

George Washington Middle School

*Band and Orchestra  
Handbook*

*2023-2024 School Year*



Teacher/Director: Mr. Rauch

Contact Info: rauche@lyons103.org

Phone for Instrumental Music Office at GWMS:  
708-783-4200 ext. 2450

Website: <https://sites.google.com/lyons103.org/gwmsbandandorchestra>

Instagram: @gwmsbandorch

### Goal

The students in the band and orchestra program at GWMS will:

- Grow consistently as musicians
- Perform quality music in varying styles
- Be positive contributors in all areas of the school.

### Communication

If you ever have a question please ask! Let me know if there are questions, problems, and especially conflicts so that we can work them out! The sooner, the better! Please don't drop a surprise on Mr. Rauch!

All information regarding band and orchestra can be found online at <https://sites.google.com/lyons103.org/gwmsbandandorchestra> and in the student's Google Classroom account. Information is posted on this site and to Google Classroom on a regular basis so please check it often.

Our full performance calendar is posted on our [website](#). You will get information about a performance as it nears, but you will not get a full calendar since it is online.

I will send emails out to parents about once a month or sooner if we are near an event. Please make sure that I have a correct email so the information is received.

## Materials

Students are expected to have the following items at all times:

- Instrument
  - In working condition
  - Kept in case
  - Stored in assigned place
  - Has a name tag with the student's information
- Music and Book
  - Students purchase and own their method book
- All necessary accessories for your instrument (Oil, Reeds, Sticks, Rosin, etc.)
  - Students are responsible for replacing/replenishing their necessary supplies
- A pencil

## Expectations

*These apply whether we are in person or meeting virtually.*

1. Be Respectful
  - a. There is a lot of equipment in the rehearsal room. You only need to be concerned with *your* equipment and music. Stay away from equipment that is not yours to use.
  - b. Gum is not allowed in the rehearsal room
  - c. Be considerate of people's viewpoints and situations.
2. Be Responsible
  - a. Punctual:

Arrive on time to all lessons, rehearsals, and concerts in person and online.

On time means arriving *before* the start time of a lesson or rehearsal as well as *before* the call time for a concert.
  - b. Prepared:

Have the materials listed above. If you need something, ask for it *before* class! Students are to replenish their own supplies, reeds, valve oil, rosin, Mr. Rauch's supply is for emergency use only!

### 3. Be Safe

Students need to focus their energy on accomplishing the objectives for that day's class. Students should also be willing to take chances and have a positive attitude toward trying new ideas.

### Discipline

Students who disrupt class through poor behavior and/or attitude will be disciplined according to the student handbook. Steps taken to ensure the best learning environment for all include, but are not limited to: verbal warning, meet with teacher after class, detention (after school), phone call home, and office referral.

### Ensembles

*Symphonic Band: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders*

*Symphonic Orchestra: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders*

*Concert Band: 6<sup>th</sup> Graders*

*Concert Orchestra: 6<sup>th</sup> Graders*

#### *Jazz Band*

Jazz Band meets after school on Tuesdays starting in October. The band meets once a week and performs at a variety of events including the Winter Band Concert, Collage, and the LTHS Jazz Festival. The students learn how to improvise solos, and how to play in the swing style. Jazz Band is open to students who play any band or orchestra instrument and to those who play piano or guitar.

*Director discretion will be used and auditions may be held to determine members of the band. Membership in Jazz Band will be open to 7th and 8th graders; interested 6th graders may join starting in January if circumstances allow.*

#### *Pops Orchestra*

Pops Orchestra is a performance club limited to string students. This ensemble will meet once a week after school on Mondays starting in October. Music selections for this group will mainly be from "pop" music, or music you may be

listening to today. The group will perform at the Winter Orchestra Concert and Collage.

### Grades

All Band and Orchestra members earn quarterly grades for their participation in their ensemble.

Students will earn their grade by accumulating points for daily effort, performance assessments and written work.

**\*\*\*\*All performances are required!** Unexcused absences do result in lost points. Total value is determined on a case by case basis. If there are extenuating circumstances outside of a student's reasonable control that lead to an absence from a concert please contact Mr. Rauch as soon as possible.

### Extra Help

Any student can come for extra help or extra practice. The best times for this are before school, after school, at lunch, or during morning advisory.

### Practicing

Students are expected to practice their instruments at home. The only way to improve is by regular practice. It is best to make practice part of a normal routine. Practicing should be done regularly and average 40 minutes a day.

### Private Lessons

Private lessons are the best way to improve your playing. You receive individual instruction from a more experienced person or even a professional on your same instrument. Students who take advantage of private lessons develop musically at a much faster rate. Refer to the department website for a list of teachers.

### Music Store

Quinlan and Fabish is the music store used by the Lyons #103 Music Department. They have a representative that makes weekly visits. If your instrument needs repair let me know and I can have

our representative take it in to the shop for you. **You are responsible for the cost of the repairs to your instrument!** It is required that you keep your instrument in working condition. Students can also buy all needed supplies from this store. Refer to the department website for a list of other area music stores.

#### Formal Concert Attire

Our performance attire is known as, “concert black.” For us, this will mean students will wear dress clothes with white tops and black bottoms (including shoes and socks). The white dress shirt should have a collar and black dress pants or skirts may also be worn.

*Wearing t-shirts, gym shoes, sweats, or jeans are not appropriate concert attire!*

#### Fees

THERE IS NO DISTRICT FEE FOR BAND AND ORCHESTRA!!!!!!

#### Parent Support

Parental support is **vital** to your success. Tell your parents what you are learning in band or orchestra. Encourage them to listen to you while you practice. Most importantly, tell them when you are giving a concert so that they can come and hear you play.

#### Other Activities

Students in band and orchestra can and SHOULD also be involved in other activities. I heavily encourage students to take part in the many clubs and teams that the school has to offer. However, it is important to remember to communicate with me and your coaches/sponsors whenever a conflict arises. Conflicts can often be worked out. **Be involved!**

## GWMS Bands and Orchestras Parental Acknowledgement

Complete the acknowledgement online. The form below is for anyone who needs a hard copy.

[Please click here](#), once to open the link, and a 2nd time to be directed to the Google Form.

Please submit by Friday, Aug. 25th.

My student and I have read the GWMS Instrumental Music Handbook, found either through email, the band/orchestra website, and the student's Google Classroom account. We understand the policies and procedures described in it. My student or I will contact Mr. Rauch at 783-4200 ext. 2450 or email at [rauche@lyons103.org](mailto:rauche@lyons103.org) when we have questions now or throughout the school year.

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Student Name

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Grade

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Ensemble

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Student Signature

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Parent Name

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Family Email

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Parent Signature

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Date