

GLENBROOK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



ORCHESTRA PROGRAM HANDBOOK

2023-2024

GLENBROOK NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
GLENBROOK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Glenbrook Orchestra Program! The information contained in this handbook provides program guidelines for orchestra students and parents in Glenbrook District 225. You can find important details regarding:

- Classroom/Rehearsal Expectations
- Audition Procedures
- Concert Requirements
- Calendar
- Grading Guidelines
- Materials
- Parent Association Information
- Private Lessons Information
- Fundraising Information
- Section Leader Contracts

While all important information and dates are listed in this handbook, please be sure to check our **website** for the most current information and any updates that might occur throughout the year. The orchestra program website can be found at:

www.glenbrooksymphony.org

Please read these guidelines thoroughly and keep this handbook for future reference. If you have any questions throughout the year, please contact the orchestra directors:

Aaron Kaplan, Orchestra Director
akaplan@glenbrook225.org
(847) 509-2434 (GBN)
(847) 486-4434 (GBS)

Rachel Atlas, Orchestra Director
ratlas@glenbrook225.org
(847) 509-2683 (GBN)
(847) 486-4438 (GBS)



ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS' WELCOME

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year and another wonderful season for the Glenbrook Orchestra program! We have a lot of challenging and exciting music programmed for the orchestra and we look forward to working with the students on these great orchestral works.

We are excited to have your student in orchestra this year – the orchestra program has a long history of excellence, guided by two main credos: *We are good people first and play the music, not the notes.*

Music is a vehicle for communication and self-expression, a training ground for detail, nuance, and innovation, and an outlet for passion and creativity. Students see how their individual work and practice affects their instrument sections, and how their section functions within the context of the entire ensemble. To see the process from the first day of sight-reading to the final concert is truly inspiring and gives the students a sense of accomplishment and pride in their craft.

The orchestra musicians are challenged to bring out the music in every note, the meaning of every note and to create a mood, a story, or an emotion – this is what *play the music, not the notes* means – to effectively communicate and translate black dots on a page into something that makes us feel the gamut of human emotion. *We are good people first* reminds us that no matter how good our music is; it means nothing if we aren't kind, honest, and compassionate people.

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do as musicians and we all have a role to play in a music ensemble. Orchestra is like a team sport. For the teachers, it is our job to provide the best possible experience for all students, to push the orchestra to its full potential, and to expose the students to the orchestral masterworks. For the students, each of you serve a role in the ensemble, and no one member can serve all roles nor can all members serve each role. Regardless of where you sit in the orchestra, whether you are a section leader or one of many in a section, each of you have the ability to contribute a large amount. Competition in music is not about you and another person, it's about playing to your fullest potential and the best of your ability. No matter how advanced you become or how many times you've played a piece of music – there is *always* more to discover – that's one of the best things about music, and how lucky we are to be a part of the journey together.

Now, practice hard, arrive early, always bring a pencil, and play the music, not the notes!

Musically,
Aaron Kaplan & Rachel Atlas



ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

The Glenbrook Orchestra Program is comprised of string, wind, and percussion students from Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools. All freshman string players take **String Ensemble** at their respective schools, while sophomore, junior, and senior string players take **Symphony Orchestra** at their respective schools. All sophomore-senior string players, select freshman string players, and auditioned wind/percussion students from both schools participate in the **GSO** (Glenbrook Symphony Orchestra) which rehearses Wednesday nights from 7:00-9:15pm. The GSO is the crux of the Glenbrook orchestra program. String players also have the opportunity to performance in the Variety Show pit orchestra at each school as well as the combined district musical pit orchestra. Section leaders and select members may also be required to perform in the Sinfonietta for the annual Glenbrook Festival of Music.

ABOUT THE GSO

The Glenbrook Symphony Orchestra is the Northfield Township District 225 Orchestra, combining students from both Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools. Members of both schools first joined forces in 1980 as the Glenbrook District Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Frank Winkler. In 1981, Mr. Carl J. Meyer became the Director of Orchestras and changed the name to the "Glenbrook Symphony Orchestra" in 1994. Kristin Meyer joined the Glenbrook faculty in 2006 and became the next director of the GSO in 2011 upon Mr. Meyer's retirement. Under her leadership, the orchestra continued to grow and expand its repertoire until her retirement in 2021. Aaron Kaplan, a GSO alum, joined the Glenbrook faculty in 2013 and continues to lead the program with Rachel Atlas, fellow GSO alum, who joined the Glenbrooks in 2021.

