

Grosse Pointe South High School Band & Orchestra

11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
TEL: (313) 432-3641 FAX: (313) 432-3502

Instrumental Music Department Staff

James Gross, Director of Orchestras james.gross@gpschools.org
Christopher Takis, Director of Bands christopher.takis@gpschools.org

Grosse Pointe South High School Administration

Moussa Hamka	Principal
Cindy Parravano	Assistant Principal
Joe Spryszak	Assistant Principal
Jeremy Hawkins	Assistant Principal/ Athletic Director

2017-18 Band Officers

Harry Susalla	President
A.J. Rizer	Vice-President
Luke Adams	Secretary
Charlie Cielieska	Treasurer
Ransom McSunas	Symphony Band Rep
Bashar Abouljoud	Concert Band Rep

2017-18 Orchestra Officers

Simon Chen	President
Sarah Ashkar	Vice-President
Natasha Vatalaro	Secretary
Billy Beardslee	Treasurer
Morgan McVicar	Concert Orchestra Reps
Eliza Eaton	

2017-18 Band & Orchestra Boosters Officers

Hans Hummer	President
Lisa Caradonna	Vice-President
Debbie McSunas	Secretary
David Fleig	Treasurer
Stacey Chen	Member at-large (orch.)
Paula Draper	Member at-large (orch.)
Michele Lynch	Member at-large (band)
Hope Ellison	Member at-large (band)
John Ecclestone	Marching Band at-large
Rob Remelius	Jazz Band at-large
Kay Jarboe	Communications/Media

www.gpsbo.org

Grosse Pointe Schools Music Department Mission Statement

The mission of the music department is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to develop their innate music ability and maximum potential, to guide students to strive for excellence, and to nurture their lifelong appreciation for aesthetic experiences.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Grosse Pointe South High School Band and Orchestra! As a member of South's Instrumental Music Department, you've attained a distinctive level of individual musicianship and are to be congratulated for your past musical accomplishments. The purposes of this handbook are: 1) to outline basic policies of our program, 2) to outline specific expectations and requirements, and 3) to establish a framework for your individual efforts to contribute toward the success of our various ensembles and experiences. By understanding common procedures and responsibilities, band and orchestra members can streamline their efforts to attain higher levels of excellence in their musical endeavors. Best wishes for an exciting, enjoyable, and rewarding school year!

Attitude Is Everything!

The success of our instrumental music program is a reflection of students' interest, involvement, and commitment. As you know, mediocrity is quite easy to attain—it requires little or no effort. However, excellence requires that every single member of an ensemble do his or her best to achieve personal or group goals. Every member must dedicate a significant amount of time outside of school to individual practice and study. Every member must make a positive contribution to daily rehearsals and regular activities. Every member must accept and meet additional responsibilities that come with membership. Very simply, your attitude—the way you feel, think, and act toward your involvement in music—determines mediocrity or excellence. As with every other pursuit in life, “you'll get out of it only what you put into it.” Make it a habit to always do your best. Don't accept mediocrity from yourself or others. Strive for excellence and you'll attain it!

Rehearsals

Productive Rehearsals

Productive rehearsals are essential to the success of any ensemble, and are the result of personal commitment to progress. Here are some guidelines for productive rehearsals:

- Maintain a regular at-home practice schedule (3-4 sessions at 30 to 60 minutes minimum). Parts should be “learned” at home and “polished” at rehearsal.
- Be on time, in your seat, and ready to play when the director steps on the podium (3 minutes after the bell rings). Your attention should be totally focused on the director when rehearsal begins.

- Be prepared: have all books and music in order, keep a pencil on your stand. Take care of reeds, valve oil, mutes, rosin, and other supplies BEFORE rehearsal, not during.
- Always warm-up and tune carefully.
- DO NOT eat, drink, chew gum, do homework, read, talk, or play out-of-turn during rehearsal.
- LISTEN CAREFULLY! Listen to your director for instructions, listen to the sound YOU are producing, listen to other players and other sections for tone, pitch, balance, and blend. ALWAYS LISTEN CAREFULLY!!

Chair Positions

Chair positions for each section are determined by auditions at the beginning of each school year or semester, as necessary. Any section member can challenge the player seated next to him/her within two weeks after each concert. The same two people may be involved in a challenge only once per semester. A challenge form must be completed, and a date assigned 4-5 days in advance—absent challenges automatically forfeit their chair. Challenges take place before or after school only. Chair positions may be changed by the director without a challenge when warranted. Audition and challenge requirements are selected from the following:

- Selected major and/or minor scales
- Chromatic scale (full range of instrument)
- Current rehearsal excerpt
- Sight-reading

Grades

Thirty percent (30%) of the quarterly grade in band and orchestra is determined by class/rehearsal participation and conduct; students receive points for contributing positively to classes/rehearsals (punctuality, appropriate behavior, preparedness). All students are expected to contribute at least one hour of service time each quarter; this time is spent in an activity that contributes to the needs, goals, and positive reputation of the band and orchestra program (for example: concert set-up or tear-down, uniform distribution or collection, tutoring a younger student, community performance, etc.). A “band/orchestra service” form is to be submitted before the end of each quarter for credit to be given. The remaining seventy percent (70%) of the quarterly grade is determined by actual student performance on playing and/or written tests as well as participation at concert performances. Upon completion of each marking period, performance and participation grades points are totaled to represent the actual grade.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in the room before the tardy bell rings and be in their seat ready to begin rehearsal within three minutes of the tardy bell. Students will be marked tardy if they enter the room after the tardy bell rings, or are not in their seat within two minutes of the tardy bell. The fifth tardy will result in administrative referral and may result in the student being placed on the detention list for Saturday School.

Concert Grading Policy

As noted above, concert attendance and participation is required and included in the instrumental music grade. Concert performances are considered culminating activities that allow students to exhibit individual and ensemble progress on a regular basis. Any schedule conflicts must be brought to the director's attention by students AND parents as early as possible, at least two weeks prior to the event. If the schedule conflict cannot be resolved, an alternative assignment or project will be given. Only in cases of emergency (severe illness, death in the family, etc.) will performance absences be excused.

Mid-Term and Final Examinations

The mid-term examination will consist of a special rehearsal with guest conductor or actual playing and/or written test. Final examination: students are required to perform for the South graduation ceremonies at the end of the year. A dress rehearsal for graduation will be scheduled the last week of school. The dress rehearsal and graduation performance are recorded as part of the final examination grade.

Extra Credit

Up to ten (10) extra credit points will be added to a student's quarterly grade when a student:

- Participates in an extracurricular ensemble (2 pts.)
- Participates in MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival (2 pts.)
- Takes private lessons on his/her band or orchestra instrument (2 pts.)
- Submits a critique of an approved musical performance (1 pt.)
- Participates in an approved, community performance (1 pt.)

Extra credit forms must be submitted before the end of each quarter for credit to be given.

Practice

The success of our band and orchestra relies on the effort and musical preparedness of each and every member. Students are expected to maintain a consistent practice schedule so that best progress is achieved. AT-HOME PRACTICE IS YOUR HOMEWORK IN BAND AND ORCHESTRA, AND IT IS REQUIRED! While it is understood that nearly everyone's schedule is busy, it should also be understood that progress in instrumental music simply does not occur without regular practice, and musical excellence does not occur by accident—it is the result of personal commitment, as well as an investment of time and energy.

Private Instruction

All students are encouraged to study privately with a qualified instructor for maximum progress. Upon request, band and orchestra members will receive a list of recommended teachers. Our Chamber Ensemble coaches also offer private instruction (see below). Extra credit points are provided to students who take private lessons on their band/orchestra instrument.

Chamber Ensembles

Several co-curricular chamber ensembles provide students with opportunities to rehearse and perform in a small group setting. These ensembles meet before or after school and are coached by highly qualified professional musicians. Select chamber ensembles perform at MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival and at other events throughout the school year. Extra credit is provided to students who participate in a chamber ensemble (Chamber Orchestra, Brass/Clarinet Choir, etc.).

Chamber Orchestra

The most advanced students within the Symphony Orchestra will comprise the Chamber Orchestra, a group that will play the most advanced literature from the string orchestra repertoire. Chamber Orchestra meets from 3:30-4:30 on Fridays after school and will begin once Fall chair testing is over. The Chamber Orchestra regularly performs at String Extravaganza, MSBOA District XVI Chamber Festival, MSBOA State Chamber Festival, Spring Concert, and occasional community performances.

Full Orchestra

Full Orchestra (strings with winds and percussion) is a required ensemble for Symphony & Concert Orchestra members and highest chaired members of each section of Wind Ensemble/Symphony Band (depending on instrumentation needs) will be given priority. Full Orchestra rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM. Extra credit is provided to participating wind and percussion students.

Marching/Pep Band

All students are invited and encouraged to participate in the Marching Band (fall) and Pep Band (winter), which is an extra-curricular ensemble designed to provide excitement and spirit at various sporting events and school and community activities. Marching Band Camp takes place in August; after that, rehearsals are scheduled on Thursday evenings through October and December through February. Extra credit is provided to participating students.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an extra-curricular ensemble that rehearses Mondays from 6:30-8:30 PM and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 PM and performs at various school and community events throughout the school year, as well as selected state and regional jazz festivals. Membership is limited to students who play the following instruments: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drumset, bass, guitar, and piano. Auditions are required, and extra credit is provided to participating students. Members must be a current member of Wind Ensemble or Symphony/Concert Band/Orchestra. The Jazz Band performs at:

- Pops & Pastries/Band-O-Rama (November/December)
- Yule Be Boppin' (December)
- CMU Jazz Weekend (February)
- MSBOA State Jazz Festival (March/April)
- Spring Performance (i.e. Cliff Bell's, Cadieux Cafe)
- Music on the Plaza (in the Village, June)

Pit Orchestra

Students may audition to perform in the Pit Orchestra, which provides musical accompaniment to South's annual All-School Musical. Instrumentation needs are determined by the requirements of the score. Rehearsals are held before or after school; extra credit is provided to participating students.

MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival

The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) organizes and presents annual Solo & Ensemble Festivals for high school instrumentalists, at which South High School has a long tradition of excellence. Participating students perform a prepared solo or ensemble selection for adjudication and rating. Students who receive a 1st Division (Superior) rating at District Festival are eligible to perform at State Festival. Students in grades 10-12 performing solo selections at State Festival must also perform a Proficiency Examination (including scales and sightreading). There is a nominal registration fee and considerable practice and preparation are necessary. Participating students must schedule at least two rehearsal sessions with their director prior to festival. Extra credit is provided to students who participate.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Tri-M Music Honor Society is the international music honor society for secondary music students. Tri-M was founded in 1936, and Grosse Pointe South's chapter was established in 2003 for the purpose of recognizing musical excellence and exceptional dedication to band and/or orchestra and choir. Students earn points toward membership through various school music activities and accomplishments. Applicants for membership must meet established musical, academic, and character standards, as well as pass an audition on their instrument. Senior members must be present at the Composer's Concert/Spring Induction to receive the honorary Tri-M cord.

Instruments

School-owned Instruments: It is generally expected that students provide their own instruments for use in daily rehearsals and performances. A limited number of school-owned instruments are available for student use; students wishing to use a school-owned instrument must complete and sign an Instrument Loan Contract. All school-owned instruments are to be returned at the end of the school year (instruments may be loaned for the summer, but only after a maintenance inspection by the director). All instruments are to be handled with great care; any repair problems should be reported immediately. Reasonable wear and tear on school-owned instruments is to be expected, but loss/damage due to misuse/negligence is the responsibility of the student.

Instrument Storage

All instruments are to be stored in assigned lockers. Lockers are to be locked at all times. Combination locks are provided for each locker. Any loss or damage to lockers or locks is the responsibility of the student. Percussion instruments and accessories are to be stored in designated areas and appropriate cabinets after each rehearsal.

Supplies and Accessories

Instrumental music supplies and accessories (strings, reeds, valve oil, grease, etc.) are available for purchase. Needed supplies should be purchased before or after rehearsal.

Special Note for Trumpet Players

If the music we are playing asks for them, all trumpet players are required to own their own straight mute; aluminum mutes are preferable. For jazz band members, Harmon and cup mutes will be used frequently as well, so owning your own is advisable.

Special Note for Percussionists

Percussionists are required to obtain a stick/mallet bag containing: A) two pairs of good-quality drumsticks, B) one pair of medium timpani mallets, C) one pair of medium yarn mallets, and D) one pair of medium-hard rubber mallets. The stick bag must be clearly marked with the student's name and may be stored in a locker or secure percussion cabinet. Percussionists must also have a black 3-ring binder for all music.

Books and Music

Any text or method books and sheet music distributed during the course of the school year are the property of Grosse Pointe South High School unless otherwise indicated. Books and music should be stored in school-supplied folders; folders are to be stored in lockers with instruments. Students are to mark music in pencil only; all markings should be erased before turning music in. Any loss or damage of books/music and folders due to misuse or negligence is the responsibility of the student.

Uniforms

Uniforms are to be worn in their entirety at all performances unless otherwise announced. Tuxedos and gowns will be distributed at the beginning of the school year; a \$20 cleaning and maintenance fee must be paid before uniforms are distributed. Uniforms must be returned immediately following the Spring Concert. Tuxedos and gowns are to be handled with extreme care and stored in garment bags at all times. Any loss or damage due to misuse or negligence is the responsibility of the student. The complete uniform consists of:

WOMEN:

Gown
Hose
Black Dress Shoes (low heels)

MEN:

Tuxedo (including jacket,
trousers, cummerbund or vest,
wing-collar shirt, bow tie
Black Socks/Dress shoes

Fundraising

Our instrumental music program supplements the school-allocated budget with several annual fundraising events. Profits from fundraisers (citrus fruit sale, car washes, can & bottle drives, etc.) are applied toward trip costs, special performances, transportation, scholarships, the Awards Banquet, purchase of various materials and supplies, etc. Students are expected to participate in all fundraising activities and closely follow guidelines for product information, ordering, delivery, money collection, and due dates.

Band and Orchestra Officers

Band and Orchestra officers are elected by band and orchestra members each spring; officers serve a one-year term. Announcement and installation of officers takes place at the annual Awards Banquet. Officer meetings will be held after school on the first Monday of each month; officers are also expected to attend monthly Booster meetings. Officers from band and orchestra comprise the Executive Board, which discusses issues relevant to the progress and success of the instrumental music program, and makes recommendations concerning such issues to the directors. Officers also serve as student leaders and represent the South Band and Orchestra to the school and community at large. It is expected that officers demonstrate the highest standards of musicianship, dedication, and responsibility.

- **President:** acts as official spokesperson for the Band or Orchestra, calls and presides over meetings, acts as student liaison with Boosters, Mothers' Club, and Student Activities Director. Nominees for President must have served at least one year in a lower office prior to nomination.
- **Vice-President:** assists the President, assumes the responsibilities of an absent President, and serves as Chair of the Social Committee, which organizes at least one social event per semester for the Band/Orchestra.
- **Secretary:** keeps accurate records of all Executive Board meetings, posts such records for student reading, and also serves as Band/Orchestra Historian and Chair of the Publicity Committee, which publicizes all Band/Orchestra events throughout the school year.
- **Treasurer:** assists the director in collecting funds and maintaining accurate records of all financial activities (fundraisers, ticket sales, uniform fees, etc.), coordinates efforts with Boosters' treasurer and serves as equipment manager.

Band & Orchestra Boosters

The Band & Orchestra Boosters serve to encourage and foster the development of band and orchestra members by supporting the educational goals, events, and activities of the instrumental music department. The Boosters coordinate and oversee all fundraising, assist in the presentation of performances, and promote band and orchestra activities in the community. All parents of band and orchestra members are encouraged to participate; meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Please visit the Booster website at www.gpsbo.org.

Senior Solo Auditions (Spring Concert)

Every year at our Spring Concert, seniors have a chance to audition to be featured as a soloist with the band/orchestra. Auditioners must be seniors in good standing with the South Wind Ensemble/Symphony Orchestra for the entire year to perform a senior solo with the ensemble which they are currently enrolled. Auditioners must audition on an instrument that is germane to their membership in the band/orchestra. All performances

must be 4-10 minutes; selections may be cut to meet the 10 minute maximum. All selections must be one for which an accompaniment is currently available. Students must research the availability of the accompaniment prior to auditions. All participants must provide their own accompanist. Solos do not need to be memorized; however, it is preferred. Selection will be based on evaluations written by outside adjudicators. In the event you are chosen to perform a Senior Solo, A) if your accompaniment proves to be of excessive difficulty, you will be asked to perform with piano accompaniment for the concert, and B) soloists will cover the COMPLETE cost of music purchases or rentals for the performance. This may include the additional 4 weeks of rental cost so the group can rehearse as early as the first week in January. A division one rating at State Solo & Ensemble Festival in March is required to audition; scores may be used as a tiebreaker.

Band and Orchestra Awards Banquet

Toward the end of each school year, students and parents celebrate individual and group achievement at the annual Band and Orchestra Awards Banquet. Outstanding musicianship and dedication are recognized, various scholarship awards are given, and officers for the following school year are announced and installed.

Notable awards given at the banquet include:

The John Philip Sousa Band Award: honors the senior who best exemplifies superior musicianship, dedication, leadership, and commitment in Symphony Band.

The National School Orchestra Award: honors the student who best exemplifies superior musicianship, dedication, leadership, and commitment in Orchestra.

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award: honors outstanding jazz musicianship and the recipient's contribution to the jazz program.

The Patrick Gilmore Award: honors the student who best exemplifies superior musicianship, dedication, leadership, and commitment in Concert Band.

The Paganini Concert Orchestra Award: honors the student who best exemplifies superior musicianship, dedication, leadership, and commitment in Concert Orchestra.

The Director's Award for Orchestra: honors the top leaders of a high school orchestra.

The Alex Peabody Band & Orchestra Spirit Award: honors two students who exemplify passion, dedication, and love for music.

The John S. Barbour Scholarship Award: Awarded to an Orchestra student who has demonstrated commitment to the GPSB&O, is enthusiastic about engaging in musical extracurricular activities, and has volunteered time and effort when opportunities presented themselves.

**Grosse Pointe South Band & Orchestra
2017-18 Calendar of Events**

MONTH	DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME
July/August	31-4	M-F	Marching Band Camp	8 AM-5:30 PM
August	24	Th	Home Football v. Detroit Cody (Marching Band)	5 PM
August	31	Th	Home Football v. Utica (Marching Band)	5 PM
September	11	M	Band and Orchestra Booster Kick-Off Meeting	7 PM
September	22	F	Home Football v. North (Marching Band)	5:30 PM
September	26	Tu	Tri-M Recital/Fall Induction	7 PM
September	29	F	Homecoming Parade @ Maire (Marching Band)	4 PM
			Home Football v. Romeo	6 PM
October	3	Tu	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
October	13	F	Home Football v. L.C. North, Senior Night (Marching Band)	5:30 PM
October	25-26	W-Th	All-State Band/Orchestra Auditions (Macomb Iroquois MS)	TBD
November	4	Sa	Pops & Pastries @ South Gym (all students) - \$15/\$5	7 PM
November	7	Tu	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
November	9	Th	Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Auditions	ALL DAY
November	24	F	Santa Parade (Marching Band)	10 AM
December	5	Tu	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
December	8	F	Yule Be Boppin' @ South Auditorium (Jazz Band) - \$5	7 PM
December	8	F	Middle School Tour (Band and Orchestra)	ALL DAY
December	19	Tu	South Band-O-Rama @ South Gym (all band students)	7 PM
December	20	W	String Extravaganza @ South Gym (all orch. students)	7 PM
January	9	Tu	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
January	13	Sa	MSBOA District XVI HS Chamber Festival (Rochester HS)	ALL DAY
January	20	Sa	MSBOA District XVI HS Solo & Ensemble (Rochester HS)	ALL DAY
January	25-27	Th-Sa	Michigan Music Conference/All-State (Grand Rapids)	ALL DAY
February	2	F	CMU Jazz Weekend (Mt. Pleasant, MI)	ALL DAY
February	5	M	Pre-Festival Band Concert @ Pierce (all band students)	7 PM
February	6	Tu	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
February	13	Tu	Pre-Festival Orch. Concert @ South (all orch. students)	7 PM
March	1-3	Th-Sa	MSBOA District XVI Orch. Festival (all orch. students)	TBD
March	6	Tu	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
March	8-10	Th-Sa	MSBOA District XVI Band Festival (all band students)	TBD
March	17	Sa	MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble (Chippewa Valley HS)	TBD
March/April	20-19	TBD	MSBOA State Jazz Festival (exact date/site TBD)	TBD
April	10	Tu	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
April/May	25-5	W-Sa	MSBOA State Band & Orchestra Festival (if qualified)	TBD
May	1	Tu	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
May	3	Th	Cliff Bell's Performance (Jazz Band) - \$10 cover downtown	7 PM
May	16	W	Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal @ Brownell	5 PM
May	17	Th	Spring Concert @ Brownell (all students) - \$15/\$5	7 PM
May	29	Tu	Band/Orchestra Banquet @ Assumption Cultural Center	6 PM
June	1	F	Outdoor Concert @ North (all students)	7 PM
June	4	M	Band & Orchestra Booster Meeting	7 PM
June	5	Tu	Tri-M Recital/Spring Induction/Composer's Concert	7 PM
June	7	Th	Music on the Plaza in the Village (Jazz Band)	7 PM
June	14	Th	Commencement @ South (all students)	6 PM
June	18-20	M-W	Marching Band Mini-Camp (for 2018-19 year)	9 AM-12 PM

\$ - admission charge (adult/student pricing)

ITEMS IN BOLD are required in part for every student's grade in class.