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“Find your freedom

In the music”

Lady Gaga

2014-2015

High School Orchestra

Handbook



R. B. Glenn High School

1600 Union Cross Road,

Kernersville, NC

Music Will Set You Free

Music is a transformative experience. We listen to it, we play it, we sing it, and we tap our toes and bob our heads even when we are not aware of it. Music allows us to escape the mundane, to make the extraordinary, and to create, for anyone listening, the world that we see in our soul. The music strikes just the right chord and you feel your life transformed, if only for a brief second, and it is as if the composer stretched across time and space to hold your hand and speak right to you.

Those moments are why we create music, why we work so hard on the smallest details, why we study everything about music, why we seek to become a master musician. For this reason I will push you, I will ask you to try new things, I will expect more of you, and I will require you to spend more time then you think necessary on it. I do not want you to just meet my expectations for you; I want you to raise your expectations of yourself.

During this year you will be given the opportunity to learn many things about playing music, experiencing music, writing music, and living your life as a musician. This will require work on your part that neither I nor anyone else can replicate for you. No one except you can make your fingers move to the right note at the right time, and no one can do what I will ask of you except you. Each person plays music with a different passion, I only ask that you share this passion with everyone so that you can change people’s lives.

I cannot wait to share the exciting transformation that this year will be,

Yours Truly,

Lars R. Holmberg

*“A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine painting every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul”*

--Johann Goethe

The Orchestra Program’s Responsibility

To the Student

* Provide the members with the proper kind of rehearsal room, ventilation, lighting, seating, music stands, instrumental storage space, and other such equipment as is necessary to aid in developing the student’s musical ability and to help for good, lasting citizenship habits.
* Plan each day’s activities and encourage daily progress of the entire orchestra
* Provide the orchestra with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, teaching, testing, and listening
* Assure that no individual member, through inappropriate or irresponsible behavior, interferes with the learning or achievement of the group. It is the responsibility of the department to see that all members conform to the school and department policies.
* Supervise the students in class or on school sponsored orchestra trips. Each student will receive information about the plans for the trip, the type dress, and the complete schedule of activities.
* Grade the progress of each member on their instrument, academic work, and participation in the orchestra

The Responsibilities of the Orchestra Member

* Be regular in attendance and make sure all absences are excused by the director prior to the absence.
* Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.
* Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences for your actions.
* Be personally clean, neat, and dress appropriately. All members will be expected to honor reasonable requests regarding nail length and grooming habits.
* Have the proper respect for those in authority.
* Follow all classroom guidelines, school regulations and all travel instructions given for trips.
* Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
* Cooperate with fellow orchestra members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the orchestra program.
* Contribute positively to your music education and that of others by the best use of your
talents.
* Read and play music with insight and expression.
* Above all else: **HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!!**

Orchestra Objectives

Educational:

To develop life-long learners of music

Cultural:

To continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best in music

Personal:

To allow students the opportunity to experience, develop and explore their humanity in an environment that promotes self-expression

Service:

To provide music and support for school and community affairs, while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the orchestra at music festivals and concerts

Recreational:

To provide all students with an emotional outlet, good social experiences, and the knowledge to make music for themselves

National Standards

There are National Standards for Music Education that we follow as well, there are as follows:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.

4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.

5. Reading and notating music.

6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.

7. Evaluating music and music performances.

8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

State Standards

There are also State Standards for Music Education that we follow as well, there are as follows:

* Apply the elements of music and musical techniques in order to sing and play music with accuracy and expression
* Interpret the sound and symbol systems of music
* Create music using a variety of sound and notational sources
* Understanding the interacting elements to respond to music and music performances
* Understanding global, interdisciplinary, and 21st century connection with music

Attendance Policy

**Class Absence**

The class absence policy will follow the school policy found in the handbook. This means that:

* After 6 absences the student will need to sign the Saturday school contract and complete the Saturday session to make up time missed in class. Students will be given assignments to complete
* After 8 absences the student will need to sign and complete a second Saturday school contract.
* If the student does not complete the Saturday school sessions or misses 9 or more days of class then the student will automatically fail the course.

**Tardiness**

As per the school policy after 4 tardies the student will be sent to timeout to complete an assignment. Subsequent tardies will result in further consequences as per school policy.

