

2015 – 2016
Gifford Middle School Orchestra
Handbook

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Gifford Middle School Orchestra! I am thrilled to have the opportunity to teach your child this year.

My hope is for all of us to approach each and every morning with an uplifting attitude and a strong work ethic. We will appreciate excellence and strive to create it on a daily basis.

Parents, please encourage your child to practice his or her instrument on a regular basis and when they are ready, have them to perform for friends and family.

Never hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the year. I look forward to working with all of you so that each student strives to reach his or her potential.

Our slogan for the Gifford Middle School Orchestra is: ACE

Attitude
Character
Excellence

We will stress the importance of always bringing a great attitude into our day. We will strive to live our lives with high standards of character. And we will push to produce excellence in all that we do.

I am extremely excited for the potential of this year, and I hope for all of us to realize it together. I look forward to seeing you at our required parent meeting. The meeting takes place immediately after the GMS orientation. Please bring your personal calendar to the parent meeting. If you are utilizing a school instrument, please remit payment at the parent meeting (\$75) in order to honor instructional time.

Tuesday, September 8, after GMS Orientation, in the media center.

Sincerely,

Matt Stott

4530 28th Ct.

Vero Beach, FL

32967

772-564-5458

Matthew.Stott@indianriverschools.org

Orchestra Handbook

Attendance

Students are required to be in class on time. Students are required to attend all dress rehearsals and concerts. Any potential conflicts must be communicated with Mr. Stott as far in advance as possible.

Instruments

Please consult Mr. Stott or another teacher before purchasing an instrument. I have listed resources on the web site for instruments.

Students are held responsible for their instrument at all times.

When not in use, always have your instrument locked in its case.

Instrument Care:

Simple steps will allow your instrument to sound its best.

Re-hair your bow every 12-18 months.

New strings should be put on your instrument every year.

Wipe off the strings and body of your instrument after playing every day.

Keep your instrument away from extreme temperatures (especially hot cars)

Instrument Accessories:

All Instruments: Rosin, Polishing Cloth, Spare set of strings.

Violin, Viola: Shoulder rest, for proper technique and to prevent injury

Cello, Bass: Rock stop to prevent slipping and to protect your instrument

*A music stand is highly recommended for at-home practice.

*A metronome, tuner, and recording device are also recommended for home practice.

- Many low-cost or free apps exist. I recommend 'clear tune' or 'garage band'

Sheet Music

Students are responsible for all music distributed to them (originals and practice copies)

Number your measures and bring your music to every class, rehearsal and performance.

Facilities

No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the orchestra room

Chairs, stands, instruments, and music will be put up following each class and rehearsal

Behavior

Students will be held to the highest standard of attitude, behavior, and etiquette

Disrespect shown to peers, directors, guests, and audiences will not be tolerated

All school and district rules will be followed

Behavior infractions will be dealt with by the director, parents, and if needed, school administration.

Performance Expectations

Orchestra is a performance-based class, and most of what we do culminates in public

performance. **Full performance credit will be given only to those students who arrive no later than the assigned call time, perform at the required performance standard, dress in the assigned code, behave in a professional manner, and remain in attendance until the completion of the performance.**

Performance Attire

Boys: Black pants, black button-down shirt, black socks, black shoes

Girls: Black pants or long skirt (must reach ankles), black blouse, black shoes

Acceptable Jewelry: Stud earrings only. Fine necklace with single pendent. Only fine or thin metal bracelets. Studs and cuff links for the shirt.

Unacceptable Jewelry: Large earrings, hoop earrings, 'dangly earrings'. Large flashy jewelry. Plastic bracelets. Large chain necklaces or multiple pendants.

Web Site

www.verobeachorchestra.com has a site dedicated to the GMS orchestra look here for classroom information, calendar, forms, and this handbook. Sheet music and audio files will also be added to assist students.

Concert Seating

Orchestra is a unified, team effort, and each student, no matter where they sit are equally important to the success of the performance. Everyone is a 'starter'. While we will often audition for seats, the final decision is left up to the director in the best interest of the ensemble and performance.

Schedule Conflicts

I encourage students to be well rounded and enjoy learning of student success in multiple arenas. I have also done my best to arrange the orchestra schedule around major school activities already on the calendar. If conflicts do arise, students must communicate (in writing) scheduling conflicts in advance. Communicate with Mr. Stott so that can be resolved. Make-up assignments will be required in order to receive credit for work missed.

Financial Obligations

Throughout the year, there will be a few expenses not covered by the school district that will come up. Most of these are optional activities, however, parents should be aware of the possibility. Below are some activities with their anticipated costs.

