



# 2023-24 GREENSPUN JR. HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK

August 14, 2023

Dear Orchestra Parents and Students:

Welcome! You are now a very important member of the award-winning Greenspun JHS Orchestra Program. We are excited to see the orchestra grow this year and we look forward to keeping our tradition of excellence high!

This handbook is a guideline to make your experience in orchestra as productive and enjoyable as possible. All of the rules it contains have been developed over time and are meant to serve one purpose - to promote the learning and development of the orchestra members. Your personal success, as well as the success of our orchestras, will depend on the loyalty, cooperation, dedication and respect of each and every member.

The role of parental involvement in education cannot be overstated. Parents, your influence and support mean a lot to both student and teacher. Ask your child to show you what they have learned in class. Please get behind your child and encourage him/her in their individual practice.

**Please be sure to carefully read this document TOGETHER and sign, date, and return all forms and any fees in the packet before August 22nd, 2023.** The forms are online and can be accessed through your child's Canvas account or you may use the forms included in this document. (The printed signature pages.) Please keep the handbook and calendar at home so that you may refer to it when necessary. All policies of the Greenspun Junior High School Orchestra are designed to co-exist with the policies and procedures of Greenspun Junior High School and CCSD. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at the e-mail address or phone number below. (preferably email) These students are my TOP PRIORITY and I look forward to an exciting year of music making with our students.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sheila Davis  
Greenspun Orchestra Director (davissm1@nv.ccsd.net)

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goals**

- The orchestra experience will include continual instruction in music reading, playing skills and technique building for all instruments.
- The orchestra experience will include further study of theory, music composition and musical interpretations.
- Emphasis will be placed on performance including proper rehearsal and performance practices.
- Students will be encouraged to pursue private instruction.

### **Objectives**

- Students will develop a more extensive range over the fingerboard while utilizing proper finger patterns, shifting, and positions.
- The student will further develop bowing techniques.
- The student will develop an awareness of good tone production.
- The student will extend his/her knowledge of scales, key signatures, and the related finger patterns.
- The student will improve performance and understanding of various rhythm patterns.
- The student will contribute to the ensemble quality, balance and overall sound.
- The student will utilize ear training to improve intonation.
- The student will be able to use their musical knowledge to compose music.
- The student will demonstrate the ability to recognize/perform musical symbols and expressive markings.
- The student will become acquainted with different musical styles and various periods of musical history.
- The student will develop self-discipline through functioning as a responsible member of the organization.
- The student will experience successful achievement and pleasure through participation and group involvement.

## **PHILOSOPHY AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

It is our goal to instill a love, passion and appreciation for music in our students. The orchestra program at Greenspun Junior High is the first step in what we hope will be at least a seven-year program of instruction for your child. Students that participate in music programs such as orchestra become better students and more well-rounded individuals through skills taught in our classroom. Self-discipline, positive self-esteem, group cooperation, commitment, responsibility to self and others, creativity and self-expression are all taught daily in our classes. It is our goal that students leave our program with a sense of personal pride and musical understanding that will be with them for a lifetime.

### **Intermediate and Advanced Orchestras**

These groups are open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students by audition and/or placement by the director. Most of the students in these groups have had one or more years of playing experience. Playing fundamentals, music reading, and general musicianship will be stressed. High caliber music and musicianship will also be accentuated. These groups will prepare and perform several concerts during the year as well as participate in music festivals.

### **Beginning Orchestra**

We are pleased that you have chosen to start your musical journey by being a part of the tradition of excellence of the Greenspun Jr. High orchestra program. Students in beginner classes usually have not played an instrument prior to middle school and this class is open to all grades. They are taught basic care of their instrument, fundamentals of instrumental performance, the basics of reading and playing music, and general musicianship. This group will perform in concerts a few times during the year. Consistency of individual practice is the most important factor for success of a beginning orchestra member.

## **GRADING PROCEDURES**

The orchestra classes at Greenspun Junior High School are performance-based classes. Class time rehearsals, after school rehearsals and performances are a required part of each orchestra class. The number of grade points each student accumulates over a nine-week period will determine each individual grade. Grades are based on a student's demonstration of knowledge and daily participation. This includes all classroom activities. The CCSD grading scale is followed (A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=50-59%)

The Percent of possible points in any grading period will be as follows:

20% Rehearsal/Practice Skills: Daily rehearsal skills and attendance, written assignments, cleaning and maintenance of instruments, practice records.

