

GHS Orchestra Calendar – 2018-19

Director: Ms. Julie Lawrence

630/463-3983

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Items listed in boldface indicate events in which all orchestra students will be participating.

Wednesday, Aug. 22		Back to school!
Tuesday, Oct. 2	3:30-9:00 P.M.	Dist. IX ILMEA Auditions @ Addison Trail High School
Tuesday, Oct. 16	7:30 P.M.	Fall Orchestra Concert GHS Auditorium
Sat., Nov. 3	8 A.M.-5 P.M.	ILMEA Dist. IX Orch./Band/Choir Festival @ Elgin HS (bus provided)
Wednesday, Dec. 5	6:30 p.m.	Play-a-thon - GHS cafeteria
Tuesday, Dec. 11	7:30 P.M.	Winter Orchestra Concert GHS auditorium
Thursday, Dec. 13	4:00 P.M.	Concerto Competition Auditions (Chamber Orchestra jrs. & srs. only)
Wed. Jan. 23 thru Sat., Jan. 26		ILMEA All-State Music Festival in Peoria
Thursday, Jan. 31	7:00-8:30 pm Room C-142	Symphony & Chamber trip rehearsal – Required for all Texas trip attendees
Tuesday, Feb. 5	6:00 pm	Required Texas trip parent meeting in aud.
Wednesday, Feb. 6	7:00 P.M.	All-City Orchestra Festival GHS Contest Gym
	(Symphony/Chamber only)	
Thursday, Feb. 21	7:00-8:30 pm	Symphony/Chamber trip rehearsal – Required for all Texas trip attendees (Additional out-of-school rehearsals may be called at discretion of director.)

Thurs., Mar. 15 thru Sat. Mar. 17		GHS Musical (Involves pit orchestra – by audition only. Auditions in Dec., date TBA)
Thursday, April 11	3:00-9:00 P.M.	Solo and Ensemble Festival at GHS
Friday, April 18	3:30 P.M.	Deadline for submitting Tri-M Music Honor Society portfolios
Thurs., May 1	8:00 P.M.	Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Current Members & New Inductees GHS auditorium
Sun., April 29 & Mon. April 30		Fox Valley Music Festival – location TBA Afternoon rehearsals both days; 7:00 p.m. concert Monday evening (Students nominated by directors; bus provided)
Tuesday, May 7	7:30 P.M.	Final Concert & Awards Night & uniform turn-in (bring a change of clothes)
Sunday, May 26	Afternoon	Geneva HS Commencement performance Required for all Symphony & Chamber members (Seniors & Concert Orchestra excused) PLEASE NOTE: This is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. Items listed in boldface indicate events in which *all* orchestra students will be participating.**
- All dates and times listed above are subject to change. Any revisions will be handed out as soon as possible and will be noted on the GHS website music page.
- It is the student's responsibility to notify family members, employers, church group leaders, etc. of the dates listed above *AS SOON AS POSSIBLE*.
- Any conflicts should be brought to the director's attention by way of parental note as soon as they become apparent, but no later than *TWO WEEKS* in advance.
- All scheduled rehearsals and performances during the school year are considered to be mandatory and part of the student's final grade. Failure to attend these events without an approved, written excuse will result in the lowering of the student's letter grade. Any student who is **excused** from a required performance may be asked to complete an alternate assignment/activity to make up for that absence.

6. Excused absences may include prearranged, unalterable family events (such as family weddings or graduations), family emergencies, and serious illness. Please call 463-3983 and leave a message as to whether your student will attend a concert performance if they have been absent from school that day. (Students, please do not come to the concert sick. Stay home if you are truly not well.)
7. When scheduling conflicts arise between music and extra curricular groups at GHS (sports), we are willing to negotiate a compromise whenever possible. It is the student's responsibility, however, to identify any potential conflicts and discuss them with all interested parties (coach, orchestra director, parents) well in advance of the event, to get this collaborative process underway.

Weekly rehearsal schedules for chamber music ensembles for Solo and Ensemble Festival, Pit Orchestra for the spring musical, and Viking Revue do not appear on this calendar. Information will be given out to participating students during the school year.

Grading Policies

Coursework grades are broken down into the following categories:

1. **Homework:** 20%
(Any assignment that is handed in late may have one letter grade deducted for each day that it is late.)
2. **Tests (performance exams, major projects):** 30%
3. **Participation:** 25%
This category includes daily effort, attitude, preparedness, participation, & rehearsal and concert etiquette

Participation points are given at the beginning of the semester (5 points for each day of the semester). Points may be deducted for each day that the student does not bring their instrument or music to class, for inappropriate rehearsal etiquette (talking, plucking), lack of preparedness, or other lack of engagement in the music-making and educational process. Students are expected to come ready to give their best effort every day, regardless of current musical ability level, and to contribute to an atmosphere that encourages the same from their classmates.

