



Granada Band and Orchestra
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Whittier, CA

Granada Band and Orchestra
15337 Lemon Drive
Whittier, Ca 90604

Welcome to Granada Middle School Band and Orchestra Program!

August 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you for joining our award-winning band and orchestra program for the 2023-2024 school year! This summer, we moved to a new classroom. If you are the parent of a seventh or eighth grader, please take note that we are now in the former Robotics room, room 48. Thank you to all who helped us with moving instruments to our new classroom this summer. We kindly ask all students to be patient as we continue to adapt to our new music classroom, but we are excited for our new space!

This is a welcome packet with important information regarding our music program. Attached is our music program calendar. Please keep the calendar on your fridge or somewhere easy to refer to. After you have reviewed the contents of this packet, I kindly ask that you sign the **program contract agreement**, found toward the back of this packet, and return with your child by **Friday, August 25, 2023**.

Communication, via email and Remind/Band apps, is vital to ensure your child is successful in our program. You will find it beneficial to download the Remind/Band app on your cell phone, our most often used method of communication. Sign up today using the instructions provided in this packet, and be sure to sign up for the correct class code (check with your child about which class they are enrolled in).

If your child is new to our program, they will in the coming weeks hear about the different instrument options. Our school has a very limited inventory of instruments that are available for borrowing. School-owned instruments will be loaned with priority to students who would like to play larger instruments (such as trombone, euphonium, tuba, cello, and bass). We will be assigning instruments toward the end of this month during class. Students are also welcome to check out an instrument through a low-cost instrument rental program through any local music store in the area (this will give your child more freedom to choose their instrument, especially if it is a popular instrument.)

In closing, I cannot wait to start making music in our classroom. I know that we will learn so much and that we will have fun during the process. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress in music class. The best way to contact me is by emailing me at rsilva@ewcsd.org. I check my emails daily Monday-Friday and do my best to respond within 24 hours. Please note I do not accept replies via Remind, so kindly email me if you have a question regarding an announcement. You can also visit our website at www.GMSmusic.org, where you will find resources and important updates regarding our music program. Thank you again, and let's have a great school year!

Committed to your student's success,

Mr. Silva

rsilva@ewcsd.org

(562) 464-2385 (Please note the new classroom phone number!)

Granada Band and Orchestra Class Syllabus

Effective 2023-2024 Academic School Year

Teacher: Rudy Silva (Room 48)

Contact Email: rsilva@ewcsd.org

Website: www.GMSmusic.org

ACADEMIC PROGRESS REQUIREMENT: ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A MUSIC CLASS ARE EXPECTED TO EARN AN A, B, OR C IN ALL ACADEMIC CLASSES. STUDENTS EARNING D'S OR F'S IN OTHER CLASSES ARE SUBJECT TO ACADEMIC PROBATION AND POTENTIAL REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM. STUDENTS EARNING D's OR F'S ARE SUBJECT TO PLACEMENT INTO STUDY SKILLS.

SYMPHONIC BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Symphonic Band is a year-long enrichment elective for returning band students at Granada Middle School. Some students in this class are 7th/8th grade new/beginning to the band program.

WIND ENSEMBLE COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Wind Ensemble is an advanced level year-long enrichment elective, and students must have completed an audition to be accepted into this class. Students in this class represent the high caliber of our music program and must meet the expectations of the director in order to keep their spot in this ensemble. The music we will study will be highly advanced (high-school level music) and this ensemble will have a very active performance schedule. Daily, consistent practice is mandatory to keep your spot in this ensemble.

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Advanced Orchestra is a year-long enrichment elective for returning string students at Granada Middle School. Students must complete an audition to be accepted into this class. Students enrolled in this class must have at least one year of experience playing a violin, viola, cello, bass, or piano. Students in this class represent the high caliber of our music program and must meet the expectations of the director in order to keep their spot in this ensemble.

STRING ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION: The String Orchestra class is a year-long enrichment elective for sixth grade orchestra students, or 7th grade students who have 1 year of experience or are new to the orchestra program at Granada. The students in this class will have the option of playing violin, viola, cello, or bass.

CONCERT BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Concert Band class is a year-long band elective for sixth grade students.. The students in this class will have the option of playing flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, trombone, tuba, or percussion.

JAZZ BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION: Jazz Band is an after-school ensemble. Consistent attendance to all rehearsals is a requirement for any students involved with this ensemble. Students must have at least one year in our program in order to participate. An audition is required.

*All students will be required to complete an audition in May to be placed into an ensemble for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please note that Mr. Silva reserves the right to recommend a class change if the student is currently enrolled in Wind Ensemble or Advanced Orchestra and is not meeting the requirements for these advanced level courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the school year, each student in this class will be able to:

1. Learn or improve music reading skills
2. Improve their tone quality on their instrument
3. Learn scales on their instruments
4. Improve intonation (playing their instrument in tune, as a soloist and within the ensemble)
5. Critically evaluate performances and accept constructive criticism from qualified music professionals
6. Further the sense of pride and enjoyment in playing an instrument
7. Sight-read music of medium level (grade level 1-2 out of 5)
8. Learn how to prepare for an audition

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Must be brought to class every single day. Students will receive a **warning** the first time they forget any of their materials. The second time, they will be issued a **detention**. Consistently forgetting materials will result in **parent conference** and could lead to being removed from this class.