80% Performance Skills: Quizzes, tests (both written and playing), some written assignments, extra rehearsals, performances, and objective sheets. Some playing tests will be live, others will be recorded, some will have both options. Students must show their face and hands in the video of a recorded test for identification purposes. (They will only be viewed by the instructor)

Semester Grades will be based on the following criteria:

1st Quarter Grade    50%

2nd Quarter Grade    50%

### **Citizenship:**

Citizenship marks will be determined through the use of teacher observation and/or a "Citizenship Log". Citizenship includes, but is not limited to: daily participation, attendance, late or missing assignments, responsibility, and behavior. An automatic "U" in citizenship is given for an unexcused absence from a performance, cheating/plagiarism and fighting/major disruptions.

O = Outstanding = ALWAYS S = Satisfactory = MOST OF THE TIME N = Needs Improvement = SOMETIMES U = Unsatisfactory = RARELY

**Make-up Work:** Make-up work is available to all students in Canvas and/or upon return to class. It is the student's responsibility ideally to get and complete any work they missed within three school days after they return from an absence. Any work that was due on the day the student was absent is due on the day they return.

**Missing or late formative and summative assignments/:** Scores will not be reduced on assignments or assessments submitted past the due date, however citizenship grades will be impacted by late/missing assignments. A retake reflection form is required for students wishing to retake summative assignments and must be submitted prior to each retake. The latest deadline for all graded work is three days prior to the end of each grading period. There will not be retakes on formative assignments.

**Minimum 'F' Policy:** Late assignments not turned in by the end of the grading deadline, as outlined in course expectations, will receive a minimum 50% grade. At the end of the quarter, students who have an overall grade below 50% will have their grade adjusted to a minimum 50% grade. Please realize that if these assignments are not turned in, they will become scores of 50% in the gradebook and will drastically lower the student's grade at the end of the grading period.

#### **Daily Attendance and Rehearsal Skills**

Your attendance, attitude, and participation in daily rehearsals affect the product of the entire group. Great importance will be placed in these areas. This evaluation will include the following: Remaining "on task" during class activities, having the proper materials, music, and equipment for each rehearsal, being ready and prepared to play each day, playing at appropriate times, make a genuine effort to learn and improve skills, written classroom assignments, note taking skills, listening skills. Make sure you are in attendance, prepared with your instrument and all supplies, with short nails, and ready to work with a positive attitude and you will certainly succeed! A strong organization is only as strong as its weakest link. More details are listed in the daily procedures handout.

***In the event an instrument is broken and needs to go to the music store for repair, a note or email from a parent should be sent with the student to school THAT day or no points will be earned. Please be sure that your child has plenty of rosin, strings, and other supplies that are needed to make the instrument play properly. (A list is provided in the back of this handbook) Students should take care of any maintenance before and after school. This should not take place during class time.***

#### **Performance Expectations**

Orchestra is a team and depends on all its members being present at events for the team's musical success. Unlike many other classes where students may succeed or fail independent of others, the orchestra's success is dependent on all its members. Orchestra is a performing organization and we will have no chance for success unless a consistent attendance policy is upheld. When an orchestra member is absent, the entire group suffers because of our dependence on each other. **PERFORMANCES AND DRESS REHEARSALS ARE REQUIRED!** The only absences that will be considered excused are illness and SERIOUS, immediate family

emergencies. All excused absences must be approved by the director PRIOR to the performance whenever possible. Ball games, haircuts, doctor appointments, babysitting, birthday celebrations, etc. will not be excused. An excused absence from an orchestra function will require the same criteria as an excused absence from school - personal illness or family emergency or medical appointments made before a rehearsal or performance was announced. A tentative calendar is included in this packet for your scheduling purposes. Please add them to your calendar as soon as possible. As events are added or changed during the year, I will be sure to give as much advance notice as possible. I usually post it in the classroom, give students a handout, put the information in Canvas, and send emails (please keep your email address updated)

Many festivals mail out times and exact dates only one to two weeks prior to the performance, so please "block out" this range of dates to prevent conflicts. It is the responsibility of each orchestra member to arrange his/her schedule so that all performances and rehearsals will be attended. When something special comes up, the student should talk with his/her director immediately. Ideally, advanced notice includes at least 48 hours for extra rehearsals and 2 weeks for performances. Excuses for absence or tardiness need to be submitted in writing with the parent/guardian's signature. **Concerts are a part of the curriculum and no points will be earned for unexcused absences from performances.**

Students are expected to be on time and are required to stay for a complete concert session and include a performance and a concert etiquette grade. Students are never permitted to leave their seats during a performance without permission from the director or administrator. The amount of points earned will be determined by the attendance, proper dress, behavior, performance, performance etiquette, and clean-up/tear down after the performance. The overall success of our program is directly proportional to the overall attendance rate throughout the year. We can't teach an empty chair. Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, or other appointments around orchestra activities, rehearsals, and class.