4. **Performances:** 25%
Attendance is expected at all concerts and any extra scheduled rehearsals to prepare for those concerts.

Performances are considered to be the culminating experience that extends from our daily rehearsals. These performances are diminished when all of the members are not present and contributing to the overall product. In addition, the orchestra curriculum, while delving somewhat into the areas of music theory and history, is primarily a performance-based curriculum. For this reason, performances are considered to be a mandatory part of every orchestra student's experience. Any unexcused absence from a scheduled

performance will result in the lowering of that student's letter grade. Students are expected to stay for the complete performance, even if their portion of it is done, out of respect and support for all of our student musicians. ***Parents, if you are unable to stay for the full performance, please arrange carpool plans for your child to get home after the concert.***

Extra credit may be earned for writing reviews of concerts or recitals that you have attended. These are worth 5 points each, and you may turn in up to 3 reviews per semester. Please see Ms. Lawrence for a rubric that explains the information required and how these papers will be evaluated.

SEMESTER GRADES are determined by the following: Coursework grade (outlined above) – 80%, Semester Final Exam (usually a performance exam, or combination written and performance exam) – 20%.

Classroom Expectations

Follow these simple but important rules for success in orchestra and success in life:

Be here. Be on time. Be prepared. Be respectful.

Be the best possible “you”!

- Arrive on time and ready to play.
- Have your instrument (in good working order), your music folder, and a pencil every day.
- Mutual respect is expected of all of us. Respect yourself, each other, your instruments, our performance space, and your director.
- *Mutual respect includes respect for everyone's right to learn.*
- Be an active and confident learner.

Above all, show respect for your art and the great music we are privileged to perform by practicing outside of class and striving always to improve, and taking a mature and professional approach to our rehearsal time together.

Practice Expectations

Orchestra is a performance-based class. Except for the occasional written assignment, your assignment on most days is to practice the music we have been covering in class, in order to perform well in rehearsal, in concert, and on your playing tests. Although

practice logs are not used in the high school orchestras, this should not be construed to mean that daily individual practice is not expected of every student! Students should have a MINIMUM goal of practicing 30 minutes a day, at least 5 days a week (or 150 minutes per week). This should be considered the very least amount of practice that is acceptable to *maintain* an average level of proficiency and learn the new music for each concert. If you wish to *increase* your level of technical proficiency, a higher individual practice goal should be set.

Please consult with Ms. Lawrence if you need help setting individual musical goals for your practice sessions, or for creative time management ideas to make time for practice in your busy schedule. Also, you may wish to create your own practice log to keep track of your progress and whether you are reaching your personal goals, or simply to motivate yourself.

Uniforms and Concert Grooming

Gentlemen:

- Boys will be provided with a black tuxedo. These are to be cared for and returned at the end of the school year.
- Black bow ties and black cummerbunds will be individually issued and re-collected before and after each formal performance.
- Boys' white tux shirts will be purchased by the student at a cost of about \$16.00. Students and parents will receive an e-mail the exact amount and how and when to submit tux shirt payments.
- Please wear white undershirts only under the tuxedo shirt – no black or colored shirts, and nothing with any writing on it.
- Black socks only (plain, no pattern or decoration), and black leather or leather-type tied dress shoes are to be worn with the tuxedo. NO sandals or athletic shoes of any kind should be worn.

Uniform Care:

Please have the tuxedo dry cleaned as needed after performances; tuxes will be collected and cleaned at district expense at the end of the school year. Shirts are to be laundered and pressed or dry-cleaned according to instructions after each performance; dry cleaning is recommended for best appearances.

Boys' Grooming:

Long hair should be worn up off the collar, and any facial hair should be neatly trimmed and groomed. No facial piercings or jewelry of any kind are permitted.

Ladies:

- Girls will be issued a long-sleeved, floor-length black dress.
- Dark neutral, off-black or black hosiery and close-toed black shoes must be worn – NO sandals or athletic shoes of any kind.

Dress Care:

Dresses are machine washable and should be laundered following each performance on delicate cycle with a mild detergent. Dresses may be dried on low dryer cycle or hang to dry. Ironing is not recommended (and should not be needed).

Grooming for girls: Only one small set of stud earrings may be worn at performances. Any facial piercing must be removed. No other jewelry should be worn with the uniform. Hair should be neatly groomed and styled in a way that does not interfere with the ability to perform on your instrument, and that does not attract undue attention to the particular performer (no brightly colored hair or color streaks, no flowers behind the ear, unusual headbands, etc.). We strive for a neat and uniform appearance so that the focus of the audience's attention can be on the music we make, not on any individual's appearance.

