

Glenwood Middle School

2680 Route 97~ Glenwood, MD~ 410-313-5520



Handbook

2009-2010

Patricia Wyatt~ Strings Teacher

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August 25, 2009

Dear Orchestra Parents/Guardians,

Hello! My name is Trish Wyatt and I am the new strings teacher at Glenwood MS. Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to the new sixth-grade orchestra students and their families! I hope that everyone had a very enjoyable and relaxing summer and is ready to jump back into a new school year.

Performing in instrumental music provides students much more than simply musical training. Students learn cooperation and teamwork, commitment and responsibility, tolerance and acceptance, and perseverance and self-discipline. Performing with a group that plays well helps build self-esteem, confidence and pride in accomplishment. Studying music also reinforces reading and math skills and enhances gross and fine motor skills. Numerous research studies have shown that children who participate in music activities have increased test scores in reading, writing, and math.

You can help reinforce what your child is learning in school several ways:

- Listen to music together
- Attend school and community concerts, including local middle and high school concerts
- Check out CD's from the public library
- Encourage your child to share with you some of the things they are learning in music class

Maintaining high expectations and standards gives each student the benefit of enjoyment from their musical experience. This handbook will explain those high expectations and the policies regarding your child's participation in the instrumental music program at Glenwood MS. Please read through the handbook with your child, sign and return the final three pages to me no later than **Wednesday, September 9th, 2009**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me any time at Glenwood. My email address is: patricia_wyatt@hcpss.org. You can also reach me by phone at 410-313-5520. Don't forget to visit the Strings website at <http://sites.google.com/site/mrsdeoriostrings/> (which will be activated before October) and the Orchestra portion of the band website at <http://www.bandzana.net/orchestra.html>. There is very helpful information and numerous student resources on the sites.

Sincerely,
Trish Wyatt

Calendar of Events

Please mark these events on your calendar.

All mandatory events are in bold.

There may be other events that will be announced throughout the year.



August

31 GT Orchestra Auditions: Sign-up begins

September

14-18 GT Orchestra Auditions

23 Back to School Night

29 Junior All-State forms due to Ms. Wyatt

October

7-9 Outdoor Ed, No string classes

14 Symphonic (Full) Orchestra rehearsals begin

November

4 String Day @ Glenelg High School

14 Junior All-State Auditions

December

4 GT Orchestra Dress Rehearsal

5 GT Orchestra Concert

GMS CONCERT

January

GMS Symphonic (Full) Orchestra /Jazz Concert

February

6 Solo/Ensemble Festival @ MHHS (Snow Date Feb 13)

March

11-13 Jr. All-State Performances

29-31 **HoCo Orchestra Assessment Window**

April

30 GT Orchestra Dress Rehearsal

May

1 GT Orchestra Concert

3-4 MD State Orchestra Festival Window

8 MD State Solo/Ensemble Orchestra Festival

22 **TRIP TO HERSHEY PARK**

June

GMS CONCERT

Strings Handbook

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*please sign and return entire sheet

Course Description

The primary emphasis of your orchestra classes will be to develop individual and ensemble playing skills and to learn repertoire for concerts and competitions, such as the Howard County Orchestra Assessment. A strong emphasis will be focused on teaching comprehensive musicianship, which includes lessons in music theory, history, and world culture as it pertains to the repertoire we will be utilizing in our classes.

Performing Groups

String Orchestra: All students enrolled in the strings program will be performing with the String Orchestra. The String Orchestra will perform at the Winter and Spring Concert, the Howard County Orchestra Assessment, and the Hershey Park Festival. This ensemble meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during Core+ until October 14, when Symphonic orchestra rehearsals begin. At that time, it will change to a two-week rehearsal rotation.

A Week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the last 45 minutes of CORE +

B Week: Monday, Friday during the last 45 minutes of CORE +

Symphonic Orchestra: A premier select group of young musicians made up of members of the String Orchestra and wind and percussion members from the Wind Ensemble. This group is selected by audition and will meet on the Wednesdays during the "B Week" schedule or as needed during CORE +, starting October 14. The Symphonic Orchestra will represent Glenwood at the Howard County Orchestra Festival in March 2010.

*String students do not miss academic classes nor are they removed from classes to attend regular string rehearsals as done in elementary school. String rehearsals are scheduled during period CORE+. This time block is designated to allow grade level teachers to provide enrichment and tutorial opportunities. These enrichment opportunities include band, chorus, and string orchestra.