Please note: parental punishment of a child by not permitting him/her to attend an orchestra performance or rehearsal does not constitute an excused absence. This is equivalent to punishing your student by not permitting them to take a math test. (Only in this case, the performance of more than just your child can be affected!)

### **Playing Tests/Chair Placement Tests/Written Tests/Written Assignments/Composition**

The playing tests will include, but are not limited to, scales, technique exercises, orchestra music, and music memorization. Written and verbal tests may also be given over musical terms, rhythm, music theory, music history and music composition. Students will receive adequate notice of these tests and some will also be used for new chair placement. Many times throughout the year students will be moved into different seating arrangements. Sometimes these seating placements are based upon ability level stemming from a chair test (highest score gets the highest chair), but other times the director will place students where they are needed the most. Seat placements are at the sole discretion of the director.

## CLASSROOM RULES AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The success of the orchestra will depend on the quality of our daily rehearsals. Structure is the key element for successful rehearsals. It is very important that every student works as a productive team member. Always remember to follow the rules during class and rehearsal time! LOOK...at the director or person in charge of the class when he/she is addressing you or the class.

LISTEN...to the director, or person in charge of the group.

RESPECT... the director, person in charge, your fellow students, musicians, and the property of others. PARTICIPATE...during rehearsal by following the director. Participate with the rest of the class and make a genuine effort to learn and improve daily in rehearsal and at home. Do your best at all times!!

- Treat others with respect, treat teachers with respect, and treat yourself with respect. When you disrupt class, you are not only cheating YOURSELF, you are cheating everyone else. These types of disruptions will not be tolerated. Inappropriate attitudes, comments, and behaviors will be dealt with swiftly in order to ensure the right of others to learn and the right of the teacher to teach. Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences for your actions. (See school discipline policy)
- Fingernails need to be kept trimmed in order for a student to play with correct hand position and posture. Fingernails should not be visible behind the finger when looking at the palm of the hand. Please do not use artificial/acrylic nails during the school year in any way – it is impossible to play correctly with them on. Nails can also ruin the strings on the instrument. Students who disregard this will have their playing adversely impacted as well as their grade and may be given an alternate assignment.
- A reduction of points will occur if the student forgets his/her instrument, supplies, music, pencil, or other necessary equipment. Requirements for earning points are listed in the grading section of this handbook.
- Follow all teacher instructions the first time they are given.
- Have a pencil every day.
- Candy gum, food and drink of any kind are not allowed in any area within the orchestra rehearsal space unless provided by the orchestra director.
- Refrain from talking to stand partners/friends during the rehearsal.
- Cooperate with fellow orchestra members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the orchestra program.
- No Cell Phones are allowed unless the student is given explicit permission to use them for tuning.
- Do Not, under any circumstances, touch another student's instrument or case. **PLAY ONLY YOUR INSTRUMENT!**
- Demonstrate proper instrument care at all times. (The bow is not a sword.) Also, bows are not to be tapped – this can cause the bow to break. Walk with your bow pointed down. You do not want to accidentally poke your neighbor's eye with your bow. Do not

draw on, deface, or damage any orchestra chair, stand, or instrument. This is vandalism and will be treated as such. Never hang an instrument from a music stand. When you leave your seat, you must put your instrument back in its case or secure it under your chair. Do not lean on music stands or put feet on chairs or stands. Remember to pay attention when you have your instrument out of its case. Many if not all repairs are due to accidents that can be avoided.

➤ Cello and bass players must put their instruments back on the rack in the storage room. Large instruments are most vulnerable when left unattended and may be tripped over. The bridges are very expensive to replace and the process is time consuming.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER!!** The Greenspun orchestra room is strictly off limits to students who are not in the orchestra at Greenspun. This rule is obvious due to the size and security of our program. Please cooperate by having non-orchestra friends meet you outside.

### **Consequences**

If any of the classroom rules are neglected the following consequences will apply:

- Warning
- Reduction of citizenship points
- Phone call to parents
- After school detention
- Referral to the dean/administration

### **CELL PHONE**

Although cell phones/tablets are not to be used during class, there are a few apps that students should have in order to practice properly. Students will be expected to have daily access to 1) A METRONOME and 2) A TUNER on their phone/tablet /computer etc. These can also be purchased at any music store if needed. The following free apps are what I would recommend.

1. Soundcorset (free app) Has a metronome and tuner
2. Tonal Energy Tuner (paid) Has a metronome and tuner
3. Pro Metronome
4. Pitch- Tuner & Musical Fitness Tracker

### **LOST AND FOUND**

All music items left in the orchestra room will be placed in a lost and found box at the front of the room. Do not have items other than instruments, instrument accessories, and music in the orchestra room. The orchestra lost and found box will be emptied into the school lost and found box once each week. All instruments, music, supplies, etc. should have the student's name on them.

