

2018 – 2019

Gifford Middle School Orchestra

Handbook

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Gifford Middle School Orchestra! I am thrilled to have the opportunity to teach your child this year.

ATTITUDE EFFORT

My hope is for all of us to approach each and every morning with an uplifting attitude and a strong work ethic. We will appreciate excellence and strive to create it on a daily basis.

Parents, please encourage your child to practice his or her instrument on a regular basis and when they are ready, have them to 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)

Never hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the year. I look forward to working with all of you so that each student strives to reach his or her potential.

I am extremely excited for the potential of this year, and I hope for all of us to realize it together. I look forward to seeing you at our required parent meeting. The meeting takes place immediately after the GMS orientation. Please bring your personal calendar to the parent meeting. If you are utilizing a school instrument, please remit payment at the parent meeting (\$75) in order to honor instructional time.

Sincerely,

Matt Stott

Orchestra Handbook

Attendance

Students are required to be in class on time. Students are required to attend all dress rehearsals and concerts. Any potential conflicts must be communicated with Mr. Stott as far in advance as possible.

Instruments

Please consult Mr. Stott or another teacher before purchasing an instrument. I have listed resources on the web site for instruments.

Students are held responsible for their instrument at all times.

When not in use, always have your instrument locked in its case.

Instrument Care:

Simple steps will allow your instrument to sound its best.

Re-hair your bow every 12-18 months.

New strings should be put on your instrument every year.

Wipe off the strings and body of your instrument after playing every day.

Keep your instrument away from extreme temperatures (especially hot cars)

Instrument Accessories:

All Instruments: Rosin, Polishing Cloth, Spare set of strings.

Violin, Viola: Shoulder rest, for proper technique and to prevent injury **Cello, Bass:**

Rock stop to prevent slipping and to protect your instrument *A music stand is highly recommended for at-home practice.

*A metronome, tuner, and recording device are also recommended for home practice.

- Many low-cost or free apps exist. I recommend 'clear tune' or 'garage band'

Sheet Music

Students are responsible for all music distributed to them (originals and practice copies) Number your measures and bring your music to every class, rehearsal and performance.

Facilities

No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the orchestra room

Chairs, stands, instruments, and music will be put up following each class and rehearsal

Behavior

Students will be held to the highest standard of attitude, behavior, and etiquette

Disrespect shown to peers, directors, guests, and audiences will not be tolerated

All school and district rules will be followed

Behavior infractions will be dealt with by the director, parents, and if needed, school administration.

Performance Expectations

Orchestra is a performance-based class, and most of what we do culminates in public performance.

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 the assigned code, behave in a professional manner, and remain in attendance until the completion of the performance.

Performance Attire

Boys: Black pants, black button-down shirt, black socks, black shoes

Girls: Black pants or long skirt (must reach ankles), black blouse, black shoes

Acceptable Jewelry: Stud earrings only. Fine necklace with single pendent. Only fine or thin metal bracelets. Studs and cuff links for the shirt.

Unacceptable Jewelry: Large earrings, hoop earrings, ‘dangly earrings’. Large flashy jewelry. Plastic bracelets. Large chain necklaces or multiple pendants.

Web Site

www.verobeachorchestra.com has a site dedicated to the GMS orchestra look here for classroom information, calendar, forms, and this handbook. Sheet music and audio files will also be added to assist students.

Concert Seating

Orchestra is a unified, team effort, and each student, no matter where they sit are equally important to the success of the performance. Everyone is a ‘starter’. While we will often audition for seats, the final decision is left up to the director in the best interest of the ensemble and performance.

Schedule Conflicts

I encourage students to be well rounded and enjoy learning of student success in multiple arenas. I have also done my best to arrange the orchestra schedule around major school activities already on the calendar. If conflicts do arise, students must communicate (in writing) scheduling conflicts in advance. Communicate with Mr. Stott so that can be resolved. Makeup assignments will be required in order to receive credit for work missed.

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.