Dedicated to bringing large-scale orchestral works to high school students and members of the community, the GSO performs two major concerts each year. Along with the fall and spring concerts, the GSO performs at school assemblies and other events. The top three soloists from the annual GSO Concerto Competition perform in the spring concert. Auditions for the orchestra are held each August and rehearsals are held on Wednesday nights during the school year. The GSO has toured throughout the United States and Europe, and has performed at the Pentagon in Washington D.C., the United Nations and Lincoln Center in New York City, The Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference, Disneyland, Disneyworld, San Marco Basilica in Venice, Italy, The Votivkirche in Vienna, Austria, The Medici Chapel in Florence, Italy and Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in Chicago. Through an international exchange program with the CAVMS music school in Wales, the orchestra has also performed at the Coal Exchange in Cardiff. In 2008, the Glenbrook Symphony Orchestra was the first high school orchestra to be featured on WFMT/98.7's radio program, *Introductions*, and is included on *The Best of Introductions* CD.



STRING COURSE INFORMATION

Orchestra Materials

All members of the orchestra classes are expected to have the following equipment for all 4 years of orchestra:

- Rosin (instrument-specific)
- Black rubber mute (not wooden, or practice mutes)
- Tuner (tuning app is allowed)
- Metronome (metronome app is allowed)
- Extra pair of strings (violin, viola, cello)
- Shoulder rest (violin, viola only)
- Rock stop/end pin strap (cello only)

Each of these items can be purchased online for low cost, so if you have questions, please reach out to the orchestra directors.

Concert Uniform (for all freshmen-senior strings, winds, and percussion):

The concert uniform consists of a black GSO concert polo shirt, black dress pants, and black dress footwear. Additional items can include a black belt and black dress socks. **Black jeans and leggings are not permitted for concerts.**

- **Polo Shirts:** All students are required to purchase a GSO concert polo shirt. If a student has their concert polo from a previous year and does not require a change in size, then they can use the same polo. Otherwise, a new one can be purchased.
- **Black Dress Pants:** needs to be purchased individually. No skirts, dresses, jeans or leggings.
- **Concert Footwear:** needs to be purchased individually. Dress shoes/flats need to be black and close-toed. There should be no visible logos or any other color besides black.

Fees (for all freshmen-senior strings, winds, and percussion):

All members of GSO are required to pay a school-approved \$40 participation fee. This payment is collected at the beginning of the year in September. This fee allows us to provide unique opportunities to members of the orchestra program and GSO such as professional-level concert recordings, collaborating with guest artists and sectional coaches, and aides in opportunities for senior scholarships and the annual orchestra banquet.

Private Lessons:

Private lessons are available to all students who are enrolled in a curricular orchestra class and are an excellent way to get one-on-one time with a teacher who is an expert on that instrument. Students can take lessons during orchestra class, lunch, SRT, or other time agreed upon between the student and teacher. These teachers are professional Chicago-based musicians and performers and we are very lucky to have them teaching at the Glenbrooks. The fee for lessons is set by the district and is currently \$30/half-hour lesson. If interested, please speak the directors about how to get in touch with the private teachers.



STRING COURSE INFORMATION (CON'T)

Instrument Rental Fees & Lockers

Violin/Viola: all student violinists and violists are expected to have their own instrument. Students bring their instruments to school on days when orchestra meets, as well as Wednesday night GSO rehearsals and all performances. All violinists and violists have the option of using a locker in the orchestra room to keep their instrument in during the day.

Cello/Bass/Harp: all student cellists, bassists, and harpists have the option of using school-owned instruments for class. It is expected that they bring their own personal instrument for playing exams and performances. If a student wishes to bring their own instrument for rehearsal, they are allowed to do so and they can leave their instrument in the orchestra room before school. All students who use school-owned instruments are required to pay a rental fee of \$20/semester or \$40/year.

Wind Instruments: any wind student in GSO who is given a school-owned instrument needs to fill out and sign the instrument rental agreement. The instruments loaned out are not primary instruments, but secondary or utility instruments such as: A/Eb/Bass clarinets, C/piccolo trumpet, English Horn, or Bass Trombone. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to make sure that the instrument is treated with the utmost respect and care, and any damages that occur to the instrument during their rental period might result in a fine.