### **UNIFORMS**

At the beginning of each year, every orchestra member will obtain a uniform. Costs are listed in the back of this handbook. The uniforms will consist of the following for both boys and girls: All beginning students, intermediate students, and advanced boys are responsible for purchasing their own black dress slacks (no jeans, yoga pants, leggings, tight pants, capris, etc.

– nice, loose fitting, long slacks), dress socks and dress, closed toe, shoes - no sandals, boots, converse, vans, etc. *Advanced orchestra girls will not need the slacks.*

#### Beginning and Intermediate Orchestra Uniform:

All beginning and intermediate students will need to purchase a Greenspun orchestra t-shirt shirt, black dress slacks, black dress socks, and black dress shoes. (The purchase of the t-shirt shirt is included in the orchestra fee).

#### Advanced Orchestra Uniform:

Advanced Girls will wear the orchestra long black dress, closed-toe shoes and black dress socks or hose. You may choose to rent one or purchase it. Advanced Boys will wear a banded mandarin collar tuxedo shirt and vest with tuxedo pants/black dress slacks of your choice. You may choose to rent or purchase the shirt and vest. Black dress socks and black dress shoes. (Rental of the uniform is included in the orchestra fees).

#### Uniform Guidelines

- Our orchestra has a reputation of looking professional. In order to look this way, we must all wear the same outfits. All concert attire must be wrinkle-free and in tip-top condition for ALL performances. Students wearing dirty or wrinkled uniforms, as well as an incomplete uniform (missing tie, wrong shoes, etc.) may lose the privilege to perform and will lose points for that performance.
- Always display proper conduct while in uniform. It is a symbol of your school and our orchestra program.
- Never eat anything while in uniform unless approved by the director.
- Hair should be neat and clean with no unnatural colors or accessories.
- No excessive make-up or jewelry allowed while in uniform
- No high heels.
- Students stay in uniform until instructed otherwise
- Students must be in uniform for group pictures and all performances – students who do not comply with this rule will risk the chance of not performing and will not receive performance points, nor be allowed to make up missed points.

#### Private Instruments

All privately owned instruments must have insurance from their family home owners or renters insurance policy. The CCSD and Greenspun Junior High School do not carry insurance that will cover privately owned instruments in case of accident or loss! It is the parent/student responsibility to make sure that there is adequate coverage on their child's instrument. Please keep a record of the instrument, brand and serial number.

#### **INSTRUMENT USAGE FEE/STORAGE**

School owned instruments will be issued on an as needed basis for the school year. The usage fee is \$25.00 per instrument for anyone using a school-owned instrument. Each instrument will be returned to the school in good, clean and working condition. Damages will be taken care of by the student/parent. Instruments will be stored in the orchestra room during the school day.



This money is used to maintain the normal use and wear of this instrument including replacement strings. The instrument must be returned in the same condition it was issued to the student. The maintenance fee does not cover major damage or loss. Damage beyond normal wear or loss of the instrument while in the student's possession becomes the responsibility of the parents. We encourage parents to cover these instruments on your home-owners insurance policy. Alternative policies are also available at a nominal annual fee. Students must use only the instrument that is assigned to them. Students should never share instruments for any reason. **DO NOT TOUCH** another student's instrument or music. All instruments must have a name tag!

### **INSTRUMENT REPAIR**

When an instrument is in need of repair, please **DO NOT** try to repair it yourself. You should first have a director look at the instrument to determine if it should go to the shop. If an instrument is placed in the shop it is the student's responsibility to bring a note signed by the parent describing when the instrument was brought in, the type of repair and the expected date the instrument will be returned. If your child will not have an instrument for more than 3 days, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain a replacement (loaner) instrument. An instrument in the shop is not an excuse to miss a rehearsal or performance. You should let the shop know you have an upcoming performance and they will make every effort to get your instrument out quickly. **Do not store instruments in vehicles or in direct sunlight** (overheating/freezing will damage instruments, resulting in costly repairs).

### **MUSIC FOLDERS AND SHEET MUSIC**

Orchestra members will be responsible for keeping a music folder to hold all school issued music and notebook paper. All sheet music needs to be identified with the student's name at the top. Students are **REQUIRED** to have a pencil at **ALL** rehearsals and all writing on the music should be in **PENCIL ONLY!** Students will be asked to number the measures of the pieces the day they receive the music as a part of the daily rehearsal grade. All music books for private lessons, etc. should have the student's name on them, and **ALL** instruments, shoulder rests, rock stops, etc. should be labeled with the student's name. Every student is expected to bring all books, music and handouts to class every day. Students will be charged full price for any book that is issued and is lost. The orchestra fund will provide music throughout the year; however each orchestra member will need to supply the supplemental book as listed on the supply sheet.

