form to Mr. Shuping:**

- Purchase 2 original copies of your piece, one for yourself and one for the judge.
- The Suzuki books are inexpensive and are available at Melody Music or online.
- There may be a second book available for you to borrow at MPA...ask Mr. Shuping.
- Practice your piece BEFORE rehearsing with your accompanist. Listen to recordings on YouTube.
- Number all the measures in your piece.
- Feel free to mark bowings, finger numbers, dynamics, etc. in pencil in your book.
- Schedule a time to rehearse with your accompanist one or two weeks before the MPA.

**On the day of the MPA:**

- Dress up for the event. Wear your "Sunday best" clothes. No shorts, jeans, sneakers, flip-flops, etc.
- Arrive 15-20 minutes early and "check-in".
- Make sure your instrument is in tune and your bow has rosin.
- Borrow an extra copy of the book for your judge, if you need to.
- Someone will escort you to the classroom where your judge and accompanist will be.
- You will wait in the hallway until your turn.
- Introduce yourself to your judge and tell them what you will be playing.
- Give your judge an original copy of your piece.
- After you play, your judge will give you helpful feedback - what you did well and what you can improve on.

*Gifford Middle School Orchestra*

**Absence Form**

**MUST BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST TWO SCHOOL DAYS IN ADVANCE EXCEPT IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

I request an excused absence from orchestra Rehearsal / Concert on \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / 20\_\_  
(circle one)

My reason is (Be specific. What / Where / Why):

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature & Date

**Make-up Requirements:**

Rehearsal:

- a. Practice for 60 minutes using the notes received from your partner. Video record your practice session and submit it to Mr. Shuping.

I have arranged for this student: \_\_\_\_\_ to take notes and inform me what I miss.

Concert (choose one):

- a. Perform a Living Room Concert for your family or friends on two separate days. At least one adult must be present for each performance. Perform your part for each piece from the missed performance at each concert. Turn in two completed Living Room Concert forms.
- b. Perform your part for each piece from the missed performance in class.

**\*\*\*Make-up assignments are due within one week of the missed rehearsal or concert\*\*\***

Orchestra Director:

I approve this absence \_\_\_\_\_. I do not approve this absence \_\_\_\_\_.

Accent assignment completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed on: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director Comments:

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## *Accent Assignment*

**(Choose one of the following each nine weeks)**

- a. Perform a Living Room Concert for your family or friends. At least one adult must be present. Perform 3-4 pieces you know well at each concert. One piece must be a **solo**, and the rest can be of your choosing. Turn in a completed Living Room Concert form.
- b. Participate on your orchestra instrument in a non-school-related musical group (church orchestra, perform in a retirement home, community orchestra, etc.). Bring in a signed note from a parent.
- c. Attend a concert and write a 250 word review of it. All concerts must be approved by your director.
- d. Take regular private lessons on your instrument.
- e. Write a 500 word, grammatically correct essay on the history of your instrument. This may only be done once.
- f. Write a 500 word grammatically correct essay about a virtuoso performer on your instrument.
- g. Write a 500 word grammatically correct essay about a piece of music we have/are studying.
- h. Listen to a complete album (must be approved by director) and write a review, including summary on each tune

Living Room Concert Form  
*Please make additional copies as needed!*



Performer (student first and last name) \_\_\_\_\_

Concert Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pieces Performed:** Perform 3-4 pieces you know well at each concert. One piece must be a **solo**, and the rest can be of your choosing.

Name of Piece	Last name of Composer
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

**Signatures of Audience Members in attendance**

(at least one adult must be present – up to three (3) audience members may be on FaceTime/Skype, etc.)

**Comments:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Additional

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Living Room Concert Form  
*Please make additional copies as needed!*



Performer (student first and last name) \_\_\_\_\_

Concert Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pieces Performed:** Perform 3-4 pieces you know well at each concert. One piece must be a **solo**, and the rest can be of your choosing.

Name of Piece	Last name of Composer
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

**Signatures of Audience Members in attendance**

(at least one adult must be present – up to three (3) audience members may be on FaceTime/Skype, etc.)

**Comments:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Additional

Comments:

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**Gifford Middle School Orchestra**  
**Parent/Guardian and Student Participation Agreement**

**As a member or parent/guardian of a member of the GMS Orchestra Program, we agree to follow all policies stated in this handbook and agree to the following:**

We do hereby agree and grant full permission for my student to fully participate in the GMS Orchestra.

We agree to fully support my student's membership in the GMS Orchestra and agree that both the parent(s)/guardian(s) and my student will abide by all GMS Orchestra policies as stated in the official Orchestra Handbook and the School District of Indian River County policies as stated in the SDIRC Code of Conduct. We are also agreeing to follow the policies stated in this agreement.

We grant permission for digital pictures, audio, and video recordings of my student to be posted on the GMS Orchestra website/social media platforms and to be released to community publications.

We understand and agree that participation in Orchestra is a YEARLONG commitment and agree that my student will fully participate. Neither I nor my student will ask for a schedule change or to "drop out" of Orchestra after the first week of school.

We agree and understand that all activities of the Orchestra including rehearsals, performances, field trips, meetings, and other activities as listed on the Orchestra calendar are mandatory unless the student's absence is approved. THEREFORE, we pledge that my student will attend all events and activities as posted and as updated on the VBHS Orchestra calendar.

We understand and agree that any student who fails to adhere to the policies and rules laid out in this handbook and the SDIRC Code of Conduct is not in good standing and is therefore ineligible for any awards or recognition at the Orchestra awards ceremony and may be removed from Orchestra leadership positions.

We agree that Gifford Middle School and the School District of Indian River County are not responsible for any damage to instruments or property owned by the student or parent that may occur at any official Orchestra function.

We agree that it is the responsibility of the student to give the hard copy of this handbook provided by Mr. Shuping to the parents/guardians. It is our responsibility to read and understand all policies as stated in the VBHS Orchestra handbook and agree to participate in all required events.

We acknowledge that a copy of the GMS Orchestra Handbook and the GMS Orchestra Calendar can be located on the Orchestra website, [www.verobeachorchestra.com](http://www.verobeachorchestra.com), and that it is our responsibility to be fully informed and aware of the contents of said handbook and calendar including periodic updates throughout the year.

We are aware that it is our responsibility to keep our information updated in Charms as it is the main communication method for the GMS Orchestra program. It is our responsibility to request written copies of communications if we do not have access to e-mail.