ANTICIPATED EVENTS:

- All-State Auditions (\$25) – Optional
- Solo & Ensemble MPA (\$12 + accompanist fee)

Orchestra Trips

These are all considered a privilege, and students must have meet performance and behavior expectations in order to take part. They also must meet minimum eligibility requirements set by the school district. Students must behave in the most professional manner and follow all directions set forth by the director and chaperones. The entire trip is a school activity, so all school rules apply and school and classroom discipline will remain in effect.

Private Lessons

While not required, private lessons are highly recommended for students to reach their full individual potential. See the web site for a list, contact information, and short bios of private teachers in the area. (www.verobeachorchestra.com)

Solo & Ensemble MPA

Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment is a valuable experience for students to perform for a professional adjudicator who provide written feedback. All students who have played for at least one year are expected to perform a solo, and are encouraged to also prepare an ensemble (duet, trio or quartet). You will prepare a classical solo in its entirety. Consult with Mr. Stott about appropriate literature. I recommend memorizing the piece. 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 payment for your accompanist.* If your piece is not memorized, you must also use an original part (no photocopies).

Parents

A few hints for parents to help their 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 the orchestra parents and volunteer at events.

Volunteers

Please contact Mr. Stott at Matthew.Stott@indianriverschools.org if you are available to volunteer in one of several capacities to help the orchestra students.

Grading Scale

Grades will be determined from the following criteria:

Individual Performance Skills

Active Participation and Proper Materials Present and Utilized

Application of Repertoire (rehearsals and performances)

Accent Assignments

Addendums:

- A. Calendar
- B. Accent assignments
- C. Living Room Concert Form
- D. Solo & ensemble form
- E. Instrument Pick-up Pass
- F. Performance skills assessments
- G. Turn-in Sheet to sign

Gifford Middle School Orchestra 2018-2019 Calendar

(dates are subject to change)

Visit the web site regularly to see the updated calendar. Performances will be added.

August 17 th , in class:	All-State Paperwork due to Mr. Stott (optional)
Date TBA:	Orchestra Parent Meeting, at GMS open House
September 12:	<u>All-State Auditions (at Vero Beach High School)</u>
September 21, in class	Solo & Ensemble <u>Form Due.</u> (Advanced required, optional beginning)
October 23, 7:00 PM:	Concert: “An Orchestral Spooktacular.” Advanced Orchestra Only. 6 PM call time.
October 27, time TBA:	Solo & Ensemble MPA (at IRCHS). You will be given a specific performance time. Arrive 20 minutes prior to your time.
December 11, 7:00 PM	GMS Winter Concert – at VBHS PAC. Advanced: 6 PM call time. Beginning: 6:30 PM call time
January 7, in class	Chamber Music Competition Entry form due
February 5, time TBA	Middle School Chamber Music Competition (optional)
March 6, time TBA	District MPA, at VBHS: advanced orchestra only. During school day. Chaperones and instrument transportation will be needed. Thanks!
April 27, morning time TBA	Performance at Vero Beach Museum of Art
May 7, 7 PM	Vero Pops Concert: all orchestras. At VBHS. 6 PM call time.

Be inspired by a professional orchestra in Vero Beach:

Indian River Symphonic Association Concerts

Concerts 7:30 PM at Community Church. Tickets by calling 778-1070:

Jan 18: *Brevard Symphony*, Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto, Strauss, R-K
Jan 25: *Shanghai Orchestra*: Butterfly Lover's Concerto, Berlioz, Rossini
Feb 8: *Brevard Symphony*: Pops Concert.
Feb 14: Russian National Orchestra: Rachmaninov, Chopin.
March 12: *Brussels Philharmonic*: Bruch Violin Concerto.
March 17: *Brevard Symphony*: Irish.
April 15: *Buffalo Philharmonic*, Borodin, Brahms, Prokofiev.