ORCHESTRA CURRICULUM

Our goal is to take the individual student at the skill level they enter the classroom and move them forward towards becoming an independent musician. All instrumental music students enter the orchestra curriculum at different levels, both in terms of their skill and musicianship. We begin by finding common ground and then moving the orchestra forward into a cohesive ensemble. Our goal is to teach them the art of orchestra performance through the standard repertoire or literature within the orchestra tradition. The cycle of rehearsal and performance provides the framework to achieve these goals. The underpinning for the delivery of a successful orchestra curriculum is student-centered instruction.

Objectives

To develop: characteristic tone, left-hand technique, bow-hand technique, wind technique, attitudes of the professional musician, ensemble skills, knowledge of the musical periods, an understanding of historical context, performance experience in a variety of genres, a comprehensive music vocabulary, musical analysis skills, music theory skills, listening skills and the connection between music, the arts and society.

A sample rubric for general assessments can be found [here](#)



GLENBROOK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (GSO)

The Glenbrook Symphony Orchestra (GSO) is the crux of the Glenbrook Orchestra Program. All sophomore, junior, and senior string players (members of Symphonic Orchestra) are required to participate in GSO, which is a co-curricular ensemble. Select freshman may also be invited to participate in GSO based on their audition at the beginning of the year as well as the musical needs of the ensemble. Winds and percussion students in GSO are selected through auditions at the beginning of the year and represent students from both GBN and GBS. GSO rehearses Wednesday nights from 7:00-9:15pm from September-March. Fall rehearsals take place at GBS and spring rehearsal take place at GBN. The GSO performs 2 major concerts a year (November and March) in addition to holiday assemblies and other performances.

Sophomore, Junior, and Senior String players: GSO is co-curricular with Symphonic Orchestra class at both schools and is required for all members. Attendance is mandatory and is a factor in your semester and final class grade.

Freshmen String players: Select freshmen may be invited to join GSO based on the audition in String Ensemble class at the beginning of the year or first semester final exam. Freshmen who are invited to join GSO remain in String Ensemble class, are expected to learn the music on their own, and attend Wednesday night GSO rehearsals. Because freshmen are not in the older symphonic class, they are typically seated in the middle of the section so that they are surrounded by the older students. GSO attendance and participation also becomes a factor in their string ensemble grade. Freshmen string players in GSO are rare and admittance is based on their audition at the beginning of the year, the musical needs of the ensemble, and at the discretion of the directors.

Wind/Percussion players (Freshman – Senior): GSO is extra-curricular for all wind and percussion students. Admittance into GSO is based on auditions* at the beginning of the year as well as the musical and instrumentation needs of the ensemble. Any wind/percussion player can audition to be in GSO, freshman through seniors, regardless of which band they are enrolled in. **All wind/percussion players MUST be enrolled in a curricular band class at GBN or GBS to participate in GSO. No exceptions will be made.** Wind/Percussion players are expected to learn the GSO music on their own, practice outside of rehearsal, and attend all mandatory rehearsals and performances. The music for wind players and percussionists is challenging and it is expected that students who audition and are accepted into GSO will be rigorous in their practicing efforts since they only rehearse on Wednesday nights with the full orchestra.

*Percussionists: since the demands are varied in terms of part assignments and instrumentation (mallet, batterie, auxiliary, etc), admittance to GSO is based on number of available spots, orchestral experience, an interview with the directors, and recommendation from the band directors.

Harp/Piano players: Students who play instruments not traditionally used in band or string orchestra such as piano and harp should speak directly with the orchestra directors.



GSO EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

It is expected that all members of the GSO abide by the same expectations and policies. Please read through the following carefully:

- The music performed by the GSO represents a wide array of standard orchestra literature. It is challenging, and it is expected that all students practice their parts outside of rehearsal and listen to recordings provided on the GSO website.
- All members are expected to arrive early to rehearsal with their instrument(s), music folder, and a pencil. Rehearsal starts at 7pm, so if you walk in at 7, you are late.
- Abide by the attendance policy
- All rules established by the District 225 Code of Conduct apply
- Students check the website (www.glenbrooksymphony.org) for the latest rehearsal schedules and concert information.

