Guilford High School

Music Department

605 New England Road

Guilford, CT 06437

August 29, 2019

Dear Students & Parents of the Guilford High School Orchestras,

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 select Symphony Orchestra in our wonderful Performing Arts space. This packet contains information that will be crucial for a successful year. Included is:

* A calendar of performances,
* Performance attire requirements,
* Recording tests and auditions
* Information about the Music Boosters,
* Resources on the Internet
* Information on Course Level Options
* Important information regarding locker storage of your instrument
* Forms for cellists and bassists planning to use a school provided instrument every day.
* New Concert Recording form for 2019-2020 concerts
* Grading policies

If you ever need to contact Mr. Boates, he can be reached at school via e-mail

(boatest@guilfordschools.org ), by phone (203 453-2741 x1110). Or by REMIND. Please sign up by texting @boatesso to 81010. Hope to see you at all our performances!

Sincerely,

**T. T. Boates**

T. Thomas Boates III

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2019-2020 Symphony Orchestra |
|  |  | Performance Calendar and Important Dates |
| **September** | **9-13** | **Symphony Orchestra Seating Auditions. Recording details available through the** |
|  |  | **Symphony Orchestra Google Classroom (Signup code k8321b.)** |
| **September** | **12** | **GHS Music Department Orientation Night FOR ALL PARENTS** |
| **October** | **5** | **GHS Music Department Mattress Fundraiser** |
| **October** | **23** | **CONCERT Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, PAC 7:30 PM** |
| **November** | **16** | **Southern Regional Auditions at GUILFORD HS!! (Watch for future** |
|  |  | **announcements regarding registration or how you can help!!)** |
| **December** | **6** | **Symphony Orchestra Annual Tree-lighting Concerts 7:30 & 9 PM** |
| **December** | **7** | **Symphony Orchestra Annual Tree-lighting Concerts 6:30 & 8:00 PM (pl. note** |
| **December** | **10** | **Time difference.)**  **Repertory Orchestra. Fall/Winter Concert 7:30 PM GHS PAC** |
| **December** | **9-13** | **Symphony Orchestra Re-Seating Auditions submitted** |
| **January** | **10-11** | **CMEA Southern Reg. Festival for selected students (Snow Dates 1/18-19)** |
| **February** | **8** | **CMEA All-State Auditions** |
| **February** | **25** | **GHS Honors Recital (GHS Performing Arts Center)** |
| **March** | **20** | **Symphony Orchestra/Concert Band/Concert Choir Concert at Woolsey Hall** |
|  | **31** | **Guilford Public Schools Annual String Festival 7 PM GHS Gym** |
| **April** | **2-4** | **CMEA All-State Honors Ensemble Festival for selected students** |
| **April 13-18**  **June** | **4** | **Symphony, Repertory Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble Final Concert 7:00** |
|  |  | **GHS Auditorium** |

Web Pages:

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

http://www.guilford.k12.ct.us/~ghs/school\_info/departments/music/index.php

*Mr. Boates’ Symphony Orchestra*

<http://ghsthomasboates.weebly.com/symphony-orchestra.html>

*Mr. Boates’ Repertory Orchestra*

http://ghsthomasboates.weebly.com/repertory-orchestra.html

Orchestra

Performance attendance policy

Students are expected to attend all performances for their ensemble(s). Students are also expected to remain at a concert if other performing groups are playing on the same concert. 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 Mr. Boates should be notified as soon as possible so that a solution can be worked out. Our athletic department is very consistent about releasing the schedule for any sport very early. PLEASE DO NOT come to the conductor late with a conflict that you knew about months prior. 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 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. Instruments may also be available at the HS for short-term use as well.

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 play 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. Percussion equipment is to be used by percussionists only. Music Dept. pianos and drum sets are not to be played without permission—even by students who study those instruments.

Instrument Storage.

Students may leave their instruments in the music room storage areas in assigned lockers during the school day, and overnight. 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. The high school nor the music department is responsible for instruments left anywhere else.

Concert Attire

Repertory Orchestra:

Boys: Black dress pants, white collared shirt, dark tie, black shoes and black socks. Girls: Long black skirts

or dress pants, white blouse, black shoes.

Symphony Orchestra

Boys: Black Jacket and Black dress pants (or tuxedo), white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes, black socks.

Girls: All black top/bottom. Dresses or skirts must be floor length.

