



HIGHLAND ORCHESTRAS

2024-2025 Orchestra Handbook

Dear Highland High School Orchestra Members and Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. We are very excited for another great year and can not wait to get started. We are so fortunate to be able to make music together and we will strive for excellence both individually and as a group to enrich our lives and the lives of others. Please review the materials in this handbook as a family. Ninety percent of the information you need to have a successful year is in this packet. Please make sure to put all the dates and other information in your family's calendar and we thank you for the opportunity to teach your students.

Early due dates

Friday, August 2 - Uniform fees and Handbook forms are due.

Friday, August 16 - Symphonic Strings Retreat fee due.

Communication

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Highland High School

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Orchestra Director

Highland High School

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Highland High School Orchestra Office- (480) 497-3119

Website- highlandorchestras.org

Booster Email- highlandorchestras@gmail.com

Facebook- "Friends of Highland Orchestras"

Instagram- [@highlandorchestras](https://www.instagram.com/highlandorchestras)

All students should be members of our Google Classroom and Remind. See registration info below:

Google Classroom

Starlight Serenade - sccbhdv

Concert Orchestra - snuae3d

Symphony Orchestra - yschf4u

Sinfonia - rcabbvh

Chamber (6th Hour) - hvsjff3

Chamber (7th Hour) - aevptun

Remind- text code to 81010

Starlight Serenade - @starlite

Concert Orchestra - @hhsco1

Symphonic Strings/Symphony - @hhs2ndhour

Sinfonia - @hhssinf

Chamber Orchestra - @hhsco2

Financials

You may make payments for uniforms/fees/trips in three different ways. No cash will be accepted.

1. VENMO- Our account name is @highland-orchestras. You will need to put your student's name and performing group in the memo section.
2. Checks should be made out to Highland HS Orchestra Boosters. Please put the student's name on the memo line and enclose it in an envelope. The front of the envelope should have the student's name and performing group.
3. Fees can also be paid using the Arizona Tax Credit (form attached). Information and form are also available online at gilbertschools.net/taxcredit.

Student accounts will be once again kept in *My Music Office*- mymusicoffice.com. Returning families will use their same account as last year. New families should have received an email with instructions on Friday, July 19, 2024. Please let us know if you did not receive this or have any questions.

Uniforms

All students must have an Orchestra T-Shirt to be worn to school on performance days and when we travel. All orchestras wear the same t-shirt. Students who already have an orchestra T-shirt that fits and is in good shape do not need to order another one. T-Shirt Cost will be **\$10.00**.

Concert Uniforms will be fitted and issued during the first few weeks of school. A uniform usage fee will be due before your student's uniform will be sent home. This fee will pay for the use of the uniform for the entire school year and the final dry cleaning. Students are expected to properly maintain and dry clean their uniform throughout the performance season. Students are responsible for returning all uniform parts in good condition, as well as replacement costs for lost or damaged uniforms/parts. You will not be responsible for the end of the year dry cleaning, as we will have all uniforms dry cleaned together at the end of the year. The following is a listing of uniform needs for each student:

Tuxedo (All Orchestras)

- Tuxedo (Coat, Pants, Tie, Cummerbund) - checked out from the school (**\$35**)
- Wing collared tuxedo shirt, Black dress shoes, Black dress socks - purchased by the student
- Orchestra t-shirt (**\$10** if needed)

Starlight Serenade (strolling)

- Starlight Serenade dress (Dry-clean only) - checked out from the school (**\$20**)
- Black dress shoes & sheer black nylons - purchased by the student

Chamber Orchestra (6th & 7th Hour) and Concert Orchestra (1st hour)

- Black skirt (machine washable), Tie, Cummerbund - checked out from the school (**\$20**)
- Wing collared tuxedo shirt, Black dress shoes, Sheer black nylons - purchased by the student
- Orchestra t-shirt (**\$10** if needed)

Symphony Orchestra (2nd Hour) and Sinfonia (3rd Hour)

- Symphony/Sinfonia dress (Purchased by student from the school - **\$80**) - Fitting, ordering, and delivery will be handled through the HHS Orchestra Boosters.
- Black dress shoes & sheer black nylons - purchased by the student
- Orchestra t-shirt (**\$10** if needed)