Attendance Policy

- All rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances are **mandatory** for all members of the orchestra.
- **Excused absences** are permitted for the following circumstances: religious obligation, family emergency, extreme sudden illness (see below).
- **Unexcused absences** are not permitted and will result in a “0” for that rehearsal.
- **Sport/school conflict:** most of our GSO members are involved with different school-sponsored activities and athletics. All conflicts need to be communicated to the directors with **at least 24 hours-notice** prior to rehearsal. In most cases, the orchestra directors and the coach/sponsor of the school-sponsored event will discuss a compromise that the student will follow. Please make every effort to look at schedules as far in advance as possible and communicate to the sponsors early so that decisions and alternative plans can be made.
- The following are **NOT** examples of excused absences: SAT/ACT class, Drivers Ed, part-time jobs, too much homework/studying for a test.
- **Illness:** in order for illness to count as an excused absence, the student either must not have been present in school that day (Wednesday) or the student either won't be in school the following day (Thursday).
- **Dress Rehearsals:** there is an in-school dress rehearsal field trip that occurs before each concert (November and March) where the students are called out from class so we can rehearse in the concert auditorium. These dress rehearsals are mandatory and no exceptions will be made. If a student does not come to the dress rehearsal, they will not play on the concert.
- **Performances:** all GSO performances are mandatory, including the call-time final rehearsal before the concert. Failure to attend a performance will result in removal from the ensemble.
- In the case of any unexpected or extenuating circumstances, please contact the orchestra directors immediately.



GSO EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES (CON'T)

Grading Policy

- The GSO grading policy applies to all students registered in an orchestra class.
- Every Wednesday night rehearsal is a weighted 10 points.
- Unexcused absences will result in 0 points for that rehearsal.
- Excused absences/tardies will not result in any grade penalty.
- If a student is tardy, they receive only 5 points for that rehearsal. (Tardy can mean both walking in after the conductor has started rehearsal, and not being ready to play once the tuning begins)
- Any inappropriate behavior or failure to participate, **including being on your cell phone during rehearsal** will result in a grade deduction.
- Forgetting your music, pencil, or instrument will result in a grade deduction.
- Dress Rehearsals are worth 100 points, and every minute of tardiness results in a double-point deduction (ex: if you are 10 minutes late, 20 points will be deducted)
- Concerts (including call-time final rehearsal) are worth 100 points and the same double-point deduction applies for tardiness.
- Wind/percussion: should any of the above listed scenarios become an issue, a meeting will be held with the directors, and should the issue(s) not resolve, that could lead to dismissal from the ensemble.

Concert Uniform (for all freshmen-senior strings, winds, and percussion):

The concert uniform consists of a black GSO concert polo shirt, black dress pants, and black dress footwear. Additional items can include a black belt and black dress socks. **Black jeans and leggings are not permitted for concerts.**

- **Polo Shirts:** All students are required to purchase a GSO concert polo shirt. If a student has their concert polo from a previous year and does not require a change in size, then they can use the same polo. Otherwise, a new one can be purchased.
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- **Concert Footwear:** needs to be purchased individually. Dress shoes/flats need to be black and close-toed. There should be no visible logos or any other color besides black.

Fees (for all freshmen-senior strings, winds, and percussion):

All members of GSO are required to pay a school-approved \$40 participation fee. This payment is collected at the beginning of the year in September. This fee allows us to provide unique opportunities to members of the orchestra program and GSO such as professional-level concert recordings, collaborating with guest artists and sectional coaches, and aides in opportunities for senior scholarships and the annual orchestra banquet.

Instrument Rental - Winds

Any wind student in GSO who is given a school-owned instrument needs to fill out and sign the instrument rental agreement. The instruments loaned out are not primary instruments, but secondary or utility instruments such as: A/Eb/Bass clarinets, C/piccolo trumpet,



English Horn, or Bass Trombone. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to make sure that the instrument is treated with the utmost respect and care, and any damages that occur to the instrument during their rental period might result in a fine.

GSO PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The GSO Parents' Association is a non-profit parent organization with the main objective of supporting the orchestra directors and orchestra students. Meetings are held at alternating schools on Monday evenings as needed, usually between 4-5 times per academic year. The Parents' Association helps with the following items:

- Student Fundraising
- Trips
- Setting up post-concert reception (November and March)
- Organizing and buying food and water for Glenbrook South Variety Show Concession stand (GSO's biggest fundraiser of the year! - February)
- Collecting payment and coordinating logistics for the annual GSO Banquet (May)

If you are interested in joining the GSO Parents' Association, please email the orchestra directors or look out for an email in September before our first meeting.

GSO STUDENT BOARD

The GSO Student Board is a group elected students who represent the GSO. Meetings are held monthly on Wednesday nights before GSO rehearsal. Elections for student board are held in September. Positions available include:

- President
- Vice President
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Outreach Coordinator
- GBN String Rep
- GBS String Rep
- GBN Wind/Perc Rep
- GBS Wind/Perc Rep

The student board helps come up with inclusive activities for the orchestra, as well as helping run 2 important events: Strictly Strings Festival with the 8th Graders Field Trip & Lunch, and the annual Orchestra Banquet. Past activities have included:

- GSO Theme Nights
- Secret Santa during Holiday Assemblies
- Service projects
- Paint-the-Town during Homecoming
- Incoming Freshman Night – speaking to incoming students and parents
- Representing the orchestra at different school events
- Reaching out to younger orchestra students at the elementary/middle schools



TRIPS AND FUNDRAISING

Trips

One of the coolest and most memorable experiences you can have in high school is going on an orchestra trip! GSO has traveled both in the U.S. (New York City, Orlando, Los Angeles, Hawaii) and around the world (London/Wales, Italy, Venice). We typically travel every other year with the GBS Jazz Band. While 2023-2024 is not a trip year, it is our intention to travel in the 2024-25 year, so students can start fundraising this year! The trip is open to all freshman-senior students in the orchestra program. We will hit the ground running in August with many different fundraising opportunities to help defray the cost of the trip. All trip destinations are selected by the directors and must be approved by the District 225 Board of Education, superintendent, and the building principals. We try to keep trip costs as low as possible and plan trips where a minimum number of school days are lost.

Fundraising

GSO students can earn money to offset the cost of orchestra trips. Monies raised through the fundraising program goes directly into the student's own account. Because we travel every other year, students can fundraise for two years per trip. Funds can be rolled over from year to year and can be transferred to younger siblings when the student graduates. Trip accounts for students are maintained by the GSO Parents' Association Treasurer. The reasons for creating individual internal trip accounts are to keep a record of trip payments and to allow these individuals to fundraise money to pay for orchestra trips.

We are very fortunate to have a great relationship with the GBSIL (Glenbrook South Instrumental League) who we partner with for all of our major fundraising opportunities. Fundraising is a great way to help out your parents when deciding to go on a trip – and it is very possible to pay for the trip entirely with fundraising funds.

1. Fundraising opportunities are listed on the GSO website and introduced in class (ex: checkbooks, cheesecakes, plants, fruits, candles, etc.) Fundraised monies are kept in internal accounts managed by the GSO Parents' Association Treasurer. If a student raises more money than is needed for the trip and a parent/guardian of the student is going on the trip as a chaperone, any additional monies can be transferred from the students account to their parent/guardians account.
2. Once money and any necessary paperwork is collected for a certain fundraiser, students should turn everything in to one of the directors, or turn into the designated drop-off location. Envelopes should have the students name and "GSO" written on it.
3. It is extremely important that fundraised money be turned in on time with the required paperwork! Most suppliers do not allow for late or revised orders.
4. Payment schedules for trips will be published in advanced and all students, parents, and guests going on the trip are expected to meet this payment schedule. No one will be allowed to go on the trip without all amounts paid in full according to the payments schedule established for the trip.
5. Students with demonstrated financial need should seek administrative assistance for advice.



Contract of Expectations for String Section Leaders
(rev. Sept 2023)

The section leader/s (principal, co-principal and associate principal players) in an ensemble are very important jobs that not only require musical and technical excellence on the instrument, but the ability to be a leader both within the section and the ensemble. This document contains the expectations and requirements of a section leader in an instrumental ensemble. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in a meeting with the director, the reduction of responsibilities or title to section member, or dismissal from the ensemble.

Expectations

- Arrives at rehearsal by **6:45pm**
- Always has a pencil
- Assists with any tuning needs within the section
- Sets an example of fine ensemble participation
- Models mature behavior during rehearsals and breaks
- Demonstrates correct musical responses to instruction from the conductor
- Sets the best possible example of respectful behavior and attitude toward those in authority and whomever is on the podium
- Communicates bowings, fingerings, breathing, articulations, etc. proactively to the section, using the information given by the section coach or conductor
- Sets the best possible example of musical proficiency and preparedness
- Plays his or her part only, to the best of their ability
- Does not play other instrumental cues unless asked by conductor
- Works well with other principal players and concertmaster to form a team of musical leaders for the ensemble
- Works well as a co-leader if designated by the conductor
- May offer a suggestion to conductor regarding matters of the section outside of rehearsal, in a non-public setting
- Leads sectionals in a professional, positive, and constructive manner
- Assist younger members of the ensemble on parts, if asked by the conductor or the younger member
- Defers to conductor on matters of part assignments and if a section should be played. A suggestion may be made if asked by the conductor, otherwise part assignments are at the conductor’s discretion
- Expected to perform in the **Glenbrook Festival of Music on Sunday, March 3, 2024** – please save this date NOW.
- String section leaders are expected to participate and help run the **Strictly Strings Festival on Tuesday, October 24th, 2023 at GBN**

I, _____, agree to the guidelines and responsibilities as outlined in this document. I understand that if I fail to meet these requirements, it can result in either a demotion from section leader or dismissal from the group. As a section leader, I strive to perform my part as accurately and musically as possible, act as a model citizen and leader for others in the ensemble and will mentor younger members of the ensemble.

_____	_____	_____
Section Leader	Date	Ensemble Conductor
_____	_____	_____
Parent Signature	Date	Ensemble Conductor



Contract of Expectations for Wind/Percussion Section Leaders
(rev. Sept 2023)

The section leader/s (principal, co-principal and associate principal players) in an ensemble are very important jobs that not only require musical and technical excellence on the instrument, but the ability to be a leader both within the section and the ensemble. This document contains the expectations and requirements of a section leader in an instrumental ensemble. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in a meeting with the director, the reduction of responsibilities or title to section member, or dismissal from the ensemble.

Expectations

- Arrives at rehearsal by **6:45pm** (percussion – 6:30pm)
- Always has a pencil
- Assists with any tuning needs within the section
- Sets an example of fine ensemble participation
- Models mature behavior during rehearsals and breaks
- Demonstrates correct musical responses to instruction from the conductor
- Sets the best possible example of respectful behavior and attitude toward those in authority and whomever is on the podium
- Communicates bowings, fingerings, breathing, articulations, etc. proactively to the section, using the information given by the section coach or conductor
- Sets the best possible example of musical proficiency and preparedness
- Plays his or her part only, to the best of their ability
- Does not play other instrumental cues unless asked by conductor
- Works well with other principal players and concertmaster to form a team of musical leaders for the ensemble
- Works well as a co-leader if designated by the conductor
- May offer a suggestion to conductor regarding matters of the section outside of rehearsal, in a non-public setting
- Leads sectionals in a professional, positive, and constructive manner
- Assist younger members of the ensemble on parts, if asked by the conductor or the younger member
- Defers to conductor on matters of part assignments and if a section should be played. A suggestion may be made if asked by the conductor, otherwise part assignments are at the conductor’s discretion
- May be asked to perform in the **Glenbrook Festival of Music on Sunday, March 3, 2024**, pending instrumentation needs and band director consultation.

I, _____, agree to the guidelines and responsibilities as outlined in this document. I understand that if I fail to meet these requirements, it can result in either a demotion from section leader or dismissal from the group. As a section leader, I strive to perform my part as accurately and musically as possible, act as a model citizen and leader for others in the ensemble, and will mentor younger members of the ensemble.

Section Leader

Date

Ensemble Conductor

Section Leader

Date

Ensemble Conductor



2023-2024 GSO REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Please note all rehearsals carefully and mark on your calendar. ALL REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from **7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.** Promptness is a necessity so time is not wasted (plan on arriving 10 minutes early to warm-up and tune). Prior to each rehearsal a schedule will be posted at each school and on the GSO website with the pieces to be rehearsed and the approximate times so students who do not perform in each work may leave quietly when finished.

Fall Semester

GBS Sept. 13

GBS Sept. 20

GBS Sept. 27

GBS Oct. 4

GBS Oct. 11

GBS Oct. 18

GBS Oct. 25

GBS Nov. 1

GBS Nov. 8

GBS Nov. 15

GBS Nov. 17 (Friday)
Dress Rehearsal – **Mandatory**
GBS Auditorium
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

GBS Nov. 19 (Sun)
GSO Fall Concert
3:30 p.m. Concert
2:00 p.m. Call time

GBS Nov. 29

GBS Dec. 6

GBS Dec. 13

Holiday Assembly Day - Dec. 20 (Wed)