### **THE ORCHESTRA OFFICE STORE**

For your convenience, many of the items on the supply list can be purchased in the orchestra office. The "Orchestra Office Store" is not intended to be a music store.

### **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private lessons are not mandatory, but they are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**. Private lessons are offered through many resources. A list of reputable teachers can be found below. Private lessons typically run \$25-\$40 per half hour lesson, but the cost of lessons vary from teacher to

teacher. This is paid directly to the teacher and usually requested at the beginning of the month. (A list of qualified instructors is included below)

Although your child receives valuable instruction in orchestra class, private lessons provide:

1. Enhanced opportunities for involvement in and success at individual competitions.
2. Earlier exposure to more advanced techniques.
3. Students with an opportunity to deal with the unique challenges of the particular instrument they play, one on one with an expert, degreed teacher. This will allow them to progress at their level at all times.
4. Review and reinforcement of class assignments when necessary.
5. Expanded opportunities for advanced solo instruction.
6. Greater confidence in their individual performance because of the individual attention they receive in lessons.
7. Heightened standard for group endeavors such as concerts and festivals.

Private lessons in no way guarantee placement in an advanced orchestra class; however, it is no coincidence that many students in the advanced group are taking lessons. Students will get more out of the lessons if they come to their lessons prepared. If interested in private lessons, please use the attached list to contact an instructor. They also help students to prepare for individual competitions such as honor orchestra and solo and ensemble. NOTE: *Private instructor availability not guaranteed, contact these recommended instructors for up-to-date scheduling availability:*

### **Violin**

Martha Gronemeier 702-372-5711

Jordan Miller 702-878-6738

### **Violin/Viola**

Sharon Street-Caldwell 702-897-5811

Eliane Mahlangu 702-809-0714

### **Cello**

Andrea Dawson 702-325-7734

Linsday Springer 317-502-6755

### **Bass**

Paul Firak 702-510-8429

Ed Lacala 702-719-9536

### **All Instruments**

Las Vegas School of the Arts 702-384-2787 [www.NevadaSchooloftheArts.org](http://www.NevadaSchooloftheArts.org)

## **AUDITIONS**

Seating and reseating auditions are held periodically throughout the school year within the individual class. There will be little to no movement between classes and will only take place in

extreme cases. (Mid-year, there may be students in the intermediate group who are not able to keep up with the class and may be moved to the beginning class for more specific instruction to help them to improve. Intermediate students may excel and be considered for advanced. Parents will be notified well in advance of any changes. Changes cannot be requested and are based on ability.) Seating, reseating and auditions for groups are held at the end of the school year. Specific audition criteria will be announced prior to auditions and will be based on the following criteria:

- The student's playing ability
- The need for the instrument in the performing group
- The student's effort, attitude, behavior, and participation habits

The director will make final decisions regarding all seating and movement between sections and groups. A student who is dissatisfied with placement should communicate his/her concern to the director. All students are encouraged to discuss solutions or a plan of action for improvement in order to achieve success when the next opportunity for advancement is at hand.

### **CCSD ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL**

There are two types of CCSD Orchestra Festivals. All students beyond the beginning level are required to participate in the CCSD Orchestra Festival as part of the curriculum. Intermediate Festival – designed for the CCSD intermediate orchestra students. This festival gives an opportunity for the intermediate festival to perform on a professional stage. This festival may or may not be rated. Student participation in this festival will be based on the performance ability level and high behavior levels. Advanced Orchestra Festival – designed for the CCSD advanced orchestra students. This festival gives an opportunity for the students to perform on a professional stage. This festival will be rated.

### **INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS**

#### **District Honor Orchestra**

All students with at least one year of orchestra are eligible and encouraged to participate in the CCSD Honor Orchestra program, however, this audition is primarily for advanced students. Any student who would like to audition for Honor Orchestra must obtain approval from his/her director and properly prepare the required audition material. Audition materials will become available to the student by the director. Honor orchestra will involve approximately five after school/evening rehearsals and a concert with a special guest conductor. The experience of being chosen to play in the Honor Orchestra is outstanding due to the fact that the participating students are able to associate with other fellow musicians in the city who play at or near the same advanced skill level.

