

**COMMUNITY
CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT** 89

Learning for Life

Glen Crest Middle School
Orchestra Handbook 2019 - 2020



"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning."

-Plato

Kristi Kline and Andrew Ladendorf, Orchestra Directors

Glen Crest Orchestras

We would like to personally welcome all of the orchestra members and their families back for another school year. We are very excited about orchestra this year and the possibilities that will be coming our way!

In order for us to have the most successful year possible, it is important that both you and your child understand what is required and expected of a Glen Crest orchestra student. Our Orchestra Handbook addresses most of the common questions and concerns regarding participation in orchestra. All students and parents are expected to read the handbook.

Please remember to register for orchestra and pay the fee to the district. If a fee-waiver is needed, please let us know as soon as possible. Please also let us know as soon as possible if we can assist you with the rental of an instrument. We have a limited number of all instruments that can be rented from the school district. Please make your checks payable to CCSD 89. If you use your own instrument, no fee is assessed.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Concerts, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and around Glen Crest! If there is anything we can do to make your experience better, or if we can answer any questions, please contact us.

Our Philosophy: We believe that every student is capable of becoming a skilled musician. We believe that the benefits of a music education are many and include an opportunity to meet and perform with a diverse group of students, learn a craft, and appreciate a wide range of musical styles and cultures.

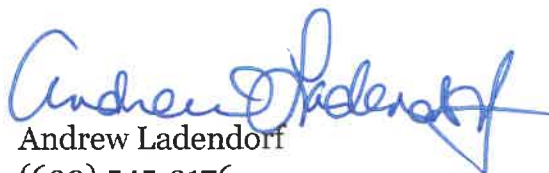
Musical organizations can teach these same ideals. Each musician has his or her own part to play for the good of the group, but each person can also express his or her own individual feelings through music.

Our Goals:

- To provide all students with a worthwhile and fun musical experience
- To develop a sense of responsibility to a group
- To teach the critical thinking skills evident in all musicians
- To develop a life-long appreciation and love of music and music-making
- To foster student growth in their musical craft, regardless of ability
- To maximize student learning potential



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Needs and Expenses

1. Instrument: All students need an instrument in order to participate in orchestra. This can be rented from our school approved vendors or you can rent a school instrument.

2. Method Books - these can be purchased through us at school. Please make sure you buy yours before Tuesday, September 3.

6th grade students: String Basics Book 2

7th grade students: String Basics Book 2 and Book 3

8th grade students: String Basics Book 3

If you have the required book from last year, please use it again this year. There might be a time during the school year where we finish our current method book and move to a new one. More information will be sent out about that when the time comes.

3. Black 1-inch Three-Ring Binder: This binder will only be used for orchestra purposes. You can use the same one you used last year...in fact, we encourage that! We will be hole punching our method books and music to be kept in here for safe keeping and organizational purposes. Students are required to bring this binder back and forth from home to school each time we have an orchestra rehearsal or lesson.

4. Pencil: This should be self-explanatory by now ☺

5. School District Fee for Middle School Orchestra: \$95.00

This is payable to CCSD 89 and should be turned in to the school office. This fee must be paid ASAP. You may have paid this at registration. If you did, you do not need to pay it again.

Recommended Music Stores

Austin's Violin Shop 316 Wheeler Rd Sugar Grove, IL (630) 466-7562 www.austinsviolinshop.com	Seman Violins 4447 Oakton St Skokie, IL 60076 (847) 674-0690 www.semanviolins.com
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If you are on a Fee Waiver or show financial need, we have a limited number of school instruments that can be rented from the school. Please see us for more information. All information is confidential.

Ensemble Descriptions

Intermediate Orchestra – 6th Grade

Intermediate Orchestra meets on Mondays, Thursdays, and alternating Wednesdays during 7th Period (ACE). Rehearsal begins promptly 3 minutes after the tardy bell rings. All 6th grade orchestra students must participate in rehearsals. Students are welcome to audition for the Concert or Chamber Orchestras, but this would be in addition to Intermediate Orchestra. See page 4 for details on the grading scale.