ANTICIPATED EVENTS:

- All-State Auditions (\$25) – Optional
- Solo & Ensemble MPA (\$10 + accompanist fee)
- Spring Trip (possible) (\$140. Festival Disney)

Orchestra Trips

These are all considered a privilege, and students must have meet performance and behavior expectations in order to take part. They also must meet minimum eligibility requirements set by the school district. Students must behave in the most professional manner and follow all directions set forth by the director and chaperones. The entire trip is a school activity, so all school rules apply and school and classroom discipline will remain in effect.

Private Lessons

While not required, private lessons are highly recommended for students to reach their full individual potential. See the web site for a list, contact information, and short bios of private teachers in the area. (www.verobeachorchestra.com)

Solo & Ensemble MPA

Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment is a valuable experience for students to perform for a professional adjudicator who provide written feedback. All students who have played for at least one year are expected to perform a solo, and are encouraged to also prepare an ensemble (duet, trio or quartet). You will prepare a classical solo in its entirety. Consult with Mr. Stott about appropriate literature. I recommend memorizing the piece. You must provide the judge an original part (no photocopies) of your music with the measures numbered. If your piece has accompaniment, you must perform with an accompanist. *You are responsible for contacting and payment for your accompanist.* If your piece is not memorized, you must also use an original part (no photocopies).

Parents

A few hints for parents to help their child succeed in orchestra:

- Encourage your child to practice and commend them for jobs well done
- Ask questions about their schoolwork and orchestra
- Make sure their instrument is well cared-for and brought to class each day
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including classical concerts
- Encourage your child to perform for family and friends
- Help your child build a personal music library
- Arrange private lessons for your child
- Become involved with the orchestra parents and volunteer at events.

Volunteers

Please contact Mr. Stott at Matthew.Stott@indianriverschools.org if you are available to volunteer in one of several capacities to help the orchestra students.

Grading Scale

Grades will be determined from the following criteria:

Individual Performance Skills

Active Participation and Proper Materials Present and Utilized

Application of Repertoire (rehearsals and performances)

Accent Assignments

Gifford Orchestra 2015-2016 Calendar

(There may be changes or additions. Check back in the future)

Tues, Sept. 8, 6 PM	GMS Open House and Orchestra Orientation Location: Gifford Middle School
Mon, Sept. 28, TBA	All-State Auditions (individual times TBA) Location: Vero Beach High School
Friday, October 2, in class	Solo & Ensemble Form Deadline
<u>Thurs, October 29, 7 PM</u> Students arrive at 6 PM	<u>Orchestral "Spooktacular" Concert</u> (Advanced Orchestra) Location: Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center
Mon, November 9, TBA	Solo & Ensemble MPA (Individual Times TBA) Location: Vero Beach High School
Mon, Dec. 14, 2:45-5 PM	Dress Rehearsal (both orchestras) Location: Gifford Middle School
<u>Tues, December 15, 7 PM</u> Students arrive at 6 PM	<u>Winter Concert</u> (both orchestras) Location: First Presbyterian Church Family Life Center
Mon, March 14: 2:45-5 PM	Dress Rehearsal (Advanced Orchestra) Location: Gifford Middle School
<u>Wed, March 16, time TBA</u>	<u>District Concert MPA</u> (Advanced Orchestra Only) Location: Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center
Tues, May 17, 2:45-5 PM	Dress Rehearsal and Awards (both orchestras) Location: Gifford Middle School
<u>Thursday, May 19, 7 PM</u> Students arrive at 6 PM	<u>Spring Concert (both orchestras)</u> Location: Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center

Addendums:

- Accent assignments
- Living Room Concert Form
- Solo & ensemble form
- Instrument Pick-up Pass
- Performance skills assessments
- Turn-in Sheet to sign



Accent Assignment

(Choose one of the following each nine weeks)

- a. Perform a Living Room Concert for your family or friends. At least one adult must be present. Perform 3-4 solos you know well at each concert. Turn in a completed Living Room Concert form.
- b. Participate on your orchestra instrument in a non-school-related musical group (church orchestra, perform in a retirement home, community orchestra, etc.). Bring in a signed note from a parent.
- c. Attend a concert and write a 250 word review of it. All concerts must be approved by your director.
- d. Write a 500 word, grammatically correct essay on the history of your instrument. This may only be done once.
- e. Write a 500 word grammatically correct essay about a virtuoso performer on your instrument.
- f. Write a 500 word grammatically correct essay about a piece of music we have/are studying.
- g. Listen to a complete disk (must be approved by director) and write a review, including summary on each tune

Living Room Concert Form
Please make additional copies as needed!