#### **CCSD Solo and Ensemble Festival**

This contest is held annually each spring. The contest provides an opportunity to perform a solo and/or ensemble and receive a rating and evaluation of the performance. Students who receive Superior ratings will receive a medal. Most students receive music from a private instructor. Students who do not have a private instructor, but would like to participate must get music from Mrs. Hammericksen and commit to a weekly session with her.

## **CARE OF THE ORCHESTRA ROOM, PRACTICE AREAS, AND EQUIPMENT**

Orchestra members are to keep the orchestra room clean. The chairs and stands are to be kept in place. Instrument placements are assigned in the fall. NO food, drinks, candy, or gum is allowed in the orchestra room. No student is allowed in the orchestra room unless a director or designated adult is present. All students need to have pride in our facilities so we can all continue to enjoy them for years to come!! Use of the phone is by permission only and will be limited. Students will be allowed to use the phone for important calls only.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Our orchestra will participate in fundraising events this year. Fundraising is a crucial activity for the orchestra program at Greenspun. This enables us to purchase those materials necessary to enhance the orchestra music experience in a way that would not be possible through district funding. Fundraising is an important event because it gives our orchestra the necessary funds to purchase larger quantities of music, instruments and equipment as well as to possibly take a trip. The funds from the orchestra account also pay for items such as awards, recording fees, workshops and clinicians for our students, refreshments, student group competition fees and buses for various music related activities, and orchestra supplies. (extra strings, rosin, etc) We hope that all students participate in fundraisers, since all money earned benefits the entire group.

## **TRIPS**

One of the most rewarding parts of being in a performing group is the opportunity to travel. If scheduled, participation in these events is a PRIVILEGE and only students who exhibit proper execution of all classroom rules and attend all performances may participate. Greenspun policy also dictates that students must have a 2.0 with no failing grades or poor citizenship in any class in order to travel. Students will not be allowed to travel if they have been suspended. Refunds will not be provided if a student fails to maintain the requirements for travel. All missed work is due the day they return to school.

## **THE BEST WAY TO HELP YOUR CHILD IN ORCHESTRA**

PLEASE help your child "hang in there" when the going gets tough. Some things in music are learned easily, while others require intensive and repeated application. Music is a wonderful thing to students who persevere and don't give in easily. PLEASE encourage your child to practice, monitor their practice, and listen to your child's accomplishments at least once each week - you'll be glad you did! (These mini-concerts are fun and instill pride in your child.

Orchestra may seem like a big investment; IT IS! It's an investment in your child's future. It is an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

### **COURSE FEES ARE DUE BY AUG 22nd, 2023**

Our orchestra has a reputation of looking professional. In order to look this way, we must all wear the same outfits. All concert attire must be wrinkle-free and in tip-top condition for ALL performances. Students wearing dirty or wrinkled uniforms, as well as incomplete uniforms (missing tie/necklace, wrong shoes, etc.), may lose the privilege to perform and will lose points for that performance. Orchestra may seem like a big investment; IT IS! It's an investment in your child's future. Even if they only play an instrument for a year, it is an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

- Beginning and Intermediate Orchestra Fee: \$45.00
  - This fee includes book, rosin, shoulder rest (violin,viola) or rock stop (cello,bass), and orchestra uniform. \*
  
- Advanced Orchestra Fee: \$45.00
  - This fee includes book(s), uniform rental, end of year cleaning.) \*

*\*If it is not your student's first time in orchestra and they already have most of these items, then they can pay for items individually instead of this fee (see individual replacement prices below).*

**\*\*Instrument rental fees are not included in the above fees.**

- Separate School Instrument Rental Fee: \$25 per instrument (This is only due if you are using a school-owned instrument) Cellos and basses pay for 2 instruments - one for home, one for school. This fee covers the entire academic year, winter and spring semesters.
  
- Summer Rental Fee: \$15 per instrument. This fee covers rentals for the summer months, should the student want to practice over the summer (recommended if returning to orchestra the following year). Please note that while the student can use the same instrument they were using during the school year, but a new instrument agreement form must be signed for this separate rental.

**\*\*All rental uniforms are the property of the GJHS Music Department and must be returned in a timely manner.**

Advanced Gentlemen: Remember to purchase black slacks, socks, dress shoes prior to the Open House Concert in September. Advanced Ladies: Remember to purchase black socks or dark black hose, and dress shoes prior to the Open House Concert in September.

### **Equipment Replacement Prices**

Should you need to replace specific items if lost or damaged, our prices are as follows:

- Rosin (Violin/Viola/Cello): \$4
- Bass Rosin: \$10
- Shoulder Rest (Violin/Small Viola): \$12
- Shoulder Rest (15/16") \$18
- Book (String Basics, any level) \$10
- Rock Stop (Bass/Cello) \$10
- Adv. Uniform Rental (if student already has a book, pay this fee instead of Adv. Orch fee) \$30
- Beginning/ Intermediate Uniform T Shirt (to keep) \$10

All fees listed above can be paid online at Greenspun's Webstore (click on the "Orchestra" tab in the webstore or search for the specific fee you are paying), or by visiting either the Greenspun Banker or the Orchestra Aide in person (cash only).

### **INSTRUMENT GUIDE/SUPPLY LIST**

We would like to start playing the instruments as soon as possible so please do your best to visit the music stores as soon as your child has been assigned an instrument choice. Several students choose to purchase their own instrument and most shops have rent-to-own programs. I'm excited if you have made this decision, especially because we have a shortage of school instruments.

Please do not get a random instrument off of the internet unless it is from a REPUTABLE MUSIC STORE. **Often these instruments are useless and you will find that you have wasted your money. (bought for example from stores that sell groceries, or unreliable sources)** They often cannot be tuned properly, or simply sound like a toy instrument. The cheaper the instrument, the more likely it is that it will not get a good sound and it WILL ALMOST ALWAYS NEED REPAIRS. These instruments are NOT a good investment. I will not touch some of these instruments to help students tune due to a problem with instrument breakage issues. Many of the instruments need more work from a shop to get it in working order than they cost. Specific information about instruments and accessories can be found at the end of this handbook.

If you are unsure, please contact me. We have many of the needed accessories at school and most of these items have already been covered in the orchestra fee. (Please read the fee section of the handbook) Remember that Greenspun no longer takes checks, only cash or money orders. If you have some of the items already, other prices can be found on the Greenspun web store or by emailing me, or by calling and/or visiting the music stores.

**We do not want financial difficulties to get in the way. If you cannot afford the items your child needs for orchestra, we do have some instruments available and supplies at the school for a nominal usage fee.**

## **We never turn down students due to financial issues.**

***Simply send us a written note to let us know what you need help with!!***

Most cello and bass players use school-owned instruments and keep one at home and share one at school.

The stores listed below, have instruments that will be a worthwhile investment for your child: (they may cost a little more, but will last a long time, will sound good, will tune, will be the correct size, can be repaired if needed, and will have good resale value)

If you are unsure, please contact me. We have most of the needed accessories at school (mainly books, shoulder rests and rosin), so feel free to purchase those through the web store or directly through us. Remember that Greenspun no longer takes checks, only cash or money orders. Prices can be found on the Greenspun web store or by calling and/or visiting the music stores.

Thank you for helping your child to be successful in orchestra!

Some of the quality music dealers in the area:

1. Violin Outlet - 900 Karen Ave. #A122, 89109 702-733-3028 info@violinoutlet.com
2. Kessler Music – 9550 S Eastern Ave. Henderson, 89074 702-492-7263  
rentals.kesslermusic.com
3. Desert Strings – 4040 E. Post Road Suite F-6, 89120 702-736-8934 info@desertstrings.us
4. Family Music Center 2714 Green Valley Pkwy. Henderson, 89014 702-435-4080
5. Music and Arts

Violin: (many of the supplies are included in the orchestra fee as listed above)

1. Wooden instrument rented or purchased through a MUSIC store (listed below) – if you have financial difficulties, please let us know the first week of school so that we can provide a school instrument for your child for a minimal usage fee. We know that several students will need a school instrument in order to participate.
2. Sponge shoulder rest or Everest shoulder rest for beginners. Intermediate and Advanced students must upgrade to the Everest shoulder rest.
3. Extra set of strings
4. Soft Cloth for cleaning
5. Rosin
6. Folding music stand for home use
7. Tuner or tuning app
8. 2-3 pencils, paper
9. Books listed below by appropriate class.

Viola:

1. Wooden instrument rented or purchased through a MUSIC store (listed below) – if you have financial difficulties, please let us know the first week of school so that we can provide a school instrument for your child for a minimal usage fee. We know that several students will need a school instrument in order to participate.
2. Sponge shoulder rest or Everest shoulder rest for beginners. Intermediate and Advanced students must upgrade to the Everest shoulder rest.
3. Extra set of strings
4. Soft Cloth for cleaning
5. Rosin
6. Folding music stand for home use

7. Tuner or tuning app
8. 2-3 pencils, paper
9. Books listed below by appropriate class.

Cello:

1. Our cello players typically pay for usage fees from the school for 2 instruments. One is for home and one to be shared at school for a minimal usage fee. You may also opt to rent or purchase a wooden instrument through a MUSIC store (listed below).
2. Cello strap or rock stop
3. Extra set of strings
4. Soft Cloth for cleaning
5. Rosin
6. Folding music stand for home use
7. Tuner or tuning app
8. 2-3 pencils, paper
9. Books listed below by appropriate class.

Bass:

1. Our bass players typically pay for usage fees from the school for 2 instruments. One is for home and one to be shared at school for a minimal usage fee. You may also opt to rent or purchase a wooden instrument through a MUSIC store (listed below).
2. Rock Stop
3. Soft Cloth for cleaning
4. Rosin
5. Folding music stand for home use
6. Tuner or tuning app
7. 2-3 pencils, paper
8. Books listed below by appropriate class.

It is essential that every student has a book in order to complete assignments and properly prepare for performance tests. Assignments will be made from these books as part of daily instruction. If a replacement is needed, they can be purchased through the webstore online or in the orchestra room. (They are included in the orchestra fee - so don't pay twice).

Beginning Orchestra Class Book: String Basics Book I by Terry Shade and Jeremy Woolstenhulme (Please make sure the book matches the instrument you have chosen)

Intermediate Orchestra: Class Book: String Basics Book II Terry Shade and Jeremy Woolstenhulme (Please make sure the book matches the instrument you have chosen and students should still have String Basics, Book I from last year)

Advanced Orchestra: Class Book: String Basics Book III by Terry Shade and Jeremy Woolstenhulme (Please make sure the book matches the instrument you have chosen and students should still have String Basics, Book II from last year)



## FORMS

After reading this handbook in its entirety, complete and return all forms to the orchestra director. These forms and all fees are due no later than **August 22nd**. We will begin playing the instruments on or before August 22<sup>nd</sup> in all classes, so please try to take care of this prior to this time. An instrument will not be issued without the proper signed forms (handbook and instrument forms) Students must have completed ALL pages on file before being allowed to participate in orchestra activities and concerts.

It may seem like there are a large number of forms to complete for one class, but we do this all now so we don't have to bother you for the rest of the year! :)

Form Checklist (These forms will be sent home with the student separately):

- [Field Trip Permit](#)
- [Medical Form](#)
- [Virtual Performance Release](#)
- Instrument Agreement Form(s)
- [Orchestra Handbook Agreement Form](#)

## GREENSPUN JR. HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA 2023-2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST:

7 School Begins! Welcome Back!

### AUGUST:

31 Open House – Selected students perform 6 PM in full Uniform

### SEPTEMBER:

30 Honor Orchestra Auditions @ Clark HS (only advanced students who have diligently worked on the music)

### OCTOBER:

17, 24, 30 Honor Orchestra Rehearsals (for those who made this prestigious group) @Clark HS

### NOVEMBER:

1, 8 MS Honor Orchestra Rehearsal (for those who made this prestigious group)

9 MS Honor Orchestra Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsals, and Concert @UNLV (Those making this group will miss school all day on the 9th. Concert begins 7pm) \*Exact times will be given as information becomes available.

### DECEMBER:

1 Fine Arts Road Show (Details will be given at a later date)

**13 Greenspun Orchestra Concert – REQUIRED PERFORMANCE FOR ALL ORCHESTRA STUDENTS.**

### JANUARY:

25-27 \*TBD\* TBA Elementary Visits (Chamber orchestra performs one day this Week. Field Trip.)

27 GVHS Fine Arts Assembly - possible field trip for advanced and 8th grade students.

31 Instrument Night for 5<sup>th</sup> graders (will need student volunteer help)

### FEBRUARY:

TBA CCSD MS Solo and Ensemble Contest

**MARCH:**

- 8 Pre-Festival Concert @ GVHS (advanced orchestra REQUIRED)  
6:00pm Call-Time.
- 27-29 Advanced Orchestra Festival (REQUIRED FOR ALL ADVANCED  
ORCHESTRA STUDENTS ) UNLV Time TBA (very important  
performance)
- 30 5th grade parent orientation - Advanced Required Performance  
@ 6:00 PM
- 31 Fine Arts Assembly at Greenspun - Advanced Orchestra Performs  
(@ AM)
- TBA Nevada Intermediate Festival Time and place TBA. REQUIRED FOR  
ALL INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA STUDENTS.

**APRIL:**

- TBA Possible Auditions during class for next year's groups
- TBA Music Department Trip to California

**May:**

- 4 **Greenspun Junior High Orchestra SPRING Concert – ALL  
ORCHESTRA STUDENTS REQUIRED PERFORMANCE**

**Times and dates on this calendar are subject to change. Notice will be given to any additions or changes as far in advance as possible. (for example, many events do not have times attached yet and the fundraisers are not listed at this time) Please remember that the times listed are NOT arrival times, only performance times. We will send a newsletter through our students as necessary.**