

Gratton School District

Wildcat Band and Music Handbook

2019-2020

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Gratton Music program. I have compiled some information to help prepare you for your musical school year. Please take some time to read over the Music Handbook.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE SIGNATURE PAGES AT THE END OF THE HANDBOOK by August 30th. This is a homework assignment.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year! Follow the rules in this handbook and your year will be rich and rewarding. Let's make some music!

Musically,

Katie Winkler
Director of Music
632-0505 ext. 108

Philosophy and Goals

The mission of the Gratton School Fine Arts Program is to expose students to a variety of performing arts and to provide an atmosphere where students can be successful in learning performance skills. Music and drama are enriching components of a comprehensive education and contribute to creating a well-rounded student. We aim to foster a high standard of excellence in the performing arts that will apply to all subjects at Gratton School.

Fine Arts Rules & Procedures

1. Be on time. This is especially important if your class is after lunch. Be in your seat and ready to rehearse when class begins. For Wildcat Band, the downbeat is at 12:35. Tardy policies will apply to band.
2. Respect each other and yourself.
3. Use only your own instrument or instruments you have been authorized to use.
4. Be prepared!
5. Do your best.
6. Abide by the six pillars of character: responsibility, respect, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Consequences

Step 1: Verbal Warning

Step 2: Parental Notification

Step 3: Lunchtime Detention

Step 4: Detention and Principal Referral

The Program

The fine arts program consists of all students K-8 at Gratton School. All students take part in the choral program. Beginning band is open to students in fifth grade and above who are learning to play an instrument. Advanced band is open to sixth-eighth graders who have finished one year of instruction on an instrument. Beginning concepts of drama are taught in class.

Grades

Grades are based on a point system that includes attendance, preparation, written work or tests, practice, classroom conduct and attitude, participation, at-home practice, and performances. Students must be prepared for class with appropriate materials (music, instrument, and pencil) and proper preparation at home. Since music class is not held every day, it is vital that students practice at home on a regular basis. Practice naturally reflects in a student's performance in class and has bearing on grading.

Performances

Music is a performance class. Since we spend our class time preparing for two major performances, those concerts are the "final" for the fine arts program. For this reason, performances are weighted heavily in the trimester grade. Please make every effort to attend the concerts.

Important Dates

Haunted House	October 26
Christmas Concert	December 5
Band Concert	April 2
Spring Concert	May 14 & 15

Band

Band includes all students in fifth through eighth grades. At this time, there is no orchestra or guitar program at Gratton. However, students who play the string bass or the bass guitar may be able to play in band in place of the tuba as space permits. Percussion begins in sixth grade by audition only. There are a limited number of school band instruments that are available for yearly rental. These are provided based on a random drawing. Learning to play an instrument helps improve cognition, promotes fluency in other subjects, and may open the door to a lifetime skill. Music is everywhere! Your child may love to be part of it.

Practice

Students will need to practice at home. For choir, I will be sending lyrics home for memorization and band students should bring their instruments home every Thursday night. Practice records will be part of the second and third trimester grade. Students who are cast in a theatrical role will be expected to memorize lines in a timely manner. Practice at home is vital to a strong musician and a strong program.

Private Lessons

Private study is a great way to boost ability beyond what is taught in the classroom. Please contact me if you are interested in private lessons and I can help you to find an instructor. Students will receive extra credit if they take music lessons on any instrument.

Parent Volunteers

Parents are encouraged to be a part of the fine arts experience at Gratton. We will be needing help with decorations, props, after school rehearsal supervision, construction, and chaperones. Parents can make the difference between a good program and a great program. We love our parent volunteers!

Field Trips

Eligibility for field trips will be based on a combination of grades, participation, and behavior. Remember, this is a reward trip that is earned. Students in seventh and eighth grades are eligible to participate in the fine arts reward field trip every other year to Great America or another similar theme park. Students must be in good standing to participate in any field trip. This is a band trip year. Keep those music grades up!

Have fun!

Music is a great way to express yourself. It's even better if you are good at it. Always do your best and you will find the joy in music.

Music schedule 2019-2020 Tuesday-Friday

Tuesday:

11:00-11:45 6th grade Band
11:50-12:30 Prep
12:30-1:15 Wildcat Band
1:15-1:45 7th choir
1:45-2:15 3rd Choir

Thursday:

11:00-11:45 6th grade Band
11:50-12:30 Prep
12:30-1:15 Wildcat Band
1:15-1:45 8th Choir
1:45-2:15 1st and 2nd Choir

Wednesday:

11:00-11:45
11:50-12:30 Prep

Friday:

11:00-11:45 4th Recorders (Spring)
11:50-12:30 Prep

12:30-1:15 5th Band
1:15-1:45 6th Choir
1:45-2:15 K Choir

12:30-1:15 5th Band
1:15-1:45 5th Choir
1:45-2:15 4th Choir

There are occasionally changes in the music schedule due to events at Gratton. All changes will be available to parents on the Gratton website.

Please sign and return this page by August 30th.

This is the first music assignment.

I have read the 2019-2020 Gratton Music Handbook and understand the rules, procedures and concert dates therein. I will do my best to follow them. I understand that all performances are weighted heavily in music grades.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature_____

I would like to help with the music program! I can do_____.

Parent Signature_____

Parent Phone_____

Parent Email_____