

Music Handbook

David Wilson, Instructor

Welcome to Music class! You have chosen to be a part of a fun, artistic, and exciting activity. Musical instruments have always been a symbol of high culture in our society. At Green Hope High School things are no different.

As a member of the musical community you will be expected to live up to very high standards. Much of what determines the success of the group is up to you the student. You will be expected to behave maturely and practice diligently. The result of this hard work will be a positive and enriching musical experience for all.

All students and parents are asked to read and become familiar with the contents of this handbook to avoid any misunderstandings. It contains all of the policies and procedures for this school year. Parents and students should feel free to contact me any time (dbwilson@wcpss.net). You can also check the Green Hope Orchestra website for up to date information (www.orchestra.greenhopefinearts.org). I'm looking forward to a fun and productive year. Let's make some music!

Best Wishes,

David B. Wilson

1.) Class Rules

- Students are to arrive at class on time with all necessary class materials in hand.
- Everyone is to be in their seat by one minute after the tardy bell rings.
- Students are to raise their hand during rehearsal for permission to speak or leave their seat.
- Do not leave personal items in the rehearsal room.
- Treat personal and school property with respect.
- Music should be kept in your personal folder.
- Students will be allowed to go to the restroom during class once per week. In most cases you should make allowances to use the restroom between classes.
- School policy for tardies is as follows: 1 = warning, 2 = parent contact, 3 = Lunch Detention, 4 = referral.
- **Under no circumstances should anyone bring food or drink (INCLUDING GUM) into the rehearsal room.**

2.) **Seating Auditions** (all non-beginning classes)

Within one month of the start of the school year there will be a seating audition. This will rank students by ability and determine seating order for concerts and performances. Each student will be assessed in three areas: scales, prepared music, and sight-reading. Materials for the audition will be given out at least one week in advance.

The next official seating audition will be held after the holiday break. Students may, however, be allowed to challenge each other at the director's discretion.

Section Leaders/Principals will be determined by three things: the seating audition, their character, and their leadership abilities. These students will be important role models for the performing ensemble. Their duties include the following:

- Assist in tuning instruments.
- Determine bowings/articulation/fingering for all music.
- Make sure that his/her section uses correct bowings/articulation/fingering.
- Work with director and other principal players to implement strategies for accomplishing musical goals.
- Assist in maintaining good discipline at all rehearsals.
- Lead section rehearsals.

3.) **Discipline**

An individual's behavior and participation has a major impact on the class as a whole. Students are expected to exhibit their best behavior at all times. Many people will see our concerts and performances. Occasionally we will have visitors in class. One incident of poor behavior can ruin the public's good impression of our school music program.

Consequences for behavioral infractions will be handled on an individual basis. The consequence(s) will depend on the severity and frequency of the behavior. Consequences include but are not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning
- Conference with student
- Lunch detention
- Telephone call home
- After school detention
- Parent conference
- Administrative discipline referral

4. Instruments/Music

The following is a partial list of instrument retailers in our area. I strongly encourage you to call around and find the best price on a *quality* instrument along with the best service. Additional retailers may be found in the yellow pages.

Burrage Music Company

4900 Green Road, Raleigh (872-0211)

Instrument sales, repairs, sheet music, and method books

Music Go Round

421 Crossroads Blvd, Cary (851-2252)

Instrument sales and repairs

Music and Arts

426 Crossroads Blvd. Cary (854-0024)

Instrument sales, repairs, and method books

Guitar Center

3100 Capital Blvd, Raleigh (872-0331)

Instrument sales, repairs, and method books

John Montgomery

509 Hillsborough St. Raleigh (821-4459)

High end instrument and bow sales, and repairs

School Owned Instruments

The school owns several basses and celli. The purpose for this is to keep students from having to transport these instruments from home to school each day. All necessary paperwork must be on file before any instrument can be used. Instruments must be cared for properly at all times. Abuse or poor treatment of equipment will not be tolerated. Students will be fined for repairs above and beyond normal wear and tear.