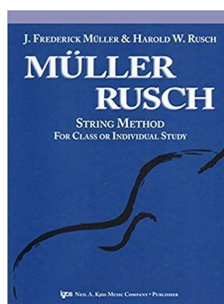
**Tuxedo shirts may be purchased from any formal wear shop in the area
(The Tuxedo Lady: 4210 E. Main Street (**highly recommend!**), Men's Wearhouse, Amazon, etc.
Estimated cost is approx. \$25.00.*

Required Materials

- Folders and music – these will be assigned, in most cases, two students per folder. Music is NOT a disposable item. **Students are responsible for replacement costs for lost or damaged items.**
- Instrument (in good working shape – violins/violas need to have 4 fine tuners on their instrument – these are necessary for students to be able to tune themselves quickly).

Violins/Violas with two instruments need to bring in a handwritten note signed by a parent saying that they have a quality instrument at home and will **practice daily**. Please turn these notes in to Mr. Ghormley by Friday, July 26, 2024.

- A small soft cloth for cleaning instrument
- Rosin – Please write your name on the box and the rosin. [For all bass players – We require Pop's or Kolstein Rosin]
- Shoulder Rest (for violins & violas) [We recommend a “KUN”, “Everest”, or “Resonans” - they are the most durable]
- Permanent Luggage/ID tag (with name and phone number clearly written on the tag) [“Highland Orchestras” ID tags are available for \$2.00.]
- Pencil
- Music stand, metronome, and tuner for home practice
- **Strolling Strings** -1 inch Black Binder needed by Friday, July 26, 2024
- **Concert Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra** -Muller Rusch Book 4 (Blue) needed by Thur., August 1.



- Performance Mute - rubber mutes are the cheapest! (2 Hole mutes will not fall off your instrument)



Lockers

Students will be issued instrument storage lockers. Lockers provide minimal security, and the Gilbert Unified School District is not liable for losses. Students are not to leave valuable personal items or money in these lockers. Lockers are for instrument storage only.

School Instruments

In some cases, school instruments may be made available for individual students' use. An “Instrument Usage Form” must be filled out and completed in order for the student to use the school instrument. Students using school instruments are responsible for any damage that may occur due to their fault or negligence. Students or parents should be sure to communicate with the orchestra director if they have any concerns about their instrument.

Concert Tickets

All regular Orchestra concerts will require tickets. We will have two performances on each concert date, but students will only perform on ONE of the concerts. Please check the performance schedule carefully for which performance your student will be in, as it varies for each concert. (Your student will still perform in all three Holiday Concerts, as noted on the performance schedule.)

Tickets for parents will be available online one month before each concert. This is ONE WEEK before we open them to the general public. All tickets for concerts will be for RESERVED SEATS. The link for tickets will be available on the orchestra website: highlandorchestras.org. Parents may purchase as many tickets as they need, and will be eligible for two comp tickets, as we have done for previous concerts. The dates for Parent Priority tickets are on the performance schedule located in this handbook.

Travel

Each Orchestra goes on one trip every Spring. Tentative dates are on the attached calendar or located below.

The cost of the Symphonic Strings Retreat is \$200 and balance is due by Friday, August 16, 2024.

The cost for the **Symphony Orchestra & Sinfonia** Spring tour is expected to cost approximately \$900.00.

The cost for the **Chamber Orchestra** Spring tour is expected to cost approximately \$200.00

The cost for the **Concert Orchestra** Spring festival trip is expected to cost approximately \$40.00

More details on trips and trip payments will be sent home when available.

Money for meals, souvenirs, etc. is additional. The HHS Orchestra Boosters provide fundraising opportunities prior to each trip to enable each student to earn the money he/she needs to pay for the cost of their trip. ***Please feel free to take advantage of the Arizona State Tax Credit program.*** You will find the appropriate form in the back of this handbook.

Orchestra Grading Policy

- Rehearsal Checks
- Music Checks/Playing Tests (Performance seating may also be determined from these)
 - Students that receive a score of 79% or lower will have the opportunity to redo their test for a higher grade after completing the required work as agreed upon by the student and the teacher.
 - Late music checks will be accepted but will not be considered for performance seating.
- Written assignments: Concert Reviews/Critiques
- Performances
 - Points for performances are awarded for successfully completing the following: Arriving on time for tuning/warm-up, complete uniform, audience etiquette, performance on stage, observation of the entire concert, and concert reflection.