**Performance/Dress Rehearsal Absence**

As a member of the GHS Orchestra Department students are expected to:

1. Place attendance at all orchestra performances as equal, if not greater, priority to any other activities in which you are involved.
2. Show a sense of responsibility by informing your parents or guardians of performance dates.
3. Show a sense of responsibility by informing the director of potential conflicts well in advance.

**Requesting an Excused Absence**

**Students must complete and turn in a “Request for absence” form at least 14 days prior to a performance/dress rehearsal for any conflict,** including sports, clubs, activities, and family events. The director will notify the student if the absence qualifies to be excused. Any request, regardless of reason, received after that time can be listed as unexcused. If a possible schedule conflict can be foreseen the form should be given to the director when the conflict is discovered. Excused absence requests as a result of conflicts between performance events and a job will not be accepted.

**Unanticipated Absences**

An unanticipated absence from a scheduled performance shall be considered excused if the absence is due to serious illness or accident. Family emergencies for health reasons will also be excused if the student’s parent notifies the director of the emergency situation as soon as possible. **For these types of absences, students must complete and turn in a “Request for Absence” for within one week following the performance.**

**Unexcused Absences**

An absence from a scheduled performance shall be considered unexcused if the absence is for any reason other than those mentioned, or the absence has not been discussed with the director prior to the performance. The student will not have the opportunity for a make-up assignment and will receive zero point for the performance.

A minimum of 3 weeks will be given for any additional required performances

Performance attendance with proper concert attired, materials, and preparation will result in the maximum point total for the performance. *Musicians who are tardy for the call time, are not prepared for the performance, display improper concert etiquette or leave before the time stipulated by the director will receive a reduction of at least 5%.*

Concert Uniform

All members of the Orchestra will wear Concert Black for all Concerts unless otherwise stated.

**Men**

Men will wear black slacks/dress pants, black long-sleeve button-up shirt, black socks, black belt, and black dress shoes. Shirts should be free of any design. If you have any questions, ask.

**Women:**

Women will wear either a black dress, or a black shirt with a black skirt/black dress slacks, and closed-toe black shoes. Dresses and skirts must be knee length or longer. Dresses and shirts must not be sleeveless, strapless, backless, or revealing. If you have any questions regarding an item of clothing, ask.

Equipment

Students will be responsible for the up-keep and care of all of their equipment, whether it be school owned or not. Any damages to the instruments, music, or any other equipment will be repaired or replaced immediately at the student’s expense.

Students who use school owned instruments will pay a maintenance fee every year payable at the time of instrument checkout.

Additional Performance Opportunities

Students in the orchestra program at Glenn High School have several ways to use their talents to go even further to challenge themselves. Auditioning for certain groups is expected for certain ensembles.

**All-County Orchestra**

This is a one-time a year event for which students must audition in competition with other students in Forsyth County. The auditions, rehearsals, and concert are held at various schools within the county. Dates will be discussed during the first week of classes so that all students have ample time to prepare. If you are interested in auditioning and would like extra help please see Mr. Holmberg.

**Western Regional Orchestra**

This is a one-time a year ensemble for which students must audition competing against orchestra students from all over the western side of North Carolina, including Charlotte and Greensboro. Members who are selected will have 3 days of rehearsal concluding in a concert on the third day. If you are interested in auditioning and would like extra help please see Mr. Holmberg.

**All-State Honors Orchestra**

This ensemble meets once a year and is made up of the top performers from the Western and Eastern Regional Orchestras. This prestigious group performs at the Music Educators Conference held in Winston-Salem during the month of November each year.

**Western Regional Solo and Ensemble**

Students perform for a panel of judges and are given written comments and a performance rating. Registration and fee information will be provided to students as soon as it is available. The event dates and location are yet to be determined and will also be provided to students as soon as it is available.

**Winston-Salem Youth Symphony Orchestras**

For more information please visit <http://www.wssymphony.org/category/education/youthorch/>

**Greensboro Youth Symphony Orchestra**

For more information please visit <http://www.gsyo.org/>

**Private Lessons**

Private Lessons are excellent for all instrumental music students. This one on one attention especially stimulates the student that excels on their instrument and may give important individual work to the student that is struggling. If you and your student are interested in private instruction, please contact Mr. Holmberg for teacher recommendations.