VERO BEACH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Thursday, January 24th 7:00-9:00
Thursday, February 7th 7:00-9:00
Tuesday, February 12th 7:00-9:00
Thursday, February 21 7:00-9:00
Saturday, February 23rd 1:00-4:00
Concert 1 – Sunday, February 24th

Thursday, March 14th 7:00-9:00
Thursday, March 28th 7:00-9:00
Thursday, April 4th 7:00-9:00
Tuesday, April 9th 7:00-9:00
Saturday, April 13th 1:00-4:00
Concert 2 – Sunday, April 14th

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Concerts

Concerts 7:30 PM at St. Edwards. Tickets call 460-0850:

Jan 17: Beethoven #3, Grieg Piano Concerto.
Feb 14: Appalachian Spring, Sibelius Violin Concerto
March 14: Ravel, Falla, Bizet
April 4: Shostakovich Cello Concerto, Mendelssohn #5



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 solos you know well at each concert. 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. Write a 500 word, grammatically correct essay on the history of your instrument. This may only be done once.
- e. Write a 500 word grammatically correct essay about a virtuoso performer on your instrument.
- f. Write a 500 word grammatically correct essay about a piece of music we have/are studying.
- g. Listen to a complete disk (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:

Name of Piece

Last name of Composer

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Signatures of Audience Members in attendance
(at least one adult must be present)

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:

Name of Piece

Last name of Composer

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Signatures of Audience Members in attendance
(at least one adult must be present)

Comments:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Additional Comments: _____

Technical Application in Solo Literature

THIS FORM IS DUE SEPTEMBER 21st
Performance is at S&E MPA on October 27th

Solo Form

DATE: Saturday, November 18th:

LOCATION: Charter High School. 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.

- Check your piece with Mr. Stott for approval.
- Memorize your piece!
- 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 September 21st.

Available Accompanists:

Suzu Reiser. All levels
sreiser@bellsouth.net
772-584-9543
Please e-mail or call

Ryan Kasten. All levels
Ryan.kasten@cbparadise.com
772-584-9744
Text, call or e-mail

Bonita Clark. All Levels. (esp. advanced)
musicdirector@mystandrews.org
678-665-8240. E-mail or text.

Tammy Oostdyk. All Levels.
tammyoostdyk@gmail.com
561-512-0537

Joanne Knott. All levels
jjknott@att.net
772-913-1010.

Sue Lorimier. Beginning and Intermediate.
suelorimier@gmail.com
Please e-mail

- 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 #.

This form is due by Friday, September 21st. Complete and return to Mr. Stott.

The judge's assessment sheet is located here:

http://www.myfoa.org/sites/default/files/mpaforms/Solo_Assessment.pdf

STUDENT NAME: _____

SOLO TITLE: _____

COMPOSER/ARRANGER NAME: _____

ACCOMPANIST: _____

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

Superior With Distinction = A++
Excellent = A
Fair = C

Superior = A+
Good = B
Poor = D
Did Not Play = F

CHECKLIST:

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

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. Stott.

To fill out the form:

1. Choose a piece

- If you are not sure what level you are at, ask Mr. Stott.
- 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. Stott 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. Stott:

- 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. Stott.
- 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.

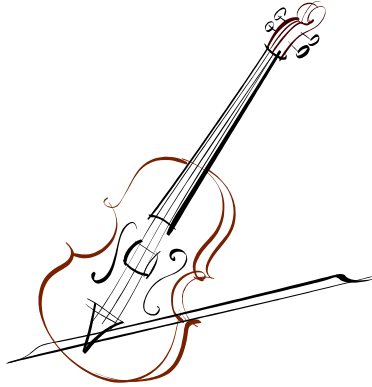
On the day of the MPA:

- 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.

Put this pass in the front pocket of your agenda.

Gifford Middle School Orchestra Instrument Pick-Up Pass

Students must take their instruments home for daily practice.



Please allow this student to come to the orchestra room at these times:

- **before school between 7:35-7:53 for instrument drop-off**
- **after school between 2:43 and 2:45, or at regular release time, for instrument pickup.**

Students are expected to use the most direct route to and from the orchestra room at all times (no loitering). Please notify Mr. Stott in the case that this privilege is abused.

THANK YOU!

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Turn-In Sheet

This form must be detached and returned by Aug. 24th

I, _____, have thoroughly read and understand the expectations for Gifford orchestra in the 2018-2019 school year.

We have read and understand the policies for the 2018-2019 Gifford Middle School orchestra and will abide by all guidelines through the extent of the school year.

Student Signature

Parent Signature