The school also owns a few violins, violas, and guitars. The purpose for this is to provide a backup instrument **in the case of an emergency.** They are not to be used on a regular basis and are certainly not an excuse for forgetting to bring your instrument.

School Owned Music

Each student will be given a music folder at the beginning of the term. When music is handed out it should go into this folder. If you are absent your copy will go into a tray at the front of the class room. Please check for new music any time you are out.

Students are responsible for returning all music handed out at the end of the term. A \$5.00 replacement fee will be assessed for each missing piece.

5. Required Materials

Most music stores will carry all required method books and supplies. You may wish to call ahead to make sure the desired item is in stock before leaving home. Materials required for the school year are as follows:

Guitar Class

- Acoustic guitar **with case**.
- Medium Picks
- Guitar Method 1 by Aaron Stang for semester 1
- Guitar Method 3 by Aaron Stang for semester 2

Orchestra

- Instrument and bow.
- Rosin for the bow of your instrument

Percussion:

- Method/Etude book (to be determined after audition)
- One pair of concert sticks (SD1 General preferably). These are to be brought to class every day, no matter what, end of story, period, for the greater good of all mankind!
- One pair of yarn mallets
- One pair of hard mallets
- One pair of tympani mallets (optional)
- Stick Bag

All Students:

- Pencil (not pen)
- Notebook Paper
- Staff paper (this can be printed at many websites such as www.blanksheetmusic.net)
- Folder devoted to music class only.

6. Grading Policy

**It is a school wide policy that students sign the following statement which applies to all work:

“As the undersigned, I acknowledge that I am aware of the Honor Code for Green Hope High School and that I have adhered to the Honor Code and have neither given nor received inappropriate or unfair help on this assignment.”

The honor code in its entirety can be found in the GHHS Student handbook as well as on the GHHS website.

Grades for this class will be based on an accumulated number of points for each grading period. For instance, if there are a total of 1000 possible points for the quarter and a student achieves 900 of those points, their average for the grading period is 90% or a letter grade of “B.”

Each student's quarter average is based on the following grade categories:

Daily Work – These assignments will include homework and work completed in class. They will be worth 1-20 points. Often they will be graded in class for immediate feedback. As long as corrections are made and all assignments are turned it will be very possible to maintain 100% in this grade category.

Quizzes – These assignments will include both playing and written work. They will be worth 20-50 points. They will be graded for accuracy. Written quizzes may be “open-book,” or “open-notes.” For playing quizzes, I will set a rubric so that you know what you will be graded on prior to the quiz.

Tests – These will take place once or twice per semester. They will be worth 50-100 points. There will be no books or notes allowed. They may be playing, written, or both. Also included in this grade category are performances.

Lunch Sessions (Seminar and Tutorial) – Students must attend 3 lunch sessions per quarter for each class they attend. At least one of the sessions must be a “Performing Arts Seminar.” The schedule for Seminars will be posted around the department. Students must also turn in a Common Assessment Sheet (found on Mr. Wilson's website) for at least one of the performances on each seminar attended. The other 2 lunch sessions can be either tutorial or seminar (See Lunch section below for schedule). Fulfillment of this grade category is worth 5% of the quarter grade.

* If you are performing on a seminar it does count as attendance. However you are still expected to fill out the common assessment.

Makeup work, for all absences, should be initiated within 24 hours of returning to school. Student will have one day for each day of absence, not exceeding one week, to complete makeup work for **excused** absences. Full credit will be given for all makeup work completed within the prescribed time limit.

Teachers are not required to provide makeup assignments for unexcused absences. Makeup assignments may, however, be provided at the teacher's discretion.

Absences that are considered excused would include:

- Student illness
- Death in family
- Family emergency
- School related activities that have been approved by the GHHS Administration

All other absences are considered unexcused.

7. Performance and Rehearsals

****Performances** are integral part of a performing arts student's education. They are considered to be tests of the technical and aesthetic skills that are part of the arts curriculum. An unexcused absence from any performance will result in a grade of **'zero.'** The only acceptable reasons for absence are those listed above. These are in accordance with WCPSS policy 6000.

Absences due to conflicts outside of school are considered unexcused. Teachers are not required to give makeup work for these absences. They will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Absences due to conflicting athletic events will be handled as follows:

Performance vs. Practice	Go to performance
Rehearsal vs. Game/Match	Go to game/match
Rehearsal vs. Practice	Split ½ and ½
Performance vs. Game	Student must choose (makeup work will be offered)

* In the event of a Performance vs. a Game it should also be noted that the first event scheduled has precedence. Most orchestra event dates are set at the beginning of the year. If you join another organization during the year your first priority should be to check for conflicts and resolve them. I will be much less lenient you wait until the last minute.

Attire for performances is as follows:

Black pants, black socks, black shoes, white tuxedo shirt, black cummerbund, black bowtie, black tuxedo jacket.

Ladies may choose to wear a black concert dress. As a rule your dress should cover the shoulders and the chest should be modestly covered. The length of the hem should extend at least to the middle of the calf. Black closed toe shoes are the required footwear. **If you have the slightest doubt about your concert attire it should be brought to the director for approval.

You may rent or purchase your Shirt, Tie, Cummerbund, and Jacket through the music department. Information on how to take advantage of this offer will be sent home before the first performance.

Occasionally, after school rehearsals may be necessary leading up to performances. This will allow us to have combined rehearsals (i.e. orchestra and band, orchestra and chorus, etc.) and to prepare for upcoming events as necessary. Since it is imperative that we have 100% attendance, you will be given ample notice when these rehearsals are called.

8.) Lunch

Green Hope High School allows all students one hour for lunch. The main reason for this is to provide time during the school day for students to receive remediation where needed. If a student ever needs help with any music or concepts studied in class this can be done during lunch on the designated tutorial day for fine arts (see below)

Three times per month there will be a Arts Department Seminar held in the auditorium. This will typically be a performance given by one of the school's many performing arts ensembles. Students must attend at least three lunch sessions per quarter. One of these must be a seminar (see above, grading policy).

The Performing Arts Weekly Lunch Schedule is as follows:

Mon – Rooms Closed
Tues – Tutorial (first ½)
Weds – Seminar (second ½ in Auditorium)
Thurs – Rooms Closed
Fri – Rooms Closed

- * You may only rehearse during lunch with the permission of your teacher.
- * You may only eat in a performing arts room with the permission of your teacher.
- * Lunch is not to be eaten in the halls or other undesignated areas.

9.) Home Practice

Students are expected to practice on a regular basis at home. This is the only way to maintain a high level of student learning and performance in an ensemble setting. Students should be committed to practicing at least 30 minutes each weekday (total of 2 ½ hours). When practice records are sent home this will be the minimum requirement for an A.

Furthermore, it is much better to practice 30 minutes each day than it is to practice 2 ½ hours one per week. Effective practice is a matter of forming good playing habits. Good habits cannot be formed with infrequent practice.

10.) Chamber Group

Chamber group is an after school group for orchestral instruments that meets once a week. This group is student lead and typically performs about 5 times per year. It is an excellent opportunity for students to play music in a small ensemble setting and gain valuable skills in the area of musicianship and leadership. The date for the interest meeting will be announced in class and on Mr. Wilson's website.

11.) Private Instruction

A good private teacher is one of the most valuable investments you can make for your music education. An orchestra conductor is trained in the instruction of every instrument in the orchestra, but their knowledge cannot compare to that of a professional who makes a living performing on *one* instrument. You will find a list of area private instructors attached is available on the Orchestra website at the following URL:

www.orchestra.greenhopefinearts.org

In Closing

Striving to become a good musician has the added benefit of teaching many important life lessons. Music students will learn about discipline, patience, and teamwork. They will also gain a creative outlet that they can use for the rest of their lives.

Parents, please remind your child, when things get challenging, that teachers set high standards because we care. Thank you very much for your support. Best wishes for a safe, happy, and successful school year!