GBS/GBN (3:15pm Yearbook Pictures)

Spring Semester

GBN Jan. 10

GBN Jan. 17 – No Rehearsal (Final Exams)

GBN Jan. 24

GBN Jan. 31

GBN Feb. 7

GBN Feb. 14

GBN Feb. 21

GBN Feb. 28

GBN March 6

GBN March 13

GBN March 18 (Monday)
Concerto Rehearsal - On CPA stage

GBN March 19 (Tuesday)
Dress Rehearsal – **Mandatory**
GBN Center for Performing Arts
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

GBN March 20 (Wednesday)
GSO Spring Concert
7:30 p.m. Concert
6:00 p.m. Call time

Orchestra Banquet – Thurs, May 23rd @ GBS
6pm Social Hour / Dinner
7:30pm Awards Presentation



IMPORTANT DATES 2023-2024

Concert Dates – Required for All Orchestra Students

Tuesday, October 24th @ GBN Sheely Center for the Performing Arts

Strictly Strings Festival, 7:00pm

GBN/GBS Freshman String Ensembles, Incoming 8th Graders, Selected Soloists & Sinfonietta

Sunday, November 19th @ GBS Watson Auditorium (dress rehearsal Fri, 11/17, 7:30am @ GBS)

GSO Fall Concert, 3:30pm (mandatory for all orchestra students)

Tuesday, December 19th @ GBN Sheely Center for the Performing Arts

GBN Winter Concert, 7:30pm (GBN Strings/Winds/Percussion only)

Wednesday, December 20th @ GBS/GBN

Holiday Assemblies at both schools followed by Yearbook Pictures, 7:30am-3:45pm (all GSO students)

Wednesday, March 20th @ GBN Center for Performing Arts (dress rehearsal Tues, 3/21, 7:30am @ GBN)

GSO Spring Concert, 7:30pm (with concerto competition winners, mandatory for all orchestra students)

Tuesday, May 15th @ GBS Watson Auditorium

Spring Orchestra Concert, 7:30pm (all GSO Strings and Freshman String Ensembles)

Other Program Dates

Wednesday, October 4th (not required)

ILMEA District 7 Auditions – Video Auditions Due (packets can be picked up in August)

Saturday, November 4th @ Glenbrook South HS

IMEA District 7 Clinic and Performance, all day (by audition only)

Tuesday, January 9th @ GBS / Wednesday, January 10th @ GBN: GSO Concerto Competition

For students interested in auditioning – more information available in December

Sunday, March 3rd @ Glenbrook South HS: Glenbrook Festival of Music

GSO Section Leaders and Sinfonietta only – times on Fri 3/1 and Sat 3/2 TBD

Wednesday, May 1st – Saturday, May 4th @ GBN Sheely Center for the Performing Arts

55th Annual Glenbrook Musical (selected members from both schools comprise the pit orchestra)

Thursday, May 23rd @ Glenbrook South Autos Courtyard/Auditorium

Orchestra Banquet, 6pm (for all members of the Glenbrook Orchestra Program)



GSO FUN FACTS

1980: The Glenbrook District Orchestra is formed by Mr. Frank Winkler

1981: Mr. Carl J. Meyer becomes Director of Orchestras at the Glenbrooks.

1994: Mr. Meyer renames the orchestra to the Glenbrook Symphony Orchestra (GSO)

1998: Glenbrook Sinfonietta is asked to accompany the All-State Choir at IMEA

2002: GSO is invited to perform at the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL

2003: GSO initiates a multi-year exchange program with the CAVMS Orchestra Program in Wales, UK

2008: Glenbrook South HS named as a GRAMMY Signature School for its music department

2008: GSO becomes the first high school orchestra to perform on *Introductions* on WFMT 98.7FM (and included on their *Best of... CD*)

2011: GSO performs in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in Chicago, IL

2019: GSO celebrates its 40th Anniversary!

GSO ALUMNI CURRENTLY HOLD POSITIONS IN MANY OF THE WORLD'S LEADING ORCHESTRAS INCLUDING:

- Chicago Symphony Orchestra
 - Lyric Opera of Chicago
 - New York Philharmonic
- Boston Symphony Orchestra
- Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
 - Seattle Symphony
- Toronto Symphony Orchestra
- New York City Ballet Orchestra
- Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
- Madison Symphony Orchestra
 - Minnesota Orchestra
- Grant Park Symphony Orchestra
- Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra