

Guilford High School
Music Department
605 New England Road
Guilford, CT 06437

September 2017

Dear Parents and Students of the Guilford High School Repertory Orchestra,

Welcome back to school! Hopefully you and your family had an enjoyable and relaxing summer vacation. We're looking forward to a very exciting year for our music department! This packet contains information that will be crucial for a successful year. Included are the following:

- A calendar of performances
- Performance and attire requirements
- Information on Grading and rehearsals
- Resources on the Internet
- Information on Course Level Options
- Important information regarding locker storage of your instrument
- What to bring to class

If you need to contact me, I am best reached by e-mail: bryans@guilfordschools.org, because I am only in the building period 8.

Sincerely,

Susannah Bryan

2017-2018 Orchestra
Performance Calendar and Important Dates

*Saturday, November 18	CMEA Southern Region High School Audition Day
Tuesday, December 12	Concert: Rep. Orchestra/Concert Band/Mixed Chorus ~ 7:30 pm
*Fri/Sat, Jan 12 & 13	CMEA Southern Region Festival for selected students
*Fri/Sat, Jan 19 & 20	CMEA Southern Region Festival Snow Date
Tuesday, March 27	Guilford Public Schools Annual String Festival (all afternoon) Rehearsal: TBA, Concert (time subject to change) ~ 6:30 pm
Wednesday, May 30	Concert: Rep. Orch., Symphony Orch./Jazz Band ~ 7:00 pm

* Optional

Please check our web sites regularly for changes and additions to the schedule, and for other useful information!

GHS School Music Website:

http://ghs.guilfordschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=233614&type=d

Repertory Orchestra Website:

<http://ghsreporchestra.weebly.com>

Orchestra
Performance Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all performances for their ensemble(s) and are expected to remain at the concert if other performing groups are playing. Ensemble performance is based on the balance and teamwork of the entire group. It changes the whole quality of performance when anyone is missing from the concert. It is the responsibility of each student and their parents to examine the schedule above closely and report any conflicts immediately. The GHS Music Department endeavors to give their concert dates as early as possible to establish "Prior Commitment". To request to be excused from a performance, students must bring in a note explaining the conflict written and signed by a parent or guardian as soon as the conflict i.e. family emergency, extraordinary unforeseen circumstance, arises. Excuses will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The following reasons for missing a performance will not be accepted: work, failure to find a ride, sports practice. In the event that a student has a conflict with a school sport game, both the coach and Mrs. Bryan should be notified as soon as possible so that a solution can be worked out. Students missing a performance will be asked to complete an alternate assignment. Failure to abide by this attendance policy will result in a lowered grade.

Rehearsal Participation

Students are required to bring their instrument along with a black 1" - 3 ring binder and pencil to every class. You will be responsible for marking your own music in class to ensure productive practice at home.

Students cannot "sit out" without permission of the director. A student needing to sit out for more than one rehearsal for medical or other reasons must bring in a note from a parent. If an instrument is being repaired, please ask for a loaner when you drop off the instrument at the shop. We have a limited number of instruments at school that may only be used with permission from the director.

Cell Phone Use

There is a no tolerance policy for cell phone use in the class. Once class has begun, any student that uses a cell phone (for any purpose: checking time, texting, phone conversation...) will have their phone given to one of the deans.

Grading

- Class participation
- Performance Quizzes/Tests
- Attitude and effort
- Being prepared with materials (instrument, binder, pencil, any assigned homework)
- Music preparation (at home practice)
- Assignments both written and recorded
- Concert attendance

Care of Instruments

Students are expected to keep their instrument clean and in good working condition at all times. All violinists and violists are required to keep, at least, one set of extra strings and good, working rosin in their case. Students should immediately report any instrument malfunctions to the director and make an appointment to have the instrument repaired promptly. Instrument cases should be clearly labeled with a name. Students must be respectful of instruments that belong to others. Simply, do not touch an instrument that does not belong to you without permission from your instructor. Behavior that might lead to the damage of an instrument will not be tolerated. Damaging an instrument intentionally will be grounds for removal from this course.

Instrument Storage

Students may leave their instruments in the music room storage areas in assigned lockers during the school day. Every attempt will be made to keep the storage room a secure area, however this room is not always locked, nor is it always supervised by an adult. All students who use these school lockers will be required to provide a lock. Your locker is the safest place to put your instrument. Neither the high school nor the music department is responsible for instruments left anywhere else in the building. If using a music room locker, you need to register the locker number and combination with Mrs. Bryan before claiming your locke

Repertory Orchestra Concert Attire

Ladies: All black. Long black skirts or dress pants (emphasis on LONG), $\frac{3}{4}$ or long sleeve black blouse, black shoes. Dresses or skirts must fall well **BELOW THE KNEES**.

Men: Black dress pants, Black long sleeve button down collared shirt, dark tie, black shoes and black socks.

Private Lessons

Due to the number of students in the orchestra, individualized instruction is very difficult. Private lessons are a great way to get personal attention, especially for those students looking for a challenge. If you are interested in finding a private music teacher, please let Ms. Bryan know. The music department maintains a list of private music teachers in the area. Limited scholarships are also available for those who may need financial assistance.

School Owned Instruments:

Students who are cellists and bassists will probably use school equipment each day instead of bringing their large instrument to and from school. The Guilford Music Department has a nominal charge of \$100 per year as a maintenance fee. This covers the **routine** maintenance of the instrument due to normal wear and tear. Students should expect the instrument to be in playable condition and are expected to treat the instruments with care.

Other excellent resources!

Instrument Rental/Purchase/Repair

Audubon Strings

63 Audubon St.

New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: (203)772-4722

Lawrence Wilke

20 River Rd.

Clinton, CT

Phone: (860)669-2007

Nomad Fiddles

500 Opening Hill Rd.

Madison, CT 06443

Phone: (203)915-5551

String Sheet Music and Supplies

SHAR Music <http://www.sharmusic.com> 1-800-248-SHAR

Good source for all things strings and sheet music.

Southwest Strings: <http://www.swstrings.com> 1-800 528-3430

Good source for all things strings and sheet music.

Foundry Music

102 Audubon St.

New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: (203)776-3650

Other Web Sites:

www.cmea.org (Connecticut Music Educators Association)

Contains information regarding Southern Region String Festival and All State audition requirements and dates.

www.jwpepper.com

Listen to orchestra pieces that you are working on in class, or find new music!

www.musictheory.net practice theory with great lessons and exercises!

Grade Leveling

Students may opt to take orchestra for level zero or level one credit. Level zero (grade does not impact cumulative GPA) will be automatically assigned to students who do not specifically request a level. To receive level one credit, the student must earn **50 points** through the following requirements **per quarter**.

- * Perform in an approved music ensemble outside of school (i.e. Shoreline Youth Symphony, Greater New Haven Youth Symphony, Concert Band, or Wind Ensemble, Neighborhood Music School Chamber Ensembles, church choir, Elm City Girls Choir, etc.) **20 pts.**
- * Audition for CMEA Region Music Festival (Fall) or All-State Festival (spring) on applied instrument. **10 pts.**
- * CMEA Festival Participation **20 pts.**
- * Weekly private lessons on applied instrument (minimum 12 lessons per semester) **20 pts.**
- * Participation in school musical (cast, pit or major crew assignment) **20 pts.**
- * Assisting/mentoring with other GPS music teachers **15 pts.**
- * Member of GHS Music Department Stage Crew **up to 10 pts. Per event**
- * Serving in a leadership role in a music ensemble **10 pts.**
- * Performance in Extra Curricular Ensemble/Activity **20 pts.**
- * Write detailed program notes for each of our three performances and submit them 3 weeks prior to each concert. **5 pts./piece**
- * Music Community Service; **2 hours = 5 pts. Up to 10 points total**

Repertory Orchestra Contract Due: Tuesday, September 5th

Student Name _____

Please log on to our Rep. Orchestra Website: ghsreporchestra.weebly.com, and read the handbook carefully. Check those that apply, sign below, and return to Mrs. Bryan by Tuesday, September 5th. If you would like a hard copy of the handbook, let Ms. Bryan know.

Attendance/Equipment Policy

_____ We have read and understand the policy regarding attendance at performances.

_____ We have seen the calendar of performances for the 2017-2018 school year.

_____ We are aware that any updates to the schedule will be posted on the music department website.

_____ **School Basses and Cellos only:** We have read and understand the requirements for use of school equipment required for participation in orchestra. Enclosed is the User Fee of \$100 for maintenance with a check made payable to "GHS".

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____