At the end of each grading period, points will be totaled and put in percentage form.

A = 90 - 100%, B = 80 - 89%, C = 70 - 79%, D = 60 - 69%.

Expectations

Please be on time and ready to work when rehearsal begins. Please note that tardiness will also be dealt with as per the Highland High School attendance policy.

Chewing gum, eating, or drinking during rehearsal or performance is not allowed. A water bottle is the only exception.

Using a cell phone/smart watch during rehearsal, performance, or in the audience is not allowed. To avoid distraction, cell phones and smart watches need to be in the student's **backpack** for the duration of class. If a student violates this rule, the phone will be taken and put in a safe place by the teacher. The cell phone/smart watch may be retrieved by the parent at the end of the day.

All students must keep their fingernails trimmed short, to enable them to play at the best of their ability.

For our organization to function properly, all students must have the proper instrument, equipment, music, and a pencil.

Orchestra is a performance-based class. All members are expected to participate in all performances. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student's grade being lowered by 100 points. All make-up work must be completed in the appropriate amount of time.

Excluding emergencies, absences from performances can only be excused by an email from the parents/guardians being received by Mr. Ghormley and Mrs. Bennett at least two weeks prior to the anticipated absence. This includes conflicts due to other school related activities and events. In the case of an emergency, a phone call or email from the parents should be received as soon as possible; preferably before the performance. An email or phone call does not automatically excuse a student's absence, depending on what is contained in the note.

*99% of all conflicts can be resolved if both parties involved have communicated at the appropriate time.

The Importance of Attendance

Student attendance closely matches and nearly always mirrors academic achievement. Students who are absent from school miss the introduction of new material as well as the benefits of interacting with their peers in discussion, activities and presentations. Our attendance policy is designed to involve you as the parent through communication from the office and individual teachers, as well as to teach students to be responsible and academically accountable.

Students who are chronically or habitually absent may be asked by their grade level administrator to provide documentation for excessive absences from medical personnel. Ideally, all attempts should be made by parents to schedule orthodontist, dentist and doctor appointments before or after school. Family vacations should be scheduled during school breaks.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Students who are excessively absent, failing courses or have grades below a D, may be denied the ability to participate in field trips or other extra-curricular activities. This includes all athletic events as well as performing arts and other club events.

Tardies

Students who arrive to class late are a distraction to the students in class as well as to their teacher. Please encourage your child to leave the house early enough to account for traffic and get to school on time.

Additional District Policies

District policy requires all students who perform in AMEA adjudicated events to maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.00 and have no failing grades for the previous 9-week grading period. Students can be reinstated after the next 4 1/2 week grading period

Bullying and/or hazing is not an acceptable behavior. Gilbert Public Schools’ policies may be found in the student handbook and also on the GPS website. JIC-EG092711

HIGHLAND ORCHESTRAS PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE
FIRST SEMESTER 2024 - 2025

Monday - Friday, July 29 - August 2, 2024

All Orchestras - Uniform Fitting and Checkout

Friday, August 2, 2024

Uniform Fees and Handbook forms Due for all orchestras.

Friday, August 16, 2024

Debut Concert tickets available online to **Parents**

Friday, August 23, 2024

Debut Concert tickets available online to General Public

Friday & Saturday, September 6 & 7, 2024

Symphonic Strings Retreat at Camp Shadow Pines- Heber, AZ

Monday, September 16, 2024

HHS Orchestras **Debut Concert** HHS Auditorium
 6:00 p.m. – *Concert Orchestra, Sinfonia, Starlight Serenade*
 7:30 p.m. – *Starlight Serenade, Chamber Orchestra, Symphonic*

Friday, September 20, 2024

Fall Orchestra Festival at Highland HS
 Perf. Times **TBA** *Sym. Strings, Sinfonia, Chamber, Concert*
Volunteers will be needed as we are hosting.

Friday-Saturday, October 25-26, 2024

Chamber Orchestra to Flagstaff (tentative)

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Orchestra Yearbook Pictures - *uniforms required*

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

“Home for the Holidays” tickets available online to **Parents**

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

“Home for the Holidays” tickets available online to Public

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Symphonic Strings/Starlight Serenade
 Performance at Valle del Oro RV Resort
 Call time: 3:00 p.m. Performance: 6:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, December 6 & 7, 2024

HHS Orchestras **“Home for the Holidays” (2 days – 3 shows)**
ALL ORCHESTRAS PERFORM IN EVERY SHOW

Three Performances

Dec. 6 Call time: 6:00 p.m. Performance: 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 7 Call time: 1:00 p.m. Performance: 1:30 p.m.
United Sound will perform in this show.

DINNER BREAK – (Off Campus)

Call time: 7:00 p.m. Performance: 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 6, 2024

Valentines Dinner tickets go on sale at Holiday Concert

HIGHLAND ORCHESTRAS PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE
SECOND SEMESTER 2024 - 2025

Saturday, January 18, 2025

AMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival Tier 1 @ Desert Mountain HS

Friday & Saturday, January 24 & 25, 2025

Regional Auditions @ Highland HS

Monday, January 27, 2025

Festival Showcase Concert tickets available online to **Parents**

Monday, February 3, 2025

Festival Showcase Concert tickets available to Public

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Valentine Dinner Performance/Fund-Raiser at
Highland HS “Crystal Ballroom” **6:00 - 9:30 pm**
All Orchestras (all students)

Monday, February 24, 2025

HJHS Orchestra Concert
7:00 p.m. HHS Auditorium - **Symphony Orchestra**

Thursday, February 27, 2025

HHS Orchestras **Festival Showcase Concert** - HHS Auditorium
6:00 p.m. – **Chamber Orchestra, Sinfonia, Starlight Serenade**
7:30 p.m. – **Starlight Serenade, Concert Orchestra, Symphony**

Friday, February 28, 2025

ABODA Area Concert Festival
@Highland HS **Symphony, Sinfonia, Chamber**
Volunteers will be needed as we are hosting.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Concert Orchestra to ABODA Area Concert Festival
@Catalina Foothills HS, Tucson, AZ

Friday & Saturday, March 7 & 8, 2025

All-State Orchestra Auditions @ Gilbert HS

Thursday - Sunday, March 27 - 30, 2025

Sinfonia & Symphony Spring Tour (Tentative)

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

An Evening at the Symphony tickets available to **Parents**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

An Evening at the Symphony tickets available to Public

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Annual End of the Year Celebration
All Orchestra Students and their Parents
6:30 p.m. HHS Crystal Ballroom

Friday, May 2, 2025

“**An Evening at the Symphony**” & Senior Night – HHS Auditorium
6:00 p.m. – **Concert Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Starlight Serenade**
7:30 p.m. – **Starlight Serenade, Sinfonia, Symphony, United Sound**

Friday, May 9, 2025

Gilbert Schools Concert Orchestra Invitational
Concert Orchestra

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Symphony Orchestra Baccalaureate Rehearsal- Auditorium
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Baccalaureate- HHS Auditorium **Symphony Orchestra**
Call Time - 1:00 p.m. **TWO SHOWS** - 2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.

STARLIGHT SERENADE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE
FIRST & SECOND SEMESTER 2024 - 2025

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Starlight Serenade - National Anthem @ HHS MB Comp.
Call time: 5:45 p.m

Friday, September 27, 2024

Starlight Serenade - National Anthem @ HHS Football Game
Call time: 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Starlight Serenade - Gilbert Community Excellence Awards
Call time: 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Sym. Strings/Starlight Serenade @ Valle del Oro RV Resort
Call time: 3:00 p.m. Performance: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 9, 2024

Starlight Serenade - Elementary School Tour (All Day)

Monday, January 6, 2025

Starlight Serenade Rehearsal- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Starlight Serenade @ Sunland Village East
Call time 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 21 & 22, 2025

Starlight Serenade @ 6th Grade String Festival #1 & #2
Call time: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 27, 2025

Starlight Serenade @ Silverridge RV Resort
Call time: 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Starlight Serenade @ Sunland Village
Call time: 5:30 p.m.

Monday, February 10, 2025

Starlight Serenade @ The Resort
Call time: 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Valentine Dinner Performance/Fund-Raiser at
Highland HS “Crystal Ballroom” **6:00 – 9:00 pm**

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Starlight Serenade @ Viewpoint
Call time: 5:30 p.m

Friday, May 2, 2025

Starlight Serenade final rehearsal
6:30 – 7:25 a.m.

**Additional performances may be scheduled throughout the year*