

Instrumental Music Parent Information Handout
Incoming Freshmen Night 5/16/25
Mr. Mathew Schick, Director

Importance of Music: Music is not extra — it's essential to emotional and academic growth.

"Music education stimulates, challenges, and enriches young minds, helping children develop skills in language, reasoning, and problem-solving that transfer across all areas of learning."

— Dr. Nina Kraus, Professor of Neurobiology and Music at Northwestern University

How to reach me: MSchick@gusd.net

How to make sure you get information from me: (links will go out at the beginning of the school year -- be sure you **SIGN UP**.)

- ❖ Sign up for your class's BAND app! – This is where I will post the most important class information.
- ❖ Sign up for Remind.com! – Great way for me to get info to you straight to phone.
- ❖ READ the weekly email newsletter and check your class's BAND APP frequently for current information.

➤ **What I will need from YOU:** We will ask that every Instrumental/Guard student fill out CVIM Info Form.

This is REQUIRED! We use to pre-fill Field Trip forms: tinyurl.com/25-26-CVIM-InfoForm →



Textbooks: Sheet Music – every student gets a copy! Pencils are required in class. Number all measures!

Grading Policy: Performances, concerts and dress rehearsals are all graded events. Review the calendar provided and add the dates to your family calendar. Participation is mandatory!! Partial credit may be given if prior written notice (Absence Form) is submitted in advance with an acceptable excuse.

Everyone in the instrumental music department will participate in school concerts. Most of the performances this year are already on the calendar; yet new events arise. I will pass out information at least two weeks prior to the new event.

Requirements	Percentage	Description
1. Attendance – (<i>Events, rehearsals</i>)	30%	Rehearsals, Performances, Class
2. Musical tests / Quizzes – (<i>Scale</i>) / Final	30%	Written and Performed
3. Sectionals	30%	Group work: Required weekly (~18-20 per sem)
4. Attitude / Improvement / Cooperation	10%	Teacher evaluation per quarter

Grades are determined by dividing the points earned by the points possible

A=90%+, B=75%-89%, C=60%-74%, D=45%-59%, F=0%-45%.

Sectional Requirements

- "Sectionals" are a time when an entire group (e.g. trumpets, saxes, percussion) practices together during lunch or after school.

Scale Component

- Each student will be tested weekly on scales both written and performed.

Attendance Requirements – *put these important dates on your family calendar now!*

Evening Concerts: call time for students is 6pm, performances start at 7pm SHARP. Rehearsals last from 3:15 – 5:30pm by group.

- **1st Semester: Fall Instrumental/Choir Concert** – approx. 10/25/25 – 3:00pm. **Winter Concert** – 12/12/25 (Reh. 12/10, 12/11).
- **2nd Semester: Spring Concert** – Wed. 3/19/26, (Reh. 3/17, 3/18). **Pops Concert** – Thurs. 5/22/26, (Reh. 5/20, 5/21)
- **Ensemble Concerts** – (Symphony Only) – 10/18/25 (Reh. 10/17) & 4/22/26, reh. 4/21.
- **Festivals** occur during the Spring usually in March during school day. We will bus to the host venues.

✓ **Make-up policy** – Practicing at school for 20 min = 10 points or 1 full page, well-written original music report = 10 points.

✓ **Max 80 points** a semester for Sectional make-up. MAX 1 letter-grade up from Extra Credit.

Concert Attire

In order for our concerts to look and sound professional, we require the following dress codes for performances. Check Class supplements for additional attire. It is student's responsibility to make sure you are dressed appropriately. Removal from a performance and/or point deduction will occur if students don't follow the following dress requirements.

- **Guys**
Black dress shoes (no sneakers), black socks, black dress pants (no jeans), white *long* sleeve dress shirt, long tie (any color). Black Sport Jacket is required. (Symphony: Tuxedo shirt and tie, will be measured/ordered in class, \$29)
- **Girls**
ALL BLACK, shoulders to floor. Long black skirt or dress, or black dress slacks (no black jeans) or black skirt with black tights and modest black blouse.
(Symphony ladies: Sym Uniform long black dress, will be sized and ordered in class, \$68)
Everyone: Black dress shoes (no flip flops or sneakers. Low heel and quiet!)