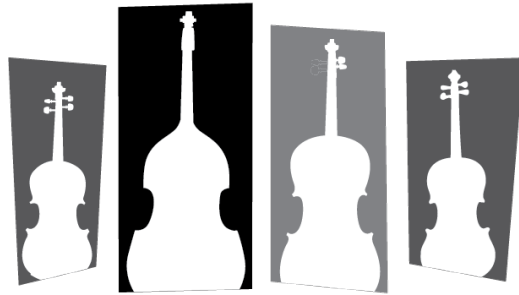


Greenfield Junior High School  
**Orchestra Handbook**  
2019-2020



GREENFIELD JR HIGH  
**ORCHESTRA**

<http://www.GreenfieldOrchestras.com>

*Sara Duce, Orchestra Director*  
*sara.duce@gilbertschools.net*



Brian Yee - Principal | Jeff Miller - Assistant Principal | Amy Mulliken - Dean of Students

## WELCOME

Welcome to the Greenfield JH Orchestras! This year, I hope you have fun playing music and develop skills as a student and as a musician. Our success depends on every individual putting forth his or her best effort and working together to make 2019 - 2020 a rewarding year for all of us!

## MUSIC CONTRACT

Parents and Students: Please read the entire handbook together and then sign the music contract sent home with your child. The handbook explains the responsibilities and expectations of participating in a performing arts class. By signing the contract, you and your child also indicate that you have reviewed the CONCERT SCHEDULE and have made certain that you will be available on all dates indicated.

## MATERIALS

The following materials are required for orchestra. Please **have ALL materials procured by Friday, August 9**. If you are unable to acquire all materials by August 9, please send a note or email to Ms. Duce by Aug. 9, indicating when specific materials will arrive.

- Instrument
- Hard, black, one-inch binder - with 2 pockets.
- At least 10 page protectors in the binder, for music and handouts
- Pencil in music binder
- 7th Grade Book: Essential Elements, Book 2
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Book: Essential Technique for Strings (NOT the newest or 2000 edition)  
**The 8th grade book has a full, dark green cover.**
- Chamber Orchestra (Advanced Ensemble): No book required, but please have 20 page protectors total
- Shoulder rest or foam pad (violin and viola only)
- Endpin anchor (cello and bass only)
- Rosin in case
- Soft cloth in case

## SIGN UP FOR ORCHESTRA TEXT MESSAGES!

Concert reminders and general announcements will be sent via *Remind.com*. You must opt-in to receive these reminders. (Text reminders will be minimal.) To sign up for text reminders, **text your student's code to 81010**:

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra: @9a89cg

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra: @f2997c

Chamber Orchestra (Advanced Ensemble): @846dcd

(At least one Chamber Orchestra parent or student must sign up for *Remind* reminders.)

## ORCHESTRA WEBSITE

[www.GreenfieldOrchestras.com](http://www.GreenfieldOrchestras.com)

On the orchestra website, you will find the following:

- Orchestra Handbook
- Materials List
- Calendar of Orchestra Events
- Extra Credit Pages
- Tax Credit Form
- Instructions for signing up for orchestra text reminders
- Information about each orchestra and about Ms. Duce
- Local Music Store List
- Private Teacher List

## INSTRUMENT STORAGE

There is a storage area located in the orchestra room. Students are allowed to drop instruments off prior to first hour and will be able to pick them up after school. Students will be assigned a “cubby” in which to store their instrument and binder during the day. Please note that these storage areas provide only minimal security. Students are strongly encouraged not to leave valuable items or money in these areas. Also, please ensure all belongings are labeled. The Gilbert School District and GrJHS are not liable for losses.

## PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Students should look professional for performances. All students should wear “white on top, black on bottom” for performances unless otherwise notified. School dress code applies and performance attire is part of each concert grade.

BOYS: solid white collared shirt, solid black pants/slacks, tall black socks and black shoes (no shorts, no jeans, no ties)

GIRLS: solid white blouse (no sleeveless tops), solid black dress pants or long skirts (skirts need to be mid-calf when sitting), black nylons or tights, and black shoes. All **cello and bass players** must wear black slacks, including females.

***NOTE:** Students are asked to wear their orchestra t-shirts TO SCHOOL on the day of a concert. Much like an athlete who wears his/her jersey on game day, wearing our orchestra t-shirts increase enthusiasm for the concert and promotes unity.*

## CONCERT DATES

Write these dates on your family calendar! See the section, CONCERT ATTENDANCE in this handbook for an explanation of the responsibilities and expectations regarding concert attendance and concert grades.

\*\* Combined rehearsals: all cello and bass players who would like to use their home instruments at the orchestra concert, must bring said home instrument to the combined rehearsal. Any instrument NOT brought to school prior to each concert CANNOT be used on stage at the concert.