Chamber Music: Chamber Music refers to small ensembles such as trios, quartets and quintets that will be formed for some selected members of the Orchestra. Some of these groups will rehearse during the day in place of the 45-minute sectional. Ensembles that rehearse during the school day will be seen as an extension of the Orchestra class and rehearsals will be used for weekly individual performance assessments. This is available for 7th and 8th grade students only. These ensembles will be expected to perform in the County and State Solo & Ensemble Festivals, and at school concerts throughout the year.

Sectionals

Every student will have one sectional a week. Students are **ONLY** pulled out of their Related Arts period and all Related Arts teachers are aware that orchestra students are to leave their classes to attend sectional rehearsals without penalty. Playing tests and quizzes will only be given during sectionals, so it is imperative that you attend sectionals on a regular basis. The sectional schedule will rotate on an "A Week/ B Week" basis to accommodate the needs of both the students and teachers. Students who must attend their Related Arts class to take a test or finish a project **MUST RECEIVE PERMISSION FROM MS. WYATT BEFORE THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED SECTIONAL AND MUST MAKE UP ANY MISSED WORK WITHIN ONE WEEK'S TIME.** If you do not receive permission from Ms. Wyatt, you will be marked as unexcused and will not be able to make-up any missed assignments.

Rehearsals

Students **MUST** attend CORE+ rehearsals!!!

Rehearsal time is valuable and limited. Make-up work for other classes should be completed on days when you do not have a scheduled rehearsal. In order to properly prepare for performances and adjudication, every student must attend **EVERY** rehearsal. You may be excused from rehearsal **ONLY** if you have a note from the teacher and have consulted with Ms. Wyatt **PRIOR** to the rehearsal. **REMEMBER-** Orchestra is a graded class and requires your participation and effort. Attendance is necessary!!!

Orchestral Seating

Although chair placement in middle school orchestra is not of utmost importance, it is recognized that musical performing ensembles need a set of hierarchical parts to function correctly. Seating placements will be given to all students in both the String and Symphonic Orchestras based on performance ability, comfort level with difficulty of the part, and the immediate needs of the ensemble. Instrument sections will re-audition at least once during the school year. Student placement within a section may change as the student develops their musical skills. The teacher may reassign placements at any time for the good of the ensemble and its members. The teacher's decisions in this matter are final. Please note- the most proficient orchestras do not always place the best players in the front of the section, but disperse them to balance the sound across the orchestra!!!

Grading Policy

Grading Categories

1. Written Assessments = 20%
2. Performance Assessments = 30%
3. Participation / Preparation = 20%
4. Practice Habits = 10%
5. Concert Attendance = 20%

All five categories will be factored into an “Overall Quarter Grade” based on the percentages printed above. Grades are available for viewing on Teacher Ease.

Category Details

• Written Assessments

Written Assessments consist of all written assignments, including written tests/quizzes, worksheets, written warm-ups, and written homework. All written assignments need to be turned in to the tray in the strings room at your rehearsals.

• Performance Assessments

Several times throughout each quarter, students will be asked to complete performance assessments. These assessments usually occur in the form of playing tests/quizzes. Students will be notified in advance of playing tests. Tests and quizzes will be based on recent practice assignments and class information. Quiz points will range from 10 – 50 points; tests will be 100 points. Students’ total performance grade will be based on the following areas: left hand position, right hand position, bowing techniques, body posture, tone quality, intonation, and fingerings.

• Participation/ Preparation

Each student starts with an A for this portion of his or her grade (100 points per class). If a student does not show up to rehearsal, does not try his or her best in rehearsal or is unprepared for class, his or her grade will be lowered accordingly. If the required materials (music/notebook, instrument, and pencils) are not brought to class every day, then the student will be marked as unprepared and his or her grade will be lowered accordingly. Examples of common point deductions are as follows:

No instrument = -50 points

No music, pencil, or notebook = -25 points

Lack of effort or class disruption = -20 points

• Practice Habits/Homework

This grade is based on student’s Practice Chart and whether he or she turns it in on time and fully completes the required minutes of practice. The grades are based on the number of minutes practiced during week:

100%= 150 minutes or more per week

90% = 120-149 minutes per week

80% = 90-119 minutes per week

70% = 60-89 minutes per week

60% = 30-59 minutes per week

50% = 29 or less minutes per week

• Performance Attendance

We will perform in two concerts (Winter and Spring) as well as a Strings Day event with Glenelg HS, and the Howard County Orchestra Assessment. (The Hershey Park Festival is highly recommended but not required.) One hundred percent participation at each concert is VITAL, as we all depend on each other to create the final musical product.

EVERY CHILD IS IMPORTANT AND NEEDED, and attendance at performances is required by the Howard County Instrumental Music Curriculum.

