

Glen Crest Middle School
Orchestra Handbook



“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.

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 their own part to play for the good of the group, but each person can also express their 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. There will also be a select number of each instrument available for students to rent through school. This school instrument would be theirs to use while at school, but keeping an instrument at home would also be required. More information on page 7.

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.

2. Method Books - these can be purchased through us at school. Information will be sent out via email within the first month of school.

6th grade students: String Basics Book 2

7th grade students: String Basics Book 2 and Book 3 (Book 3 not needed until later in the year)








8th grade students: String Basics Book 2 and 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 switch between two books.

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 safekeeping and organizational purposes. Students are required to bring this binder back and forth from home to school each time we have a rehearsal or lesson.

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

Some Recommendations for Music Apps (and websites) for Students -

1. InsTuner  - For tuning (free version available)
2. Cleartune  - For tuning
3. Pro Metronome  - For keeping time and a steady beat (free version available)
4. Tempo  - For keeping time and a steady beat
5. Staff Wars  - For note reading practice
6. Tenuto  - For note reading practice
7. Tonal Energy  - All-in-one app. Has a tuner, pitch generator and metronome.
(cont'd on next page)
8. <https://www.classicsforkids.com/>
9. <https://www.musicca.com/>
10. <https://www.therhythmtrainer.com/>
11. <https://metronomeonline.com>
12. <https://theonlinemetronome.com>
13. <https://tuner.ninja>

Ensemble Rehearsals and Lessons Descriptions

Intermediate Orchestra – 6th Grade

Intermediate Orchestra meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during 7th Period (ACE). All 6th grade orchestra students must attend all rehearsals. Advanced students are welcome to audition for the Concert or Chamber Orchestras, but this would be in addition to Intermediate Orchestra.

Concert Orchestra – 7th and 8th Grade

Concert Orchestra meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:10am until 7:45 AM. Students should arrive by 7:00 AM when the doors are opened. Students should enter through the main doors and go to their lockers before rehearsal begins. All students should be in their seats, ready to play by 7:10 AM. There is an early bus schedule in the attendance office, if needed.

Chamber Orchestra – by audition

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. Auditions are held twice throughout the school year, in September and January. You will only need to audition once for membership. 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. No student will miss 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 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. 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 orchestra teachers of any conflict in person by the day before their next lesson.

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 (“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** - Any written assignments on Google Classroom for students to demonstrate thorough understanding of a concept
- **Tests** - Playing tests on orchestra music, scales, or book material once a Trimester

Attendance Policy

Excused Absences

- Student missing rehearsal due to illness, participation in band, 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 a study session during rehearsal. Only **one** of these absences will be allowed per trimester to attend a study session. Additional absences will need to be made up after school.

Unexcused Absences

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

Attendance Policy (continued)

Tardies

- Student is considered tardy if they are not ready to play by the time rehearsal begins
- An e-mail will be sent home to the parent after the second tardy to share 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 to post lesson schedules, make announcements, and for students to record and upload their lesson solos and complete any written work. Students are expected to turn in their recordings and written work by their due date. Students will receive feedback on Google Classroom and will have the option to re-submit any of their work. Parents also have the ability to join our classroom!

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. Typically in February, this is an optional event, but highly encouraged.

Practice Expectations

Parent encouragement cannot be emphasized enough. Students are encouraged to practice 5 days a week for at least 20 minutes. This will not only help students accomplish their goals for the year, but it will also help them improve from week to week.

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.

Instrument Storage and Usage

Students can use district-provided instruments based on financial need, seniority, and then first-come, first-served basis contingent on availability. If you are already renting from a music store, this is a benefit for your child so they will not need to carry their instrument to and from school 3-4 days a week. We have nearly 100 instruments which can be used by our students. An instrument rental agreement and a fee of \$25.00 or \$75.00 will need to be paid at the beginning of the year in order to reserve an instrument for your child. Information is typically sent out within the first two weeks of school.

Students who play **violin** and **viola** may bring their instrument from home. They are encouraged to store the instruments in their school locker, if possible. If you want to use a school instrument, we have a limited number available.

Students who play **cello** and **bass** should rent an instrument from the school district. We have limited storage space for home instruments to be kept in the classroom during the day, that is why we encourage school instrument rentals.

The orchestra room will be locked after school on Tuesdays and Fridays. Any student who brings their instrument from home **must** take their instrument with them after their lesson or rehearsal on those days and store them in their locker. The doors will not be opened if Ms. Kline and Mr. Ladendorf is not available.

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 on top, black on bottom. All clothing must be formal (i. e. no T-shirts, polo shirts, jeans, sweats, shorts, sneakers, flip-flops, etc...). If a student wears a button down shirt, a black neck tie is required. If a student wears a skirt or a dress, the hem should be below the knees. If the hem is above the knees, the student must wear black tights or leggings.

Option 2: All black. All clothing must be formal (i. e. no T-shirts, polo shirts, jeans, sweats, shorts, sneakers, flip-flops, etc...). If a student wears a button down shirt, a black neck tie is required. If a student wears a skirt or a dress, the hem should be below the knees. If the hem is above the knees, the student must wear black tights or leggings.



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