Oct 1, Tue	** Orchestra Combined Rehearsals, daytime, GrJHS
Oct 2, Wed	Orchestra Concert, 7pm, GHS
Nov 12, Tue	Music Department Pictures (orch shirt), cafeteria, daytime
Dec 6-7	District Honor Orchestra Auditions (optional)
Dec 10, Tue	** Orchestra Combined Rehearsals, daytime, GrJHS
Dec 11, Wed	Orchestra Concert, 7pm, GHS
Jan 17-18	District Honor Orchestra Concert (optional)
Feb 4, Tue	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra w/ GHS Side-By-Side, daytime, GHS
Feb 4, Tue	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra w/ GHS @ 6 <sup>th</sup> grade festival, GHS, 7pm
Feb 25, Tue	** Orchestra Combined Rehearsals, daytime, GrJHS
Feb 26, Wed	Orchestra Concert, 7pm, GHS
Mar 3, Tue	Orchestra to ABODA, Tucson, daytime
Mar 20 (tent)	+ 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Field Trip to MIM
Apr 24-26 or May 1-3	+ 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Disneyland Soundtrack Session (TENTATIVE)
May 8, Fri	** Orchestra Combined Rehearsals, daytime, GrJHS
May 11, Mon	Orchestra Concert, 7pm, GHS

+ *Special events that students earn the privilege of participating in. (See Infractions & Field Trips)*

While I have made every effort to list all activities for the year, there may be changes or extra performance opportunities added to this list. Every effort is made to

communicate in advance. Please look for performance reminders sent home with your child prior to each required event.

### Additional Advanced Ensemble Dates

12Ks of Christmas (Dec TBD), 6<sup>th</sup> Grade String Concerts (Dec & May TBD), 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night (Feb 18), Golden Scholars (May TBD)

*Advanced Ensemble also performs at each of the evening concerts listed above. More Ensemble performance dates may be added as performance opportunities become available.*

### **CONCERT ATTENDANCE**

Concerts are considered the final exam for each quarter. They are a culmination of what students have been working on in class and are an opportunity for students to showcase what they have learned. It is essential that each student attend all scheduled concerts and performances. An unexcused concert absence will result in the orchestra grade being lowered TWO letter grades.

Absences from a performance can only be excused by parent communication to Ms. Duce, at least one week prior to the anticipated absence. In the case of an emergency, please contact Ms. Duce ASAP. When calling the school in reference to a missed performance, please use Ms. Duce's direct extension to leave a message or email Ms. Duce at [sara.duce@gilbertschools.net](mailto:sara.duce@gilbertschools.net).

**NOTE:** Student who are excused from a concert must come in to the orchestra room during lunch to make up the time they missed in order to complete the excused absence.

### **REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS**

Establishing a regular rehearsal routine is important. Upon entering the room a student should quickly and quietly:

1. Get music, instrument, pencil in storage room. Case must be left in cubby.
2. Go directly to assigned seat; begin rosinning bow, shadow bowing, practicing, or getting binder and supplies organized.

Students not in their seat with all materials when the bell rings will receive 8th hour. Students must return own music and instrument to the assigned cubby. Students will be dismissed to pack up and leave the classroom by the teacher, not the clock or the bell.

## **ORCHESTRA GRADES**

**Participation Points (30% of grade)** are earned daily for participating fully, following all classroom rules, having all required materials, and taking instruments home each day.

Required materials: instrument, shoulder rest or rock stop, music binder (including pieces, notes, handouts, worksheets, and technique book), and a sharpened pencil in the music binder. No pens or markers.

**Written Work Points (25% of grade)** are given for worksheets, practice assignments, quizzes, and tests.

**Playing Test Points (25% of grade)** are earned for individual playing tests. Playing tests may include scales, technique book exercises, sight-reading, and/or concert music.

**Performance Points for Concerts (20% of grade)** are given for being in full uniform, being on time, having all materials, demonstrating appropriate warm-up room, audience and on-stage etiquette, and staying for all performing groups.

An unexcused concert absence will result in the orchestra grade being lowered TWO letter grades. (See the section on CONCERT ATTENDANCE.)

## **ORCHESTRA RULES**

Rule 1: Be in your seat when the bell rings

Rule 2: Respect each other and allow everyone to learn.

Rule 3: Respect all property

Rule 4: Leave gum, food, and drinks outside (Water is OK.)

Rule 5: Practice often!

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for each rehearsal. Please remember that FREQUENT and FOCUSED practice is the key to improving. Instruments need to be taken home each day unless otherwise instructed.

## **CONSEQUENCES**

1. Redirection/Warning
2. Infraction(s) / loss of points
3. Pack up; alternate assignment
4. Detention
5. Referral

## **INFRACTIONS**

For each infraction of the above orchestra rules, 1 point will be subtracted from the individual's grade and daily participation point(s) will be lost. After 6 infractions, a parent meeting will occur. After 8 infractions, a discipline referral will be issued. If a student has incurred more than 2 infractions, he/she is NOT eligible to attend orchestra field trips.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Throughout the year, orchestra students have the opportunity to go on field trips. In order to be eligible to attend these rewarding activities, students must keep a 75% or above in orchestra class. Students must also be in good standing, not having received any referrals or suspensions. Likewise, infractions will determine a student's eligibility for field trips. Students cannot have more than 2 infractions in orchestra to attend field trips. Please note that opportunities are given for students to get rid of infractions through Bonus Questions. Note: Out-of-State trips (8<sup>th</sup> grade only) have separate expectations and eligibility in addition to the above, which will be communicated when travel is confirmed.