Dress pants are fine. Black shoes.

Private Lessons

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

Grade Leveling

Students may opt to take symphony 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. Students wishing to receive Level One credit in more than one ensemble must complete four. A student can have only a maximum of two Level One music courses per semester. The student and their parents must sign a form indicating their commitment to the increased rigor of level one participation.

* Perform in an approved music ensemble outside of school (i.e. Greater New Haven Youth Symphony, Shoreline 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.** GHSSO positions include up to 2 managers, 2 librarians, 2 attendance secretaries, treasurer, up to 4 stage crew and up to 2 publicists (will work with Mrs. Hahn and local press).
* 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**

School Owned Instruments:

Students who are cellists and bassists will probably use school equipment each day instead of bringing their large instrument to school. The Guilford Music Departments have 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!

Music sites and stores:

SHAR Music www.sharmusic.com 1-800-248-SHAR Good source for all things strings

Southwest Strings: www.swstrings.com 1-800 528-3430 Good source for all things strings also

Sheet Music:

Foundry Music, New Haven, 776-3650

www.jwpepper.com

Misc.

Neighborhood Music School. 624-5189 (private instrumental lessons), www.nmsmusicschool.org

Other Web Sites

www.cmea.org (Connecticut Music Educators Association)

www.miccamusic.org (information about the MICCA Festival)

***Check out the GHS Music Department Website for more music related weblinks***

**Guilford High School Symphony Orchestra Grading**

Being in a performing ensemble within the GHS Music Department is a rigorous class. Students are expected to practice a combined 2.5 hours per week (one half hour per school day). Grades are given for in class participation as well as the performance tasks (concerts), reflections, auditions and occasional Smartmusic exercises. The standard participation grade for our excellent students will be equivalent to 95% (A). This is a reflection of the rigorous classroom environment that this ensemble operates in. But the change is also to acknowledge the superior effort that some students and to have their efforts rewarded higher.

***Special note: Most email communication for this organization is done through Powerschool. Please make sure your email is accurate with the school if you wish to receive notification regarding issues pertaining to the GHSSO.***

**GHS Symphony Orchestra Contract Due: Tue., September 11, 2018**

**Student Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please check those that apply, sign below, and return to Mr. Boates by September 8th*.

**Attendance/Equipment Policy**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ We have read and understand the policy regarding attendance at performances

\_\_\_\_\_ We have read and understand the requirements for use of school equipment required for

participation in orchestra (School Basses and Cellos) Enclosed is the User Fee of $100 for maintenance.

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

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| **September** | **10-14** | **Symphony Orchestra Seating Auditions. Recording details available through the** |
|  |  | **Symphony Orchestra Google Classroom (Signup code k8321b.)** |
| **September** | **11** | **GHS Music Department Back-to School Night FOR ALL PARENTS** |
| **September** | **30** | **GHS Music Department Mattress Fundraiser** |
| **October** | **25** | **CONCERT Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, PAC 7:30 PM** |
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|  |  | **announcements regarding registration or how you can help!!)** |
| **November** | **30** | **Symphony Orchestra Annual Tree-lighting Concerts 7:30 & 9 PM** |
| **December** | **2** | **Symphony Orchestra Annual Tree-lighting Concerts 6:30 & 8:00 PM (pl. note** |
|  |  | **Time difference.)** |
|  | **10-14** | **Symphony Orchestra Re-Seating Auditions submitted** |
| **January** | **11-12** | **CMEA Southern Reg. Festival for selected students (Snow Dates 1/18-19)** |
| **February** | **2** | **CMEA All-State Auditions** |
| **February** | **26** | **GHS Honors Recital (GHS Performing Arts Center)** |
| **March** | **15** | **Symphony Orchestra/Concert Band/Concert Choir Concert at Woolsey Hall** |
|  | **27** | **Guilford Public Schools Annual String Festival 7 PM GHS Gym** |
| **April** | **5-7** | **MICCA Adjudication Festival, Massachusetts TBA (One day only within this** |
|  |  | **window)** |
| **April** | **11-13** | **CMEA All-State Honors Ensemble Festival for selected students** |
| **May** | **22** | **Symphony, Repertory Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble Final Concert 7:00** |
|  |  | **GHS Auditorium** |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_ (init.) | We are aware that any updates to the schedule will be posted on the music | |
| department’s website. | | |

**Everyone**:

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_