



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 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I am thrilled to have you and your child as part of our award-winning band and orchestra program. As we settle into another exciting year of music-making, I want to share some important information to help you and your child get off to a smooth start.

This year, we'll be exploring new music, sharpening our skills, and, of course, having a lot of fun along the way. Enclosed in this welcome packet, you'll find key details about our program, including our music calendar for the year. Please keep the calendar handy—on your fridge or somewhere easy to access. After reviewing the packet, kindly sign and return the program contract agreement with your child by **Friday, August 23, 2024**.

Effective communication is essential for your child's success in our program. Please download the Remind/Band app on your cell phone to stay updated on announcements and important information. Ensure you sign up with the correct class code (check with your child about which class they are enrolled in).

For those new to our program, students will soon be introduced to the various instrument options. Our school has a limited inventory of instruments available for borrowing, with priority given to students who opt for larger instruments like the trombone, euphonium, tuba, cello, or bass. Instrument assignments will be made later this month during class. Alternatively, you can rent an instrument from a local music store, offering more flexibility in choosing popular instruments. Please be patient as I guide your child in choosing the right instrument before making any purchases or signing any rental agreements with our local music shops.

I'm looking forward to another incredible year of music-making with your child. I'm confident that we'll learn a lot and enjoy every step of the journey together. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. The best way to contact me is via email at rsilva@ewcsd.org, which I check daily Monday through Friday during school hours. I aim to respond within 24 hours. Please note that I do not respond to replies via Remind, so email is the best way to get in touch. Additionally, our website, www.GMSmusic.org, is a great resource for updates and information.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's make this a fantastic year!

Committed to your student's success,

Mr. Silva
rsilva@ewcsd.org
(562) 464-2385

Granada Band and Orchestra Class Syllabus

Effective 2024-2025 Academic School Year

Teacher: Rudy Silva (Room 48) **Contact Email:** rsilva@ewcsd.org **Website:** www.GMSmusic.org

Academic Achievement Expectations: Students enrolled in the music program are required to maintain a minimum grade of C in all their other academic classes. If a student receives a D or F in any class, they may face academic probation. Continued poor performance could result in removal from the music program. Earning below a C in music class will result in loss of field trip and other extracurricular event privileges.

PERIOD 2: ADVANCED ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION

THE ADVANCED ORCHESTRA IS A YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE FOR EXPERIENCED STRING STUDENTS AT GRANADA MIDDLE SCHOOL. ADMISSION TO THIS CLASS REQUIRES AN AUDITION, AND STUDENTS MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF EXPERIENCE PLAYING VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS, OR PIANO. THIS ENSEMBLE SHOWCASES THE TOP LEVEL OF OUR MUSIC PROGRAM, AND STUDENTS MUST MEET RIGOROUS STANDARDS SET BY THE DIRECTOR TO RETAIN THEIR SPOT. THIS CLASS IS ONLY OPEN TO 7-8TH GRADE STUDENTS.

PERIOD 3: SYMPHONIC BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION

THE SYMPHONIC BAND IS A YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE DESIGNED FOR RETURNING INTERMEDIATE BAND STUDENTS AT GRANADA MIDDLE SCHOOL, AS WELL AS NEW OR BEGINNING STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 AND 8. THIS COURSE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO ENHANCE THEIR MUSICAL ABILITIES ACQUIRED FROM LAST YEAR AS WELL AS INTRODUCE NEW SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS TO PLAYING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. THIS CLASS IS ONLY OPEN TO 7-8TH GRADE STUDENTS.

PERIOD 4: WIND ENSEMBLE COURSE DESCRIPTION

THE WIND ENSEMBLE IS AN ADVANCED, YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE THAT REQUIRES STUDENTS TO PASS AN AUDITION FOR ACCEPTANCE. THIS ELITE GROUP REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF OUR MUSIC PROGRAM, FEATURING COMPLEX, HIGH-SCHOOL LEVEL MUSIC. MEMBERS MUST DEMONSTRATE CONSISTENT, DISCIPLINED PRACTICE AND MEET THE DIRECTOR'S HIGH EXPECTATIONS TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSITION IN THIS ACTIVE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE. THIS CLASS IS ONLY OPEN TO 7-8TH GRADE STUDENTS.

PERIOD 5: STRING ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION

THE STRING ORCHESTRA IS A YEAR-LONG INTRODUCTORY STRINGS ELECTIVE FOR SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS, OR SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS WITH SOME OR NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE. STUDENTS CAN CHOOSE TO PLAY THE VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, OR BASS. THIS COURSE FOCUSES ON FOUNDATIONAL ORCHESTRAL SKILLS AND ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE, AND IS MANDATORY FOR SIXTH GRADERS.

PERIOD 6: CONCERT BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION

THE CONCERT BAND IS A YEAR-LONG INTRODUCTORY WINDS/BRASS/PERCUSSION ELECTIVE. THIS COURSE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A VARIETY OF WIND AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING FLUTE, CLARINET, SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, FRENCH HORN, TROMBONE, BARITONE, TUBA, AND PERCUSSION. IT EMPHASIZES MUSIC READING SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENSEMBLE PLAYING, AND IS MANDATORY FOR SIXTH GRADERS.

