

# Welcome to Orchestra

## Which grade levels may take this elective?

- All orchestra classes are open to all grade levels: the admission is based on the ability level. In other words, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, if auditioned successfully, may be accepted in the highest orchestra, which is Chamber. On the other hand, the Beginning orchestra is open to all the students willing to learn how to play a string instrument, regardless of their grade level. Lastly, if a student has previous experience playing a string instrument, he or she may be eligible to enter any one of the **four** orchestra levels here at Glenridge, depending on his/her level of playing skills

## What are goals of this elective?

- Here are the goals quoted from the Orchestra class Handbook:
- Goals:
  - To increase student's technical skills on their instruments.
  - To increase student's understanding of music theory and how it relates to performance.
  - To expose students to wide variety of musical styles through rehearsals and performances.

As a result, all students enjoy performing the violin, viola, cello and the bass.

## What types of activities students would be doing?

- In addition to two yearly concerts, one in December (Winter Concert) and one in May (Spring Concert), there are other important and fun performance opportunities throughout the year, some of them mandatory, like the Orchestra MPA, while others are voluntary. One event that majority of Orchestra students prefer and enjoy participating in on the voluntary basis is *Solo* and *Ensemble MPA*. MPA stands for Music Performance Assessment, which is often referred to as "Music FCAT", but is a rather fun and rewarding activity. Students are eager to participate in Solo/Ensemble MPA for many reasons, among which are: fun/enjoyment, available extra credit and definitely –

recognition. It is customary for Glenridge Orchestra students to earn the high recognition awards and bring home a medal of recognition! Help is always available from the Orchestra teacher, as well as from our Glenridge alumni from the Winter Park High School Orchestra, who visit Glenridge to share their experience and offer free tutoring to our Orchestra students. The exciting news is that this year, Glenridge is hosting Solo and Ensemble MPA: our Orchestra students will be at “home” helping to monitor the event, and just like in sports, will have an advantage of “playing at home”.

Some other performance opportunities include orchestra field trips to present concerts in the community. Every year, we are welcomed at the Savannah Court of Maitland, and again are in the process of preparations for our most enjoyable trip to Disney World. In Spring we will be performing at the Tomorrow’s Land Starlight Café. It will take place on the elevator stage. We will access the stage through the labyrinths under the theme park and it will bring the entire orchestra up, under the lights and fanfare of the “Disney voice” announcing the Glenridge orchestra’s presentation around the park. Another exciting part of participating in this program, called the Disney Magic Music Days, is that all the orchestra participants will receive free tickets to attend a Walt Disney World theme park for the entire day, not to mention the free tickets for the parents-chaperones. It is a rewarding experience for all participating students who work hard throughout the year. The performance opportunities are endless: you may see Glenridge students performing from the Orlando Art Festivals to specially constructed stages at the malls, such as Orlando Fashion Square Mall and the Mall at Millennia. Glenridge is also proud to be represented by its orchestra students at the All-State Orchestra, the highest ranked middle school orchestra in Florida, and All-County Orchestra. Many Glenridge students successfully audition and are members of such fine performing groups as FSYO – Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra, FYAO – Florida Young Artists Orchestra, MAYS – Metropolitan Area Youth Symphony and A Gift For Music Orchestra, to name a few.

### **What type of students tends to enjoy this elective?**

- Students who enjoy orchestra come from different backgrounds, but are brought together by common enjoyment of being a part of a successful team -- Glenridge Middle School Orchestra.

### **What are the application requirements (other than requesting it on the electives form)?**

- There are four levels of Glenridge Orchestra: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced or Concert and Chamber. Beginning orchestra is open to everyone who never played a string instrument before. Intermediate is usually are students who have had one to two

year experience playing a string instrument. These are some incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders as well as transfer students. Advanced or sometimes called Concert Orchestra consists of the students who successfully passed the Intermediate level, or again, those students who have had prior experience with a string instrument and would like to audition to be accepted in the Advanced Orchestra. Finally Chamber, the top Glenridge Orchestra consists from students who successfully passed any previous orchestra level as well as any students, even new to Glenridge, who would again, successfully audition for Chamber.

**What other information do you think students should know about this elective?**

- While it is becoming increasingly more expensive for students to rent an instrument outside the school, we now can say that we are practically able to provide majority of students with the fine instruments owned by the school with a very small yearly rental fee that is used for maintenance of these instruments. Part of this small rental fee is used to expand one of the largest Middle School Orchestra library in the county. As a result, year after year we are able play new as well as classic favorites such as popular tunes from the movies, Broadway shows, videogames and such. The Glenridge Orchestra is proud to wear the orchestra uniform that may be personalized with a student's name and instrument he/she plays.

If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the orchestra director Mr. Dolinsky at:

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