Students who are excused from school on concert days are also excused from concerts and will need to complete a make-up assignment to supplement their Performance Attendance grade. Excused absences include illness (doctor’s note must be provided) and death in the family (notification must be provided), or other extreme circumstances. Vacation, sporting events, or any other leisure activities does NOT constitute as an excused absence.

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A CONCERT WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE ENSEMBLE!!!

Your student will be graded on the above areas using the following scale:

A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrates <u>superior</u> work in scheduled rehearsals and sectionals. 2. Shows evidence in class of regular, <u>thorough</u> home practice. 3. Works always to the best ability in all rehearsals. 4. Is able to work effectively with teacher and classmates. Can function as a leader and example if needed. 5. Has correct music and equipment <u>at all times</u>. Is <u>always on time</u> and attentive. Attends <u>all section rehearsals</u>.
B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrates <u>above average</u> work in scheduled rehearsals and section rehearsals. 2. Shows evidence in class of regular home practice. 3. Works to the best ability in most rehearsals. 4. Is able to work effectively with teacher and classmates. Can work independently or with members of a section when needed. 5. Has correct music and equipment regularly. Is <u>on time</u> and is attentive. Attends section rehearsals <u>regularly</u>.
C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrates <u>average</u> work in scheduled rehearsals and sectionals. 2. Shows evidence in class of adequate but irregular home practice. 3. Works below ability during many rehearsals. 4. Experiences a little difficulty working with the teacher or classmates. 5. Is without proper equipment or music at times. Is occasionally late or inattentive. <u>Misses some</u> section rehearsals without a teachers excuse.
D	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrates <u>below average</u> work in scheduled rehearsals and sectionals. 2. Shows little evidence in class of home practice. 3. Works below ability in most rehearsals. 4. Experiences much difficulty working with teacher or classmates. Has difficulty working independently. Need supervision often. 5. Is frequently without proper music or equipment. Is frequently late or inattentive. <u>Misses many</u> section rehearsals without a teachers excuse.
E	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrates <u>poor work</u> in scheduled rehearsals and sectionals. 2. Shows <u>no</u> evidence in class of home practice. 3. Works <u>below</u> ability. Shows no effort. 4. Is unable to work with teacher or classmates. Constantly requires close supervision. 5. Is regularly without proper music or equipment. Is regularly late or inattentive. Regularly misses or <u>does not attend</u> section rehearsals.

Required Materials

It is necessary for students to be prepared for ALL sectionals and rehearsals by bringing the proper materials to class. Students will lose Daily Participation points if not prepared for class.

You will need:

-Instrument: this includes any accessories (i.e., rosin, shoulder rest, wipe cloth, rockstop). Cello and bass students may use school instruments. The school has limited instruments, so this will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. If you are not able to provide your own instrument, due to financial reasons, please contact Ms. Wyatt immediately and she will help you find an instrument to use.

-Ensemble Music: provided by Ms. Wyatt

-Method or Technique book: Orchestra Expressions Book 2 by Brungard, Alexandander, Anderson & Dackow; Sight-Read It for Strings by Dabczynski, Meyer & Phillips; and String Rhythms- for classroom and individual study by Sally O'Reilly

-Pencil: NO PENS!!! Students will be required to make marks in their music AND to erase the markings after each concert. Students will be charged a replacement fee for any music marked with permanent ink (such as pens or markers).

Instrument Storage

Students are encourage to bring their instrument to the strings portable at the beginning of the school day (before the late bell rings) and are REQUIRED to take their instrument HOME at the end of every school day. Instruments music be picked up by 2:45pm. Any instruments left in the portable will receive a "Parking Ticket". Each parking tickets will result in a loss of 10 points from their daily participation grade on the day that it is left. Parents will be notified when students leave their instrument at school.

Concert Dress

Having a uniform concert dress will give the ensembles a professional and classy appearance. Orchestral concert dress for both ensembles is the following:

Gentlemen: Black dress trousers, white long or short-sleeved dress shirt, dark socks and dress shoes. No athletic shoes or blue jeans please.

Ladies: Black skirt (of appropriate length, i.e., below the knee) or slacks, white long or short-sleeved shirt or blouse (with a collar), dark socks or hose and dress shoes. No athletic shoes or blue jeans please.

* Cummerbunds and Bow Ties will be provided for students who have not previously purchased them.



Student Responsibilities

The orchestra student will:

Be Respectful:

- Respect the rights and property of others
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior during all rehearsals and performances. Be a good audience.
- NOT wear hats in class
- NO cell or mobile phones in class
- NOT chew gum, bring any food, or drink into the Orchestra Room (exceptions will be made for water bottles if needed for medical reasons)

Be Prepared:

- Be prepared with all necessary instruments and music at each rehearsal
- Practice each day
- Participate in all scheduled concerts (Please see the event calendar)
- Do your personal best!