JAZZ BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION

JAZZ BAND IS AN AFTER-SCHOOL ENSEMBLE SPECIALIZING IN JAZZ MUSIC AND IMPROVISATION. STUDENTS MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF EXPERIENCE IN OUR PROGRAM AND SUCCESSFULLY PASS AN AUDITION TO JOIN. REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT ALL REHEARSALS IS REQUIRED. REHEARSALS ARE HELD MONDAYS FROM 2:45-3:45 PM. ONE REHEARSAL CAN BE MISSED PER QUARTER WITH PRIOR ADVANCED NOTICE TO MR. SILVA OR THE STUDENT WILL LOSE THEIR SPOT IN THE JAZZ BAND.

NOTE: ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE AN AUDITION IN MAY TO BE PLACED IN 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 instrument
3. Learn how to play 12 major scales
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 and loss of participation points**. 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 23** - 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, name tag with student first and last name attached.
Parents/guardians are not permitted to drop off musical instruments at the front office if student forgets at home!
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 23**. 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 referral and/or class suspension.

1. All students **MUST** drop off their instrument to room 48 between 7:40-8 AM before school begins. No students are permitted to take their instrument to any of their classes, no exceptions. Parents are not permitted to drop off instruments to the front office if you forget your instrument at home.
2. Line up outside in your assigned line. Wait for permission to enter the classroom in a quiet, respectful manner.
3. 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.
4. If you need a music stand, grab one from the stand rack and quickly go to your seat before the bell.
5. 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.
6. Set up your instrument, as instructed.
7. Place your music folder on your stand.
8. Put your pencil on your stand. Pencil checks are part of your grade!
9. Check the TV screen for agenda 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 Mr. Silva for a copy **before the bell rings**.
10. Warm up: have your instrument/music/stand/pencil ready to go.
11. Do **NOT** play unnecessary sounds (purposefully squeaking, playing really high notes, or making funny sounds). This may result in a detention.
12. When the director gets on the podium, go to rest position: face forward, stop playing, listen **silently**.

13. When the director gives the stop signal, stop immediately and quietly go to rest position.
14. At the end of class, wait until you are dismissed to pack up.
15. Return your instrument to your locker, or take it with you. You are responsible for your belongings!
16. 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)

- **Classwork/Participation (15%)**
 - Students will begin with 100 participation points at the start of each quarter. Forgetting instrument/music at home, tardiness, disrupting the class, or failing to be an active participant in the learning process will result in deduction of these points. (-10 points for forgetting instrument to class, -5 points for not bringing music to class, -2 points for not bringing pencil.)
 - 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.
 - Written work will be issued in class for completion.
 - A **project** will be issued once a semester (more details to come).
- **Quizzes (25%)** 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.
 - **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. Students who are absent during the day of a quiz will not have the option to retake outside of class time, please keep this in mind. Be prepared for quiz days so you are ready and to alleviate any nerves or anxiety. Practicing before the quiz will help you be successful!
 - **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 (45%)** - 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.
 - 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. Please refer to the music 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. If you see a conflict with the schedule because of a prior commitment already scheduled prior, please communicate this to Mr. Silva right away.
 - Students who do not wear all parts of the attire will also lose points for the performance score.
 - 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 will earn partial credit (80% credit) for 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 (15%)** 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**. No name will receive an automatic 10 point deduction. 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 Universal Studios).

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. Please note there have been changes from last school year!

Category	% of total grade
Classwork/Participation	15
Quizzes	25
Practice Logs	15
Performances	45

DUE August 23, 2024
WORTH 75 POINTS

GMS Band and Orchestra Program Contract
Effective 24-25 Academic School Year

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

We, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s), fully understand that joining the band and orchestra program at Granada is a **commitment that lasts for the entire academic year (August-June)**. Unlike other electives, all music students are enrolled in the program until June. As a student, you're now an essential part of our music program, and every single member plays a crucial role in our success. Parents, we ask for your help in stressing the importance of this commitment to your child. When a student leaves the program mid-year, it disrupts the momentum and progress of the entire class and program. Consider this carefully as you make your decision.

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. The student commits to being honest when filling out practice logs. 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 lunch 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 15% of the overall grade. **Failing to commit to consistent, daily practice will result in the grade being lowered.**

We commit to making sure the student is fully prepared for all class activities. Student must also bring all necessary materials to class every day. Student must securely store their instrument in room 48 before school starts (instruments cannot be dropped off at the front office), take care of their instrument, and report any issues right away. Student will practice regularly and prepare in advance to be ready for any playing or written quizzes.

We have reviewed the music program's concert calendar and **commit to attending all mandatory performances listed for our specific class.** These performances are a significant part of the grade, making up 45% of the overall score (a higher percentage than last year). Mr. Silva will send reminders at least one week before each performance. If a student misses a performance, they will need to complete an alternate assignment to earn partial credit. Completing the alternate assignment will result in 80% of the points being awarded instead of full credit for attending the concert.

We commit to ensuring the student consistently follows classroom behavior rules by demonstrating MERIT-worthy conduct. Positive character and respect toward all students and staff are essential to being part of this program. Serious disciplinary issues will lead to a conference, and persistent behavior problems may result in referrals or removal from the program. As a representative of our program and school, it is crucial to uphold a positive image. Additionally, all band and orchestra students must maintain a satisfactory GPA. A D or F in other academic classes could lead to discussion for the student's possible removal from band/orchestra.

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 24-25 academic year.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

FATHER/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

MOTHER/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____