1. Black 1" ring binder dedicated for Band/Orchestra music **ONLY (must show to Mr. Silva on Friday, August 25 - Binder check will take place this day, 10 points)**
2. 10 Individual plastic sheet covers to protect music from flying away or getting ruined
3. Preferably 2-3 mechanical pencils (to avoid needing to sharpen). **NO PENS, SHARPIES, or MARKERS!**
4. Instrument, ready to go, in good-working order, **REQUIRED: Granada-provided name tag attached to case!**
5. **Woodwinds:** Size 2 ½ (beginners) or higher # reeds (you must own at least 5 reeds), cleaning rod/swab, cork grease

6. **Brass:** Your own small bottle of valve oil, slide grease, cleaning snake, straight mute (trumpets)
7. **Percussion:** Own pair of SD-1 sticks, and practice pad are required.
8. **Violin/Viola/Cello/Bass:** Rosin. Rosin is specific to each instrument. Shoulder rests - required of all violin and viola students. **Strings:** 1 **set** of extra strings (4 strings total). You are expected to have your own replacement set of strings.
9. All students in the program are required to have a metronome/tuner (Korg TM-60 or TM-50). Please write your child's first and last name by attaching a sticker, tape, or using a metallic marker to mark the device. Students in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Advanced Orchestra must show these to Mr. Silva on **Friday, August 25**. Beginning classes (String Orchestra and Concert Band) will show these items to Mr. Silva **on Friday, September 29th (you have more time)**. Students can find this on Amazon or at your local instrument music store.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES: Failure to follow classroom procedures will result in a **warning** (first time), **MERIT Make-Up** (second time), or parent phone call or **conference**. Excessive behavior issues can result in possible **removal** from the program.

1. Wait outside on a gold dot. Wait for permission to enter the classroom in a quiet, respectful manner.
2. Get your instrument from your assigned locker first thing (know your lock combination!). If you have a larger instrument, take it out of the case, and put the case back into the locker to save space.
3. If you need a music stand, grab one from the stand rack and quickly go to your seat before the bell.
4. Hang your backpacks on the hooks outside our classroom. Backpacks may not be brought into our classroom. Only bring your music binder and a pencil into the room.
5. Set up your instrument, as instructed.
6. Place your music folder on your stand.
7. Put your pencil on your stand. Pencil checks are part of your grade!
8. Check the board before the beginning of class and put your music/materials in the listed order. IF you forgot your music, you must share with your neighbor, or ask the librarian for a copy **before the bell rings**.
9. Warm up: have your instrument/music/stand/pencil ready to go.
10. Do **NOT** play unnecessary sounds (purposefully squeaking, playing really high notes, or making funny sounds). This may result in a detention.
11. When the director gets on the podium, go to rest position: face forward, stop playing, listen **silently**.
12. When the director gives the stop signal, stop immediately and quietly go to rest position.
13. At the end of class, wait until you are dismissed to pack up.
14. Return your instrument to your locker, or take it with you. You are responsible for your belongings!
15. Pick up any trash and put all of your belongings in your backpack or locker.

CLASSROOM RULES: All students are expected to show good behavior and be positive role models to each other. Failure to follow ANY of our class rules will result in a **written warning** the first time. On the second offense, the student will automatically be issued a **detention**. Serious or subsequent offenses will result in a **parent phone call or conference** and possible **removal from the program**.

WEIGHTED GRADING CRITERIA: STUDENTS TAKING THIS ELECTIVE WILL BE ISSUED A LETTER GRADE (A, B, C, D, F)

- **Participation Points** are earned based on the student's attendance to class as well as any after school rehearsals (advanced orchestra and Wind Ensemble only, and at the end of the year we have a few after school rehearsals that are mandatory for all classes. These will be announced with plenty of notice to parents), citizenship/behavior, attitude, and preparedness to each class.
 - Forgetting instrument/music at home, tardiness, disrupting the class, or failing to be an active participant in the learning process will result in loss of participation points.
 - There will be unannounced **music folder and pencil checks** that will go toward the participation points. Students must always have their music and a pencil to earn full participation points.
- **Quizzes** will be administered to check for progress in learning new music. We will have formal in-person, individual live playing exams about 2-3 times a month. A **project** will be issued once a semester (more details to come).
 - **Make Up Quizzes:** It is the responsibility of the student to make up a quiz if they are absent (Mr. Silva will **not** remind students). Students who need to make up a quiz must make it up during class time within 1 week of their return after the absence.
 - **Retakes:** Students may retake a quiz if they would like to improve their original score. Students must re-take the quiz within 1 week of the first attempt of the quiz.
- **Performances** - Attendance and participation to the 2-4 mandatory performances outlined in our program calendar are a major component of the grade in this class. Each performance is worth 100 points. Failure to attend a concert will result in a lowered grade.