Student Liability for Property and Equipment

In the event that a student damages or loses materials that do not belong to him or her, liability will be assessed in the following manner:

Lost music, folders or uniform parts: Student pays the replacement cost of the lost item.

Damaged/lost equipment: The student will not be charged for basic maintenance to any equipment or school-owned instrument assigned to him/her that may be required under normal circumstances. However, if damage or loss occurs resulting from neglect or irresponsible behavior, the student will incur the full cost of repair or replacement.

Insurance

Personal instruments are not covered by school district insurance. For this reason, parents are strongly encouraged to carry a rider on their homeowner's insurance to cover loss or damage. Students are also encouraged to keep personal instruments in a locked locker at all times while at school, and to bring them home evenings and weekends for practicing.

Seating Policies

All seating will be at the discretion of the director, and may include, but is not limited to:

- Rank seating
- Mixed seating

- Random seating

Seating arrangements will always be determined by whatever serves the needs of the group in terms of educational goals and the best sound of the ensemble. ***Lead from wherever you are; always bring your best effort to every rehearsal and performance!***

Private Lessons

Private lessons are a unique and much-encouraged opportunity for students to accelerate their growth and enrich their musicianship with a specialist on their own instrument. As a convenience, private lessons on some instruments are offered at school with qualified instructors who have been approved by the district. More information on this program will be sent home upon request. If you already have a private instructor outside of school, wonderful! Carry on! If not, you may wish to avail yourself of this program.

Extra-Curricular Enrichment Activities

All-State/ILMEA: Sponsored by the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA), students audition at the district level in early October to participate in the District IX Festival in November. Students spend a day rehearsing with a highly qualified guest conductor, and then perform for parents late in the afternoon. Typically, the audition music is passed out to interested and qualified students in the spring and they work on it throughout the summer with their private teachers in order to prepare.

If students rank high in their section at the District Festival, they may be selected to attend All-State in Peoria in January, a three-day event similar to the district event but on a much larger and more competitive scale, with the finest music students from all over the state of Illinois. This is considered quite an honor. The school covers the cost of transportation, lodging and registration. Students pay “up front” for their meals, but are reimbursed a per diem for meals upon their return if they submit their receipts. Students may bring a small amount of additional spending money if desired, for an event t-shirt or other small items.

Fox Valley Music Festival: The Fox Valley Music Festival is the oldest continuous music festival in the United States. This festival involves orchestra, band and chorus. It is similar to the ILMEA District Festival, but encompasses only the Fox Valley region high schools, and membership is not based on audition results, but rather teacher recommendation. Students do have the option of auditioning for front stand seating (only). This festival typically occurs the last Sunday and Monday of April and is held at an area high school (chosen on a rotating basis each year).

Solo and Ensemble: The Geneva High School Orchestras and Bands have their own solo and ensemble festival in the spring. It is similar in every way to the IHSA version that middle school students and many high schools attend, except that it is our own in-house event. Students perform for qualified professional musicians and music teachers, and

receive both a written evaluation and coaching on the spot. There may be a nominal entry fee per participating student to cover the cost of paying the judges, and students are expected to cover the cost of paying their own piano accompanist if performing a solo. Students are responsible for finding their own *qualified* accompanists. Ms. Lawrence can offer names and phone numbers of some area accompanists if needed. Students should plan to begin preparing for this event months in advance. If performing a solo, it would be wise to discuss the choice of music literature with one's private teacher no later than the beginning of January, and earlier if possible. All Chamber Orchestra students are required to perform at the festival in a small ensemble as the culminating activity of our chamber music unit. Students from the Concert and Symphony Orchestras are very much encouraged to participate as well, especially those studying solo music in private lessons.

Geneva Music Boosters

Parents are encouraged to join and involve themselves in the Geneva Music Boosters. This group works tirelessly in support of all of our music programs in District 304. Monthly meetings are held the third Monday of each month (except for December) at 7:30 P.M., in room EE-184 at the high school. Even if you are unable to attend the meetings or participate on committees, your membership dues will still help support our hard-working student musicians in a variety of ways.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Lawrence at 463-3983, or e-mail jlawrence@geneva304.org.

**Please return this page to Ms. Lawrence, signed and dated, by
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2018.**

Thank you!

By signing this form, we indicate acknowledgment of the 2018-2019 orchestra performance dates, and that we have read and agree to the policies contained within this handout.

Parent name (please print): _____

Parent signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student name (please print): _____

Student signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent questions or comments: