

LAKESHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS 2026-2027

Mrs. Tatyana Walters walterst@ghaps.org

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR CALENDARS RIGHT NOW. THESE ARE FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR!

September 15	Fiddle Club begins - meet in orchestra room during FLEX time every Tuesday (free club)
September 18	Tailgating 5:30-7pm at the HS with Orchestra Families (Walking Tacos)
October 21	7pm Fall Orchestras Concert at the High School Performing Arts Center (Auditorium)
November 6	8th Grade Chicago Trip (Shedd, Chicago Symphony, Walter Tower, Giordanos) \$200 pp
December 5	MSBOA Solo/Ensemble Festival @ Coopersville MS (optional for all 7th/8th grade students)
December 8	7pm Lakeshore Orchestras Holiday Concert at Lakeshore Middle School
February 3	MSBOA Honors Orchestra 7pm -9pm NOMINATED STUDENTS only Mona Shores Middle
February 6	MSBOA Honors Orchestra 9am - 4pm NOMINATED STUDENTS only Mona Shores High
February 9	7pm Pre-Festival Orchestras Concert at HS Performing Arts Center (Auditorium)
February 24	Lakeshore/HS Orchestras MSBOA Festival time TBA
March 12	7th Grade GR Trip: (Cirque de la Symphonie Fire/Ice, Craigs Cruisers, Tanger) \$100pp
June 1*	Collage Performances – 7th Gr -6:00 & 8th Gr -8:00 p.m. at the HS Performing Arts Center
June 2*	Collage Performances – 7th Gr -6:00 & 8th Gr -8:00 p.m. at the HS Performing Arts Center

**Collage Performances (students must perform both nights to receive full credit)*

Uniforms

8th– ALL CONCERT BLACK: black polo, with black bottoms (skirt or pants, black shoes, socks). Each student is responsible for a **dry-cleaning fee of \$5.00 when they get the music dept black polo**. The polos will be collected after the last concert. Students must supply and wear their own black dress pants or black full length skirt, black dark tights or socks and black dress shoes. If wearing black leggings, they must be loose.

Fiddle Club Information/Participation

- all 7/8 orchestra, band, choir students can be participants - OPTIONAL CLUB - FREE!!!!
- Fiddle Club will begin Sept 15 meeting weekly on TUESDAYS during FLEX time
- Students will learn varied repertoire – Celtic, Irish, Blues, American Folk
- Guitar, mandolin, banjo, percussion, bass, viola, cello, violin, cajon, piano
- Students will have a provided snack before practice - PARENTS WILL SIGN UP TO BRING SNACKS
- Club shirts - \$15.00 later in the year but the club itself is **free**
- Fiddle Club will perform at 2-4 events/concerts throughout the year including GH IRISH FESTIVAL

Equipment

Guarneri House – 616-451-496 guarnerihouseexchanges@gmail.com

Marshall Music - 616-530-7700 www.marshallmusic.com/rentals

These companies service our school on a weekly basis, so you will not have to travel to rent an instrument or for any repairs that may be needed. JUST CALL OR EMAIL. They will pick up instruments at school and deliver them to school. Cellists and basses will be able to use the school instruments during class, but must have an instrument to use at home for practice. Please contact me for any concerns/questions.

TUNERS

Each student is required to own a tuner for the instrument. I recommend Snark brand tuner. You can purchase them online rechargeable or battery operated; \$17-23 Amazon/Guitar Haven

Lockers/ Shelves

The orchestra room will have a designated area for placement of school cellos and basses assigned for lower string players. Home ones will be used for the concerts only. VIOLIN and VIOLA instruments players will have a locker in the orchestra storage room. It is locked at 4pm - 7:20am.

Concert Expectations

Be Excellent – prepare yourself for a quality performance and do your best

Be Kind –show support and caring by clapping after each piece. No talking or whispering.

Be Respectful – treat the facilities, performers and guests with appreciation and safety. Please show acceptance for all musical ability levels and varied music. Keep feet off seats. No food or drinks besides water in the auditorium. No walking around during performances.

Be Responsible –NO CELL PHONES FOR STUDENTS. display accountability for your belongings and actions - careful with instruments and music. Parents please silence phones during the performances.

7.8 Grade Orchestras Grading Policy

The marking period grade(9 weeks) / (4 marking periods) will be a combination of several categories. Assignments, tests and practice grades can be viewed online on *Student/Parent View*.

25% Concert Attendance / Performance

Maximum credit can be earned in this category by attending the full length of every concert, arriving on time, being fully prepared, dressing correctly, and behaving appropriately. If the student is unable to attend the performance due to family illness, self- illness; the guardian must contact Mrs. Walters right away to be excused. Make-up work will need to be done to count as performance. If the student has a family trip planned, district or state sport championship at the scheduled time of our performance; the student must make up the missed performance. **Mrs. Walters must be notified 2 weeks prior to performance in order to be excused.** This usually involves doing a short research project or attending another orchestra concert. All Concert dates are given our first week of school. The parents are responsible to provide transportation for evening concerts. Please contact Mrs. Walters if this will be an issue and we can help.

25% Practice Charts

Each student is required to record his or her at-home practice. The students are to practice 60-100 minutes each week. Once a marking period, students can turn in an orchestra concert program instead of a practice chart. This can be any GH concert (ex. High School Orchestra Concert) or any professional concert (ex. GR Symphony Concert). Students must turn in a program along with the parent signature to get full credit. Please write first/last name, on program as well.

25% Participation, Daily Attendance, Preparation, and Attitude

Maximum credit can be earned in this category by arriving to each class on time, avoiding any unexcused absences, by being fully prepared for every class, and by consistently contributing to class in an effective, appropriate and positive matter. No gum, food, drinks besides water are allowed during orchestra. Fingernails must be trimmed and short in order to play properly on the string instruments - there will be a full grade reduction if this becomes a consistent issue. All cellists/bassists using school instruments will be billed for any damages to the school property. All students must be very careful with the music stands and chairs. Students and their families will be accountable financially due to inappropriate use/ damage of the equipment and school property.

25% Playing Tests, Quizzes, Assignments

Maximum credit can be earned in this category by preparing fully for each playing test and (occasional) quizzes. Playing tests are a chance for Mrs. Walters to listen to students individually and offer feedback. These are usually done individually in person. *** Extra credit opportunities are announced periodically throughout each marking period.**

PRIVATE LESSONS RECOMMENDATIONS

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Becky Parks- parksbecky@gmail.com (231) 750-0468 professional violin,viola

HIGH SCHOOL TUTORS:

Violin - Natalie Birkholz 31073@ghaps.org

Cello - Braeden Jansen 29922@ghaps.org **Emma Snyder** 30910@ghaps.org

Viola - Charlotte Bauer 30570@ghaps.org

Bass- Caiden Radel 36144@ghaps.org

Dear Eighth Grade Orchestra Parents/Guardians,

We have a wonderful opportunity to go see the Chicago Symphony **On Friday, November 6.** We will take a charter bus to Shedd Aquarium and have lunch there, Go to the Chicago Symphony, shop at Magnificent Mile and have dinner at a GIORDANOS. We will depart at 8am from Lakeshore MS, attendance/meeting at 7:38am and we will be back around 11:30pm.

The trip is going to cost **\$200 per person.** This will cover the costs for the transportation, the Symphony, the Shedd Aquarium/lunch and the Giordanos dinner. We are in need of some chaperones (same cost). **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.** Chaperones must ride the bus there/back. Chaperones will be responsible for 5-7 students along with their child. Please make checks payable to **GHAPS for the trip by September 9th.** The deposit (\$75) will be non-refundable.

ALL FINAL PAYMENTS ARE DUE by OCTOBER 6th. You may pay full payment right away. If there are any questions or financial concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

walterst@ghaps.org

2026/2027 ORCHESTRA CLASS AGREEMENT FORM
& NOV 6th CHICAGO TRIP FORM
DUE SEPTEMBER 9th

Dear Parents/Guardians: I appreciate your support and involvement and I am looking forward to an exciting year full of fun and learning! Once you read the *Class Information and Trip info*, please fill this out. Please email me if you have any questions: walterst@ghaps.org

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Class Expectations/Concerts: I will provide an instrument and a tuner for my child. I read all of the *Lakeshore Orchestras Information* and know the dates of the concerts and the class policies/expectations. I know that my child must arrive 20 minutes prior to the concert time for tuning and warm-up in proper uniform. We understand the expectations of the class, the commitment level in practicing and the responsibilities of being at each performance. I know to contact Mrs. Walters 2 weeks in advance if our child has to miss a concert (unless ill) and will need to do a make up assignment to get full credit.

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Uniform: I am paying (or paid) \$5.00 dry cleaning fee (GHAPS check or via ParentVue for my child's orchestra uniform. I understand that if the polo is lost, the fee is \$25 and must be paid by the end of the year. **We will provide our own black socks and black shoes and black bottom (black dress pants and or black dress long skirt).**

CHICAGO TRIP - NOV. 6th: CHECKS TO GHAPS: deposit \$75 or full payment \$200

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We are turning in \$ _____ for the Orchestra Trip for our child. We understand that all school rules and regulations apply during the school trip. We understand that we must pick our child up at the end of the trip at Lakeshore Middle School. Students will call or text once we are 15 minutes away (around 11:30pm).

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I am interested in chaperoning the Orchestra Trip. I am turning in \$ _____. I understand that all deposits are non refundable. I am also aware that I can swap my reserved seat on the bus with another member of the family if I cannot attend (ex. other parent/grandparent).

TOTAL: _____

check #: _____

Student Name _____ **Grade** _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

PARENT EMAIL FOR ORCHESTRA UPDATES/ CONCERT REMINDERS:
