



George C. Marshall High School Orchestras
7731 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22043

August 25, 2014

Dear GCM Orchestra Parents and Students,

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. Mine was filled with teaching at the GMU Ovations and the Stallion Summer Strings camps, as well as working on many projects in our new house. I was also able to visit Lake Tahoe and Sacramento, California. Most recently, my family welcomed my nephew into the world! It was a wonderful summer but I am excited to get back to school and making music!

Last year was another year of success and growth for the Marshall Orchestras. We gave a fun Masquerade-themed Fall concert, a Winter concert where we collaborated with the band and choir, performed outstandingly at the District Assessment, and gave an awesome Spring Concert which featured our senior class from 2014. Our trip to Orlando, Florida was complicated by my appendicitis but all of the students and chaperones who went tell me that it was a great trip nonetheless! Our enrollment has continued to grow, which has resulted in us adding a fourth orchestra this year! I am so grateful that we were able to maintain the parents' organization, MOPA, which supports the orchestra program. All in all, it was a very successful year, and I am excited to see what we can do this year!

In order for us to continue down the path of success, there are high expectations for me, for students, and for parents. I promise to be fair, be available, and be the best musician and director I can be. Enclosed in this packet you will find the following:

- Information on the required ORCH-ientation on Sept. 10th 7-9pm
- 2014-2015 Orchestra Calendar

- Check-list for what to do before the first day of class (also includes instructions on how to obtain the Orchestra Syllabus/Handbook and how to fill out the online form)
- Uniform Sheet
- Emergency Care Card
- Cello/Bass students only – Rental Contract for school instrument use

I ask that you please review all of the information. We will be going over it in more detail both in class and at the ORCH-ientation event on September 10th.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. I also welcome feedback from students and parents, and have an open door policy when it comes to anything that might be of concern to you. I am available by appointment to assist students during 'Learn' or after school. I am confident that this is going to be an awesome year! Go Marshall Orchestra!

Musically Yours,

Catherine Bond, Orchestra Director
Office Phone: 703.714.5320
E-mail: cabond@fcps.edu
www.gcmorchestra.org

enclosures



George C. Marshall High School Orchestras' Orientation Night

ORCH-ientation!!!

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

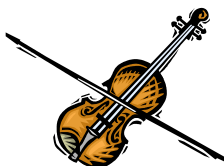
7-9pm

Marshall Auditorium

Required attendance for all Marshall Orchestra members and at least ONE parent/guardian.

Please remember to bring:

1. This paper (Uniform Order Sheet is on other side)
2. Uniform pieces if needed for trade (laundered!)
3. Your instrument
4. Your checkbook (for payment of dues, uniform/t-shirt purchase, and to purchase supplies.)





ORCHientation

September 10, 2014

Agenda:

7:00pm-7:40pm

- Welcome
- Handbook Overview
- Calendar Overview
- Demonstration - The “A+ Orchestra”
- Demonstration - Uniforms
- Introduction of MOPA Board
- Sponsorship Program

7:40pm-8:00pm

- Students move to band room for team-building activity
- Parents to remain in auditorium for MOPA presentation

8:00pm

- UNIFORMS – Orchestra room 301
- VENDORS for Instrument Inspection/Repair – Cafeteria
- ALL PAYMENTS (plus t-shirt, magnet, and sticker purchase) – Auditorium

*Sinfonia and Philharmonic – begin in Auditorium

*Concert – begin in orchestra room/Uniforms

*Symphonic – begin in Cafeteria/Vendors

When you are finished feel free to move to the next thing you need to take care of. Once you have visited all 3 areas, you are free to leave.



Here is what you need to do BEFORE the first day of school!

1. Go to the orchestra website www.gcmorchestra.org and click on “For Current Members.” Read over the **Orchestra Syllabus/Handbook** with your parent.
2. When you have finished reading the handbook, at the end there is a link to an **online form that each student must fill out**. Please click on the link and fill out the form completely. (You may need your parent’s help.)
3. **Review the calendar** included in this packet and add all dates to your electronic calendar, family calendar, etc. *Don’t forget to add our NEW orientation night “ORCH-ientation” on September 10th from 7-9pm. This event is required for all orchestra members and at least one parent/guardian to attend!*
4. Complete the **Emergency Care Card** (or print an extra copy if your parents keep an electronic version) to be turned in to Mrs. Bond on the FIRST DAY of class. Be sure it is SIGNED by your parent!
5. Dig out your old **orchestra uniform** if you are a returning member – try it on and see if it still fits and has all its pieces. New uniforms and missing pieces can be ordered at ORCH-ientation, as well as any size swaps. Bring the included Uniform Order Sheet that night!
6. Dig your instrument out or get to the store to rent one. Violins/violas DO need to bring instruments on the first day of class! Cellos/Basses – please bring the included rental contract along with check made out to Marshall HS on the FIRST DAY in order to have access to an instrument in class. **We WILL be playing on the first day!** 😊

See you next week! Looking forward to a GREAT year! Fill out the BACK of this sheet and turn it in on the FIRST DAY of orchestra class!

GCM Orchestra Uniform Order Sheet 2014-2015

All orchestra students must complete and return this form at ORCH-ientation

All GCM Orchestra Members must have a uniform. Members who are new to Marshall Orchestra will need to order the entire set. If you have a uniform from a former school, please bring it in to ORCH-ientation for approval. The men's uniform consists of a black tuxedo jacket, tuxedo pants, white wing collared shirt (Kilmer men will need to order a new shirt), black bow tie, and cummerbund.

Men:

Jacket - \$60.00

Shirt Size: _____

Shirt - \$14.00

Pant Size: _____

Pant - \$26.75

Bow tie - \$3.00

Cummerbund - \$7.00

Mens Total: \$101.00 (full set price)

Ladies:

Dress - \$54.50

Dress Size: _____

Shrug jacket - \$31.00

Shirt Size: _____

Ladies Total: \$85.50

Student Name: _____ Orchestra: Sfa Phil Sym Con

- I have a GCM orchestra uniform from last year, it is still in good shape, and it fits.
- I need a full uniform. Attached is my check (payable to MOPA) for \$_____.
- I need to purchase partial uniform. (List pieces you need: _____)

Attached is my check (payable to MOPA) for \$_____.

- I need a different size from last year (*Before receiving or ordering a replacement for a swap, the item needs to be brought in for approval. If it is in good condition and can be re-used, a swap will be honored. Please bring the item to ORCH-ientation for inspection. Please make sure the item(s) to be swapped are clean.*)

Please bring this sheet along with payment to ORCH-ientation on Sept. 10th. If you need financial assistance, please contact Mrs. Bond prior to Sept. 10th at cabond@fcps.edu or 703.714.5320.

ALL UNIFORM PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY SEPTEMBER 17th or you will need to order your own uniform directly from the company.

Parent Signature: _____ Phone: _____

GCM Orchestra Student and Parent Handbook Agreement 2014-2015

complete and bring in on the FIRST class meeting

Student Agreement:

I, _____, attest that I have done the following:
(student name)

Student should initial each item:

_____ I have read the orchestra handbook/syllabus and understand the membership requirements and grading policies of the George C. Marshall Orchestra Program. I will work hard and do my best so that I, as well as all members of the orchestra, can have a successful experience.

_____ My parent and I have completed the online form.

_____ I have entered all GCM Orchestra dates that pertain to me into my calendar. I have notified Mrs. Bond of any direct conflicts. I understand the attendance policies in regards to rehearsals and concerts.

_____ I will be attending the ORCH-ientation on September 10th from 7-9pm with at least one parent/guardian. *(If you have an unavoidable conflict, please notify Mrs. Bond immediately.)*

_____ My parent and I have completed the following forms and I will turn them in at my orchestra's 1st class meeting:

- Orchestra Handbook Agreement (this sheet! 😊)
- Emergency Care Card (copy for Mrs. Bond to keep for trips, etc.)
- Cello/Bass only*: Complete Instrument Rental Contract and payment of \$46 (check or money order to "Marshall HS")
- Violin/Viola only*: bring your INSTRUMENT!

Student Signature

Date

Parent Agreement:

As a parent(s)/legal guardian of this student, I/we understand the criteria set forth in regard to being a member of the George C. Marshall Orchestra program, specifically in regard to practicing, grading, and rehearsal/concert attendance.

Parent Signature

Date



George C. Marshall High School
7731 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22043

Orchestra Syllabus and Handbook 2014-2015

Catherine Bond, Director
703.714.5320 – office
cabond@fcps.edu – e-mail
www.gcmorchestra.org

Course Descriptions

Intermediate Orchestra

Prerequisite: successful audition and/or recommendation from former orchestra director.

This course offers instruction in the development of intermediate and advanced performing skills, including individual playing and ensemble techniques, and disciplinary skills needed for performance. After-school rehearsals and performances are required of all students as a part of the course.

Advanced Orchestra

Prerequisite: successful audition; one year in intermediate orchestra OR previous director recommendation

Students in these courses form the representative string performing groups for the school.

Emphasis is placed on the development of technical, ensemble, and disciplinary skills necessary for refined rehearsals and performance both in and out of school. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. After-school rehearsals and performances are required of all students as a part of the course.

The GCM HS Course Policy provided as a separate document will govern attendance make-up work, Learn, Technology Use, and the Honor Pledge regarding cheating and plagiarism.

Grading Policy

- 30% Daily Grade/Practice Journals
- 30% Individual Performance Assessments/Semester Project
- 40% Ensemble Performance Assessments

Daily Grades – are based on preparation and participation in class. Students must come to rehearsal prepared with instrument, all necessary equipment, and folder. In order to actively participate in rehearsal, students must practice assigned selections. Practice journaling will occur in class as part of the daily grade.

Individual Performance Assessments -- will be announced in advance and will occur in class or by appointment. Individual Performance Assessments may also serve as a seating test.

Ensemble Performance Assessments -- include After-School Rehearsals and Performances and are *mandatory* for all members of the orchestra. After-School Rehearsals will occur prior to performances as needed. The director reserves the right to schedule after-school rehearsals as necessary. Performances are our main form of assessment and advancement as musicians. Please see the enclosed calendar for performance dates. Students who have a conflict with a performance should have their parent notify the director *immediately* via e-mail or phone. The director and the GCM Administration reserve the right to determine whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Unexcused absences cannot be made up. Students with an excused absence from a performance can complete an assignment for partial credit. See director for assignment.

Conduct

All George C. Marshall High School and FCPS rules and regulations apply at all times. Orchestra members are expected to be respectful at all times, and have: “respect for oneself, respect for one-another, and respect for our community.”

Supplies

Instrument (of correct size) with new strings and fresh bow hair annually
Proper shoulder rest (violin/viola)
End pin rest (cello/bass)
Soft cloth (for cleaning)
Rosin
Folder/binder (for practice copies and completed practice journals)
Metronome that plays at least A 440 (a metronome/tuner combo is best)
Short fingernails
Uniform and orchestra t-shirt

Sheet Music

All original parts will remain at GCM in the black concert folders. One original part will be assigned to each stand. Students may make light markings in pencil only. Students will be responsible for their assigned part and will be charged to replace parts that are ruined or missing.

Practice copies will be given to each student so that students can practice at home. Only one copy of each selection will be handed out. Students who misplace practice copies will need to make their own copies from another member of the section. All practice copies must be turned in or shredded once we are finished working on the selection. Practice copies are to be kept in a separate folder and brought to class so that any markings or changes can be made in class.

Text books are provided for each student, but are property of GCM. Books must be returned in good condition, or the student/parent will be charged to replace the book.

Practice

In order for the orchestra to perform its best as a group, each and every member must practice the new skills and music taught in class at home. Parents are asked to support your child's success by encouraging them to practice every day. Provide a quiet, well-lit place for them to work. Purchasing a music stand is highly encouraged – folding stands are available at any of the local music dealers listed later in this handbook for around \$15.

Practice journaling/planning will take place during class and will be part of the students Daily Grade. Students who are not able to demonstrate improvement on skills and music taught in class will be assigned a practice chart to complete, or possibly moved down an ensemble level. Mrs. Bond is also available by appointment during 'Learn' or after school for extra help.

Uniforms

Orchestra uniforms are required for every member, and currently consist of a tuxedo for gentlemen and a dress with shrug for ladies. Students are expected to arrive at each performance with a clean, pressed uniform. Ladies are asked to wear hair out of their face and refrain from wearing any flashy jewelry.