- o Please see the attached calendar of events to avoid scheduling conflicts. Please do not schedule any vacations or appointments during our set concert times. Late students will lose up to 15 points. Students who do not attend the concert will lose all 100 points for that concert score.
- o Students who do not wear all parts of the attire will also lose points for the performance score. We appreciate keeping your child's schedule clear on concert dates, as this is the main reason our students are in the music program - to perform for an audience.
- o Illness - We ask that any students who are ill on the day of the concert not to attend. Please be sure to contact the attendance office to report the absence from school, and please email Mr. Silva to inform him of the illness. The student will be required to complete an alternate assignment in lieu of participation in the concert. **Students can earn partial credit (80% credit) when completing an alternate assignment in lieu of attending the concert performance.** Failure to submit the alternate assignment will result in zero points for the concert score.
- **Practice Logs** must be filled out every day to keep track of daily practice. These are due on the first WEDNESDAY of every month and must be signed by a parent/guardian in order to receive credit. Logs can be turned in up to one day late **with a 10 point penalty**. Beyond the 1 day late submission period, the student can submit the practice log **up until the end of the quarter in which it was due for half credit.**

Field Trips:

Our music classes take a minimum of 1 field trip during the school year. Our string orchestra and concert band classes will perform at Knott's Berry Farm sometime in March or April. Our advanced music classes, including Advanced Orchestra, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble, will take at least one performing field trip sometime in the Spring Semester, to be announced pending a successful class audition to the Disneyland or California Adventure theme parks. **In order for students to be eligible for participation in field trips, the student must earn a C or higher in music class and have no missing assignments in music class. In addition, in order to be eligible for participation in a field trip, the student must exhibit positive behavior in music class. Mr. Silva reserves the right to deny a student the opportunity to attend a field trip if the student does not adhere to these requirements.**

Transportation policy on field trips: Any students who attend a band and orchestra field trip that is under the supervision of Mr. Silva this school year shall be required to ride on the school-provided bus from Granada to the intended destination, and at the conclusion of the field trip, all students must also ride back to Granada Middle School on the bus. Parents must keep in mind that students will not be allowed to get picked up by their parents at any of the field trip destinations (i.e. Knott's or Disneyland).

Students' overall grade in band/orchestra class is weighted. This means that some categories in the grade bear more weight than others. See the chart below to see which assignments will have a bigger impact on the overall grade:

Category	% of total grade
Participation	10
Quizzes/Projects	30
Practice Logs	25
Performances	35

**DUE August 25, 2023
WORTH 75 POINTS**

GMS Band and Orchestra Program Contract
Effective 23-24 Academic School Year

Student Last Name _____ **First Name** _____ **Date** _____ **Period** _____

We, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s), understand that enrolling in the band and orchestra program at Granada is a **commitment for one academic school year**. Unlike other electives offered at Granada, all music students will remain in the program until June. Student, you are now a part of our team, and everyone is equally important. Please understand that this year our program has a waitlist, so this commitment is even more crucially important. Parents, please help to enforce with your child what it means to make a commitment to a team, and in this case our music program. We do not permit students to quit mid-year.

Students are required to practice their instrument at least 150 minutes of practice each week. Daily, consistent practice is a critical part of succeeding in this class. It is the student's responsibility to take his or her assigned instrument home to practice every day, in order to make satisfactory progress. Students with larger instruments may practice 2-3 times a week during their field time at school. They will need to commit to making up any other minutes at home. Practice logs must be turned in on time each month, worth 25% of the overall grade. **Failing to commit to consistent, daily practice will result in the grade being lowered.**

We also agree that the student will be prepared to participate in all class activities while following the behavior expectations of the classroom. This means all required materials must be brought to class every day. If the student borrows a school instrument, it will be kept in a safe/secured location, kept in good working condition, and the student will report any issues immediately. Student will be prepared for any playing or written quizzes.

The student will also commit to attending all performances that are outlined in the class calendar of events (which could be subject to change, with timely prior communication by the director). All performances are mandatory and account for 35% of the overall grade. The director will remind students and families of upcoming (and confirmed) performances with at least one week's notice/reminder. In the instance that a student is absent for a performance, they will be required to complete an alternate assignment to be issued partial credit to make up their points. Students will be issued 80% credit when completing an alternate assignment in lieu of attending the concert performance.

Demonstrating positive character traits to all students and staff is an important part of being a member of this program. Serious disciplinary issues will result in a conference. **Excessive behavior problems (with multiple warnings provided) may be cause for removal from this program.** Keep in mind that you are a representative of this program and our school and we want the rest of our community to have a good perception of who we are. Furthermore, all band and orchestra students must maintain an overall satisfactory GPA to remain in this program. **Receiving a D or an F in other academic classes could result in the student being removed from this band/orchestra class and being placed into a study skills course for the remainder of this school year.**

By signing below, you agree to the commitments outlined above and in this packet. This contract must be returned and put on file in order to remain in this program. This contract is valid for the 23-24 academic year.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

FATHER/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

MOTHER/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____