Be Responsible:

- Report to all CORE+ Orchestra rehearsals and sectionals on time
- Complete all assignments on time
- Follow directions the first time and be an "active listener"
- Take your instrument and music home nightly and PRACTICE A MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES A DAY
- Not deface or fold music
- All music handed out is the property of Howard County Public Schools and GMS
- Music MUST be returned on demand or at the end of the performance
- Students may make notes or other educational marks on the music with a #2 pencil only.
- All students provide their own instrument unless other arrangements have been made with the director
- Label personal instrument cases with student's name and address
- Attend all concerts and events for the entirety of the event.

Private Lessons

Private music lessons are highly encouraged, but NOT required of orchestra students. Lessons give the student more self-confidence and personal attention to specific musical skills than orchestra rehearsals alone. If you need a list of private teachers, go to the following website at <http://www.hcpss.org/music/private.html>, or see Ms. Wyatt.

Performance Opportunities

In addition to the regularly scheduled performances, orchestra students have the opportunity to participate in these additional musical activities: All-State Orchestra, All-County G/T Orchestra, All-County Enrichment Orchestra, and Solo/Ensemble Festival.

All-State Orchestra is open to 7th and 8th grade students only, however the All-County G/T & Enrichment Orchestras are open to any middle school orchestra member in a Howard County Middle School. Membership into these extra orchestras are selected by an audition process. For more information, please see Ms. Wyatt.

All orchestra members are encouraged to try to participate in the annual Solo/Ensemble festival. This is a great time to play with a friend, in a small group, or a fun solo. Remember, the fun part of playing an instrument is sharing your talents with the rest of the world!!! Each new opportunity is a worthwhile experience that will prepare us and make us more confident for future endeavors.

Events Calendar

A calendar of all Glenwood Middle School's instrumental performances and activities is included in the front of this handbook. The list of events is also on the band website. The winter concert will be in December and the spring concert in June. Exact dates are yet to be determined, but will be provided to you as soon as possible. Please place these dates on the family calendar as soon as possible to avoid any date conflicts. Remember, all orchestra students are expected to participate in all scheduled performances of the ensembles to which they belong.

Contacts

The best way to contact Ms. Wyatt is through e-mail since she is teaching at two Howard County schools. Phone calls are also an option, but might not receive as quick of a response time as e-mail. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about your student and their participation in the program.

Local Music Stores

Here is a list of some of the music stores in this area where you may want to rent or purchase your instrument from as well as all other required materials for strings.

Gailes Violin Shop
***School Partnership**
10013 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740
Phone: 301-474-4300
Toll Free: 1-800-245-3167
www.gailesviolin.com/

Bill's Music
743 Frederick Rd
Baltimore, MD 21228
Phone: (410) 788-8900 or Toll-Free: (800) 828-0023
E-mail: sales@billsmusic.com
<http://www.billsmusic.com/home.asp>

Stu's Music Shop
723 Baltimore blvd.
Westminster, MD 21157
(410) 876-7585 or (800) 908-7585
FAX (410) 840-8764
<http://stusmusic.com/contact.htm>

Mike's Music Inc
4872 Montgomery Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-564-0700
www.mikesmusicmd.com

Potters Violin Shop
4706 Highland Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-652-7070
www.pottersviolins.com/

Music and Arts Center- Chatham Station
9210 Baltimore National Pike, Rd. 40 West
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Phone: (410) 461-1844
<http://www.musicarts.com/>

2009-2010 Glenwood Orchestra Handbook

Parent/Student Return & Commitment Form

Please complete the following form and return it to Ms. Wyatt by **SEPTEMBER 9th, 2009**.

I have read the Orchestra Handbook, know what is expected of me, and agree to follow the policies that Ms. Wyatt has established.

Student's Name (please print)

Student's signature

Parent/Guardian's Name (please print)

Parent's/Guardian's signature

Additional Student Information

Student's Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone Number(s) _____

E-Mail (please print clearly) _____

Student's Grade _____ Instrument _____ Years Played _____

Do you need a school instrument? _____ Do you take Private lessons? _____

If so, Private Teacher's Name _____ Phone _____

Student's Birthdate _____ Nickname? _____

Hobbies/Activites/Additional Information _____

I give permission for my son or daughter's picture (without names) to be used in the classroom or to be videotaped strictly for educational purposes. Photos or video will not be distributed

- yes
- no