Performer (student first and last name) _____

Concert Date: _____

Pieces Performed:

Name of Piece	Last name of Composer
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Signatures of Audience Members in attendance
(at least one adult must be present)

Comments:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Additional Comments: _____

Living Room Concert Form
Please make additional copies as needed!



Performer (student first and last name) _____

Concert Date: _____

Pieces Performed:

Name of Piece	Last name of Composer
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Signatures of Audience Members in attendance
(at least one adult must be present)

Comments:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Additional Comments: _____

Technical Application in Solo Literature Student Name:

THIS FORM IS DUE OCTOBER 2nd

Performance is at S&E MPA on November 9th

Solo Form

DATE: Monday, November 9th:

LOCATION: Vero Beach High School. You will be assigned a specific time slot for your performance.

WHAT? You will prepare a classical piece in its entirety (or a single movement) and perform it for an adjudicator, who will provide valuable feedback and assign a rating.

(Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, or Superior. "Superior with Distinction")

"Superior with Distinction" may be assigned to truly special performances which are memorized.

- Check your piece with Mr. Stott for approval.

- Memorize your piece!

- You must provide the judge an original part (no photocopies) of your music with the measures numbered)

- If your piece has accompaniment, you must perform with an accompanist.

- You are responsible for contacting and paying your accompanist.

- You must secure an accompanist before turning in this form on October 2nd.

ACCOMPANISTS WHO ARE AVAILABLE:

Jason Hobratschk: beginning and intermediate levels: jhobratschk@gmail.com. 772-584-1035 (cell)

Ryan Hostler: all levels: rkhostler@gmail.com. 813-503-9820. Prefers e-mail.

All rehearsals at Our Savior Lutheran Church. 1850 6th Ave

Ryan Kasten: all levels: ryan.kasten@ccovb.org. 772-469-2306 (office). 772-584-9744 (cell)

Justin Maxey: all levels: Justin.maxey@ccovb.org. 772-469-2310 (office). 770-403-0208 (cell)

Suzy Reiser: all levels: suzy.reiser@indianriverschools.org. 772-770-2881

Karen Wiggins: all levels: karen.wiggins@indianriverschools.org. 772-633-1993

Emily Dreher: beginning level: perartsvbhs@yahoo.com.

- If your piece is not memorized, you must also use an original part (no photocopies) for your performance

- More information is available at www.verobeachorchestra.com

COST: \$10. Make checks payable to "Gifford Middle School." Include Address and Phone #.

This form is due by Friday, October 2nd. Complete and return to Mr. Stott.

The judge's assessment sheet is located here:

http://www.myfoa.org/sites/default/files/mpaforms/Solo_Assessment.pdf

STUDENT NAME: _____

SOLO TITLE: _____

COMPOSER/ARRANGER NAME: _____

ACCOMPANIST: _____

TIME PREFERENCE: 3:00-5:00 PM 5:00-7:00 PM 7:00-9:00 PM

Your grade will be determined by your adjudicator's rating:

Superior With Distinction = A++ Superior = A+

Excellent = A Good = B

Fair = C Poor = D

Did Not Play = F

CHECKLIST:

___ Piece approved by Mr. Stott

___ Original music for myself, accompanist and judge

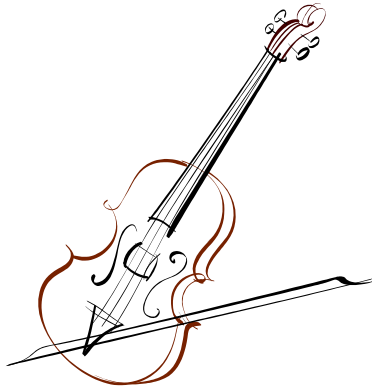
___ Contacted and rehearsed with accompanist

___ Memorized my music

Put this pass in the front pocket of your agenda.

Gifford Middle School Orchestra Instrument Pick-Up Pass

Students must take their instruments home for daily practice.



Please allow this student to come to the orchestra room at these times:

- before school between 7:35-7:53 for instrument drop-off
- after school between 2:43 and 2:45, or at regular release time, for instrument pick-up.

Students are expected to use the most direct route to and from the orchestra room at all times (no loitering). Please notify Mr. Stott in the case that this privilege is abused.

THANK YOU!

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Turn-In Sheet

This form must be detached and returned by Aug. 28th

I, _____, have thoroughly read and understand the expectations for Gifford orchestra in the 2015-2016 school year.

We have read and understand the policies for the 2015-2016 Gifford Middle School orchestra and will abide by all guidelines through the extent of the school year.

Student Signature

Parent Signature