Concert Orchestra – 7th and 8th Grade

Concert Orchestra is for all 7th and 8th grade orchestra students. Concert Orchestra meets on Tuesdays, Fridays, and alternating Wednesdays from 7:10 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. Students should arrive by 7:05 a.m. in order to unpack their instruments and be seated in time for rehearsal to start. Doors are opened at 7:00 a.m. There is an early bus schedule in the attendance office, if needed. See page 4 for details on the grading scale.

Chamber Orchestra – by audition only/private lessons highly recommended

This extra-curricular orchestra is open to all orchestra students at Glen Crest by audition. This group meets every Monday and Thursday after school until the late bus. Private lessons are highly recommended, but not required for an audition. Auditions are held in August. You will only need to audition once for membership. If you are interested in private lessons and do not have a teacher, please let us know. You will not receive a separate grade for Chamber Orchestra.

Lessons – all students

Students will be placed in lesson groups according to grade level, growth targets, and orchestra assignment(s). Lessons are held once per week on a rotation schedule. This way, no student misses the same class more than once every 7 weeks. If a student knows they will miss a lesson, they must speak with us ahead of time in order to schedule a make-up. Students CAN miss lessons for: a major test, standardized testing, a major presentation where all group members must be present, or a science lab that cannot be made up or replicated.

All missed lessons must be made up. The lesson schedule will be handed out at the beginning of the school year and will be posted in the orchestra room. Arrangements for underperforming students with academic concerns will be made on a case by case basis. The lesson schedule will be distributed at the beginning of the school year and will be revised each trimester if needed.

It is the student's responsibility to attend lessons and to inform the teachers of any conflict ahead of time. If a student misses a lesson and does not inform us, they will receive a Missing for that lesson until it has been made up.

Grading Policy

Assessments

- Lesson Solos 90%
 - Formative Assessments
 - Book Music
 - Concert Performance Music
- Tests
 - Summative Assessments
 - Book Music
 - Concert Performance Music
 - Scale Tests
 - Trimester Benchmark Tests

Homework

- Goal Sheets and Reflections (all written work) 10%

*All Orchestra grades are **STANDARDS BASED: Exceeds (100%), Meets (90%), Progressing (70%), or Below (50%).***

Grades are not based upon letter grades/percentages but are used because of the gradbook set-up.

Types of Assessments

- **Lesson Solos** - Short solos from the book or orchestra music to monitor weekly learning and skill development
- **Lesson Goal Sheets** - Written assignments on Google Classroom for students to demonstrate thorough understanding of a concept
- **Reflections** - Short written assessments assigned on Google Classroom reflecting on a performance, a trimester as a whole, or a new concept.
- **Tests** - Playing tests on orchestra music, scales, Solo and Ensemble music, or book material once a Trimester

Attendance Policy

Excused Absences

- Student missing rehearsal due to illness or participation in chorus or student union meetings will not be expected to make up rehearsal time missed
- E-Mail from parent/guardian or teacher in order to attend study session during rehearsal. Only **one** excused absence will be allowed per trimester to attend a study session. Additional absences will need to be made up before or after school

Unexcused Absences

- Student does not show up for rehearsal
- Student will be required to make up missed rehearsal time before or after school

Attendance Policy (continued)

Tardies

- Student is considered tardy if they are not in their seat by the time rehearsal begins
- An e-mail will be sent home to the parent after the second tardy to share our concerns
- A phone call will be made to the parents after a third tardy. **Concert Orchestra** students who are section leaders will risk losing their position
- At the fourth tardy, we will consider this a chronic truancy and will deal with this on a student-by-student basis

Miscellaneous

Google Classroom

We use Google Classroom each week for students to record and upload their lesson solos, along with answering their goal sheet and/or reflection questions. We will all join Google Classroom during the first week of lessons. Students are expected to turn in their recordings and written work on time. Students will receive feedback on Google Classroom and will have the option to re-submit a solo or Goal Sheet if they want to. Parents also have the ability to join our classroom and we would highly encourage parents to do so!

IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival (Optional)

This festival is a showcase event for students to perform solos and/or ensembles with a piano accompanist for an expert clinician to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement. This is an optional event, but highly encouraged.

Practice Expectations

Music Education is a chain with three links: the teacher, the student, and the parent. If one link breaks, the chain is broken. Each link must do its part. *Parental encouragement cannot be emphasized enough.* Students are highly encouraged to practice 5 days a week for at least 30 minutes. This will not only help students accomplish their orchestral goals for the year, but it will also help them improve from week to week if a regular practice schedule is put into place.

MBA - Music Boosters Association

The MBA is an organization that supports the music program in District 89. They do several activities each year to raise money that enables the music directors to purchase items for the band, chorus, and orchestra in grades K - 8. In the past they have been able to purchase music, instruments, and equipment. They have given scholarships to music camps, and they help to raise money for the middle school students to be able to go on trips. For more information, please see the membership form at the end of this packet.

Lockers

We have 40 viola/violin lockers available for instrument storage. While this is not enough to cover our needs, we will make them available to Concert Orchestra students on the first day of orchestra lessons.

If you get a locker, you need a lock. It is your responsibility to keep your locker secured. If you choose not to use a lock, we are not responsible if something is lost or stolen. All instruments should go home every day since we share our room with the band students. If you don't get a locker, please keep your instruments under the tables when you first walk into the orchestra room. This is a designated storage area for violin/viola students **on orchestra days only**. **Take your instruments home on band days.** There is no locker storage for cello and bass students, but everyone should use the racks we have provided.

Concert Attire

All students are required to dress up for our concerts. All outfits must adhere to the Glen Crest Dress Code!

Option 1: White shirt, black pants or skirt with black tights, black dress shoes and socks. A black dress is also acceptable. The hem of skirts and dresses must fall below the knees when seated. Cello students should strongly consider black pants.

Option 2: White button-down shirt, black or navy blue clip-on necktie, black dress slacks, black socks, black dress shoes.

We are on social media! Follow us on Facebook (CCSD 89 Orchestras), Twitter (@CCSD89Orch), and Instagram (d89orch)

2019-2020 Membership

Music Boosters Association

Support music education in D89!



WE HAVE AN EXEMPLARY MUSIC PROGRAM IN D89 AND THE MBA IS NEEDED TO FUND:

- Scholarships for instrument rental
- New instruments and supplemental music materials for students
- Transportation and fees for competitions
- Accompanists for music concerts
- General support for new music & materials for the PK-8 music staff
- Replacing or repairing instruments in music classrooms

PLEASE SUPPORT MUSIC CLASSES, BAND, ORCHESTRA & CHORUS AT ONE OF THESE LEVELS:

Student/Senior	\$15-\$35	Section Leader	\$76-100
Family/Individual	\$36-\$50	Patron	\$101-\$150
Noteworthy Donor	\$51-\$75	Director	\$151 +

Check Payable to: D89 MBA

Name for Concert Program: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

(Please send payment and membership form to school with your child and give to any music teacher)

Thank you for your support of D89 music students and staff!

D89 Music Boosters HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE! OUR PAGE CONTAINS ALL THE LATEST DETAILS OF THE MBA, ORCHESTRA, CHOIR AND BAND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULES, PHOTOS, VIDEOS, AND MUCH MORE! BE SURE TO VISIT, FOLLOW, AND LIKE OUR PAGE.

https://www.facebook.com/CCSD89MBA/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Interested in being a part of D89 Music Boosters? Please contact Co-Presidents Dawn Cassata (dawncassata@yahoo.com), Jamie Goldman (Jamie.goldman@ey.com) or any music staff member with questions, comments or ideas.