Returning students whose uniform is complete and still fits are not obligated to purchase any further portions. New students and freshmen will need to purchase their uniform. Fittings will occur during ORCH-ientation. The purchase prices are included on the Uniform Order Form (approximately \$100.) Students who own a uniform but need to swap for a different size must bring the pieces for trade to ORCH-ientation for inspection. Please be sure that pieces are laundered.

Students must also provide their own footwear. Ladies must wear an appropriate black close-toed shoe with black tights or hosiery. Gentlemen must wear an appropriate black dress shoe and black socks.

An orchestra t-shirt will also be required for us to be uniform at certain events. This year we will be utilizing the dark blue t-shirt. Students who need a shirt may purchase one at ORCH-ientation for \$10.

Instrument Lockers

Instrument lockers will be assigned to each orchestra member for storage of their instrument during the school day. Students must use the GCM lock and are NOT to share their combination with any other students. Instrument storage rooms will be unlocked by 7:10am each morning and will be locked in the afternoons at 2:40pm or later. Students who decide to leave instruments overnight do so at their own risk.

Instruments

There are several options for obtaining an instrument if you do not currently own:

1. **Purchasing an instrument.** I have included a list of local music dealers who you can contact about purchasing an instrument. I do not recommend purchasing an instrument on the internet.
2. **Renting an instrument.** Many of the music dealers in the area have great rental programs, or have great rent-to-own programs. There are several questions you will want to ask the music dealer before choosing which shop to rent from. Those can be found below.
3. **Obtaining an instrument through Fairfax County.** If your family qualifies for the free or reduced lunch program, your child is eligible to obtain an instrument for the school year at the rate of \$20 per year. Parents can contact Mrs. Bond for more information on this program.

Renting an Instrument:

I am not permitted to recommend one music dealer over another to you. You may want to call the music dealers listed on the next page ahead of time, as there are a few questions you will want to ask the dealers. There ARE dealers who will answer ALL SIX of these correctly!

Questions to ask when renting an instrument:

1. *Does ALL of the money that you spend renting an instrument go towards the purchase or do you only get some of your money? (You should get it all)*
2. *When purchasing an instrument, do you get the list price or the lowest price? (You should get the lowest price that the instrument will sell at)*
3. *Do you have to purchase the instrument that you are renting or can the money you spend on the rental go towards the purchase of another instrument? (You should be able to purchase another instrument. Your child might grow out of it, or you may want to upgrade to a better model)*
4. *Will the rental rate change; is there an introductory rate and then after so many months, the rate goes up? (The rental rate should stay the same)*
5. *Are there insurance, maintenance fees or any other hidden fees? (You can insure the instrument on your homeowner's policy. If you want to put money aside for maintenance, put it in your bank account. If you give them the money and don't use the services, you will not get the money back)*
6. *Will the store take back the purchased instrument for the amount that you paid for it and use 100% of that towards an upgraded instrument? (They should)*

A note to cello and bass students:

Cello and bass students need to have an instrument to keep at home and may rent a school instrument to keep at school, as larger instruments are not allowed on the school bus. Contracts and rental fees will be sent home accordingly. Please be advised that students will need to bring their home instruments in on occasion to be tuned/checked for repairs, and **must bring them for all after-school rehearsals and performances!**

Local Music Dealers:

Potter's Violin Shop*
4706 Highland Avenue
Bethesda 301.652.7070
www.pottersviolins.com

Brobst Violin Shop*
5584 General Washington Dr.
Alexandria 703.256.0566
www.brobstviolins.com

Day Violins*
14221A Willard Road Suite 500
Chantilly 703.391.9444
www.dayviolins.com

Maley's McLean Music
6224-A Old Dominion Drive
McLean 703.532.4009

Foxes Music Company
416 S. Washington Street
Falls Church 703.533.7393

Music and Arts, McLean
1388 Chain Bridge Road
McLean 703.356.9394
www.musicarts.com

**Specialize in stringed instruments*

Helpful websites for purchasing strings and other equipment:

www.sharmusic.com

www.swstrings.com

Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required, but are strongly encouraged. Private lessons are not remedial, but instead help students at any level to progress more rapidly on their instrument than classroom instruction alone. A list of local private instructors can be found on the GCM Orchestra website www.gcmorchestra.org.

Orchestra Class Officers

Each orchestra class period will have officers to assist with various tasks and events throughout the year. More information will be given in-class regarding this opportunity.

Marshall Orchestra Parents Association

The Marshall Orchestra Parents Association (“MOPA”) is the booster organization that supports the Marshall Orchestra program. Our meetings this year will be held at 7:00pm in the orchestra room 301 on the following dates:

Wednesday, October 8th
Wednesday, November 19th
Tuesday, February 17th
Tuesday, April 21st

The meetings are open to all orchestra parents- we would love to have you involved in any way you are willing and able! More information will be given at ORCH-ientation.

**A “note” regarding the system for payments to MOPA: there is a lockbox in the orchestra room 301. All payments to MOPA will be turned in to this box. Students must always complete and envelope and put their payment inside. Please ALWAYS write student’s name and reason for payment in the “memo” section of the check. Payment should be in form of check or money order only.*

***At the ORCH-ientation night, the MOPA board will discuss fundraising intentions for this year, as well as the membership donation dues that we ask each member to pay.*

Orchestra Website

Please check the Orchestra Website (www.gcmorchestra.org) “For Current Members” section for updates to the calendar and details about various events and activities. Please note that photos of the orchestra at various events might be posted to this site as well as other materials for the program. If you do not want your child included in photos that may be published to the community/public, please notify Mrs. Bond in writing immediately.

Congratulations! You are finished reading the GCM Orchestra Handbook/Syllabus! Please click [HERE](#) and complete the Google Form. Thank you!



George C. Marshall Orchestra Calendar 2014-2015

Required events in **bold**.

September 10	ORCH-ientation Night @ GCM 7-9pm
September 29	SRO Auditions @ McLean HS
October 4	Car Wash @ GCM 9am-1pm
October 8	MOPA meeting @ GCM 7:00pm
October 27	Fall Concert Rehearsal @ GCM 2:30-4:30pm
October 28	<u>Fall Concert</u> @ GCM 7:00pm <i>*Call time for performers 6:00pm</i>
November 13-15	SRO Event @ Herndon HS <i>*participants selected from 9/30 audition</i>
November 18	All-District Honors Orchestra Auditions @ Carson MS
November 19	MOPA meeting @ GCM 7:00pm
December 9	Winter Concert Rehearsal 2:30-5:00pm
December 10	GCM Music Ensembles <u>Winter Concert</u> @ GCM 7:00pm <i>*Call time for orchestra members 6:00pm</i>
December 11-12	Ensemble photos taken during class time – must bring uniform to school!
January 10-11	All-District Honors Orchestra event @ Wakefield HS <i>*participants selected from 11/18 audition</i>
Jan-Feb	Citrus Fundraiser (delivery first week of March)
February/TBA	Sinfonia performs at Rising 9th Grade Orientation
February 17	MOPA meeting @ GCM 7:00pm

(OVER)

- March 2** **Assessment Rehearsal 2:30-4:30pm**
- March 3** **Assessment Rehearsal 2:30-4:30pm**
- March 4** **Assessment Rehearsal 2:30-4:30pm**
- March 4** **Pre-Assessment Concert @ GCM 7:00pm**
- March 17** **Assessment Rehearsal 2:30-4:30pm**
- March 18** **Assessment Rehearsal 2:30-4:30pm**
- March 19** **Assessment Rehearsal 2:30-4:30pm**
- Mar. 20-21** **District 12 Orchestra Assessment @ Oakton HS**
**Day/time TBA - please keep both days open*
- April 17 Solo and Ensemble Festival @ Rocky Run MS
- April 21 MOPA meeting @ GCM 7:00pm
- May 27** **Spring Concert Rehearsal 2:30-4:30pm**
- May 28** **Spring Concert and Awards @ GCM 7:00pm (banquet to precede)**
- June/TBA** **Sinfonia Performs at Baccalaureate Service (6pm call)**

All dates are subject to change, and additional dates may be added. Please check the orchestra website www.gcmorchestra.org for more details and updates. Refer to the Orchestra Syllabus and Handbook for information on concert attendance.