

Important:

There are two (2) action items at the end of this handbook that MUST be completed for your child to participate in Howard County GT Orchestra. You must

1.)electronically sign the

Commitment Form and you must

2.)complete your payment by June 20, 2025.



Howard County Middle School Gifted & Talented Orchestra

Student Musician Handbook

School Year 2025-2026

Co-Directors

Matthew Boggs
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Bonnie Zeitler
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Congratulations on being selected as a member of the Howard County Gifted and Talented (GT) Orchestra!! Thank you for being in our program. We are excited to make great music together in the year to come. This handbook describes the expectations and commitments for our program this year. It is important to review all contents and dates thoroughly as a family. Parents and musicians are required to complete the commitment agreement. Please complete this no later than **June 20, 2025**.

Please note: You **MUST** be enrolled in an orchestra at your school to participate in this group. Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information about our program.

Sincerely,

Matthew Boggs & Bonnie Zeitler

Rehearsal Schedule

REHEARSALS ARE AT CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL ON TUESDAYS

Parents are asked to help set up chairs before and take down chairs after rehearsal, if needed.

Fall Rehearsal Schedule

- September 9, 4:15-6:15 PM
- September 16, 4:15-6:15 PM
(NO REHEARSAL September 23)
- September 30, 4:15-6:15 PM
- October 7, 4:15-6:15 PM
- October 14, 4:15-6:15 PM
- **October 21, 4:15 – 6:15 PM**
*****SEATING AUDITIONS*****
- October 28, 4:15-6:15 PM
- November 4, 4:15-6:15 PM
- November 11, 4:15-6:15 PM
- November 18, 4:15-6:15 PM
(NO REHEARSAL November 25)
- December 2, 4:15-6:15 PM

Concert Date: Sunday, December 7

Location: Dress Rehearsal & Concert at the
Jim Rouse Theatre for the Performing Arts

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Dress Rehearsal
2:00 PM CONCERT

Location of Events

Centennial High School
4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, MD

Jim Rouse Theatre for the Performing Arts
5460 Trumpeter Road Columbia, MD

Spring Rehearsal Schedule

- January 6, 4:15-6:15 PM
- January 13, 4:15-6:15 PM
- January 20, 4:15-6:15 PM
- January 27, 4:15-6:15 PM
- February 3, 4:15-6:15 PM
- February 10, 4:15-6:15 PM
(NO REHEARSAL February 17)
- **February 24, 4:15-6:15 PM**
***** SEATING AUDITIONS *****
- March 3, 4:15-6:15 PM
- March 10, 4:15-6:15 PM
- March 17, 4:15-6:15
- March 24, 4:15-6:15 PM
- April 7, 4:15-6:15 PM
- April 14, 4:15-6:15 PM
- April 21, 4:15-6:15 PM
- April 28, 4:15-6:15 PM

Concert Date: Saturday, May 2

Location: Dress Rehearsal & Concert at
Centennial High School

Time:

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Dress Rehearsal
3:00 PM CONCERT

Attendance

Attendance at **all** events (sectionals, rehearsals, performances) is **mandatory**. HCPSS Policy 8090: Non-School Hour Participation Requirements for Elementary and Secondary Curricular Programs states that events scheduled during non-school-hour activities mandated by a curricular program are **required** of the student participant.

HCPSS Policy 9010: Attendance states that a lawful absence may include any of the following conditions:

- | | |
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| ❖ Death in the immediate family | ❖ Suspension |
| ❖ Illness of the student | ❖ Lack of authorized transportation |
| ❖ Court summons | ❖ Other emergency or set of circumstances which, in the judgment of the Superintendent |
| ❖ Hazardous weather conditions | ❖ or designee, constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school |
| ❖ Work approved or sponsored by the school | |
| ❖ Observance of a religious holiday | |
| ❖ State emergency | |

Absence due to pre approved activities must be communicated via email at least two weeks in advance of the absence.

Absence due to illness or emergency must be communicated via email before rehearsal begins.

Missing more than one rehearsal per concert cycle for any reason will be cause for review and may result in the ensemble member's dismissal from the ensemble.

Music Preparation

Gifted & Talented ensemble members are expected to practice and learn the selected music at home. Rehearsals are not for note learning. We reserve the right to dismiss the student for insufficient preparation of the music.

Students' seating will be determined after the seating audition each semester. The Directors may change students' seats based on performance, behavior, or what is best for the ensemble at any time.

Rehearsal Expectations

Ensemble Members must ***attend the entirety of every rehearsal and performance.*** Students should arrive **no later than 4:05pm** so that rehearsals can begin promptly at

4:15pm. A student who arrives at 4:15pm is late. Students who are late once will be given a verbal warning. A second offense will warrant a call home and a request that parents/guardians arrange for transportation to be timely. Tardiness is cause for dismissal.

Rehearsals end promptly at 6:15pm and parents/guardians must pick up their children **EXACTLY** on time.

Inclement Weather Policy

The following inclement weather policy will be utilized:

- ☐ Countywide no school due to inclement weather = **NO rehearsal**
- ☐ Countywide early dismissal due to inclement weather = **NO rehearsal**

Our website address is hocoyo.org/msgto. Please bookmark this address and check it for rehearsal updates, emergency cancellations, and other information.

Materials for Instruction

Upon arrival to all rehearsals, it is the responsibility of each ensemble member to have the following items in their possession: pencil, tuner, and your music (not your stand partner's).

Instrument Security & Identification

It is the responsibility of each ensemble member to take their instrument to/from each rehearsal. Each instrument should have an identification tag that includes: student's full name, student's school, type of instrument, phone #, and email address.

Uniform

It is the responsibility of each ensemble member to provide the specified items to be worn for the performance:

- ☐ Black long-sleeved button-down shirt or other black dress shirt. NO t-shirts.
- ☐ Black slacks or a long-length skirt. NO jeans or leggings.
- ☐ Black dress shoes and black socks. NO tennis shoes.

Code of Conduct

The ensemble members are expected to follow general school rules at all times. In addition, the following behaviors will not be tolerated:

- ☐ Disrespect to peers, adults, chaperones, staff, or performers
- ☐ Use of electronic devices
- ☐ Playing instruments or touching equipment other than your own
- ☐ Use of profanity

All members are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct at all times. Failure to obey these expectations may result in the following disciplinary action:

1. A warning will be given to the ensemble member from the ensemble director(s)
2. A conference between the parent/guardian and ensemble director(s) will occur
3. Removal from the ensemble will occur without refund of the yearly fee.

Extreme circumstances may result in immediate movement to step 3 at the discretion of the directors and/or the HCPSS Coordinator of Music.

Payment Information

A non-refundable payment of \$350 is required for participation in this ensemble.

When making a payment for GT Ensemble, the following guidelines are necessary for record keeping:

- ✓ Please pay via credit card using the OSP link provided in the acknowledgement form at the end of this handbook

All payments must be received by **June 20, 2025.**

ACTION ITEMS TO COMPLETE:

Please click on both of these links to complete the [commitment form](#) and [submit payment](#). This form must be completed and payment must be submitted by **June 20, 2025.**