



A Tradition of Excellence

Welcome to Orchestra at Greeley West. If you are in this program, you are in a wonderful place. The Greeley West Orchestras are well respected in our school, community, and state. We have a tradition of excellence and look to contribute to that legacy every year. In the orchestra, there is one mantra that we keep:

“Work Hard. Play Hard.”

We ***work hard*** to improve our craft as string player and deepen our knowledge of music literacy, history, and theory. Music is one of the most beautiful disciplines known to mankind, and understanding it helps us not just perform on our instruments better, but become more human...by creating and appreciating such things as beauty, harmony, organization, community, and work ethic. We take time in class to make sure that you can relate music to your life and to relate it to global events.

We ***play hard*** in and out of the classroom. We enjoy our time together, and choose to make orchestra a fun and memorable place to be. We take trips into the community and out of town regularly. When you look back on your high school experience, you will think fondly of your orchestra days.

This orchestra is a family. There is an open door policy discussion is welcomed by students, community members, and family members whom have questions, comments, or concerns. Feel free to speak your ideas, successes, stories, problems, and concerns. This is YOUR Orchestra.

In this booklet are many resources that will be used in class and for personal enjoyment. In an effort to be conscious of materials and resources, please keep this in a safe place and readily accessible in class.

Musically,

Tom Nugent

Director of Orchestras, Greeley West High School

tnugent@greeleyschools.org

970-348-5535

GWHS Orchestra Philosophy

Provide opportunity for increased skill level and highest musical experience to all students. Every learner will have a heightened aesthetic awareness and relate music to their personal lives as well as historical global contexts.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Policies and Procedures of GWHS Orchestras

GWHS Warm-Ups

Chorales and Rounds

Two Octave Scales

Rhythm and Bowing Studies

Shifting Etudes

Classroom Activities (Behind Divider)

Sample CHSAA Rubric/IB Performance Rubric

Grades

Attendance/Participation

There is an opportunity to receive 5 points per day, and 10 points on block days. Students with excused absences will be allowed to earn back missed points by recording 30 minutes of practice at school. (I.e. before school, lunch, open period, etc.) To earn all points available, students should be in their seat, ready to tune 90 seconds after the bell rings. Anyone not in their seat when the “A” is given will be considered tardy. Two points will be docked for each unexcused tardy. Please come prepared with instrument, rock stops/shoulder rests, music, sharpened pencils, extra strings, rosin, a practice log, and a positive attitude. Failure to do so will result in the loss of points. It is important to be *present and prepared* for rehearsal.

Concerts

Participation in the concerts is mandatory. 100 points are given each concert and dress rehearsals associated with the concert. The call time for concerts is 30 minutes prior to the start of concert. Tuning and warm-up will begin 25 minutes prior to the start of the concerts. Students are required to stay for the duration of the concert out of respect for all of the performers.

*Students who are unable to attend the concert must notify the director no less than **3 weeks** prior to the concert date. Students will complete a comparable make up assignment in the event of an excused missed concert. In the event of illness, a doctor’s note is required for the absence to be excused.*

The following are *some* examples of unacceptable reasons for missing a concert, and will result in a score of 0 for the concert:

- Forgot
- Didn’t have a ride (CALL!!)
- Homework
- Didn’t get a work shift covered in time
- Last minute family event
- Sporting/ Extra Curricular Events (unless the final home game of senior year/ or state playoffs)

Performance Pass Offs/Written Exams/Assignments

Collect missed materials and information upon. For all absences, you have **two days** to make up the assignment(s) that occurred during the absence. All assignments are due upon return if they were assigned prior to the absence. Excused absences can be made up for full credit.

Pass Offs: These are playing tests where you “pass off” to the next skill that is being worked on in class. There will be a pass-off every other week in some capacity (individual, section, partner, etc.) Those who wish to improve upon the score that they receive on a pass-off may do a retake for an improved score. Students are responsible for the scheduling of the retake.

Written Tests: Every eight weeks we will take a written music test. These will have questions over various vocabularies from the notebook, music, or in class presentations. These will also contain theory that we have covered in class. Students will be given a study guide to help prepare.

Notebook: Students will be required to keep a notebook of their work along with music and bring them to class daily. These will be checked every two weeks for 25 points. A 5 point deduction will be applied for each day that it is late. Students will be able to reference *Mr. Nugent's Notebook* if they have questions.

Performance Attire

ALL BLACK. No jeans or sneakers permitted on stage unless approved for a certain event.

Student Accounts

Every music student at Greeley West has a student account once they are in the program. There are numerous fundraisers each year where money can be added to the account. Accounts can be accessed for any musical expense (lessons, instruments, repairs, sheet music, trips, etc.)

Trips

The GWHS Orchestra takes trips yearly. These include, but are not limited to: *Colorado West Music Festival* in Grand Junction, *Winter Park Ski and Music Festival* in Winter Park, as well as out of state trips. Please plan ahead to use fundraisers to help pay for these trips. Scholarships are available through the Music Boosters on a need basis. Scholarships require participation in fundraising activity.

Lettering

Points are accumulated throughout the year for every activity associated with orchestra. Once a student hits 265 points, they earn a letter. Subsequent bars are earned every 125 points. The form is completed and filled out each spring. Simple participation in class is not enough to earn a letter; it requires active participation outside of class including private lessons, auditions to honor groups, extra concerts, musical participation (pit), and other such activities.

2018-2019 Critical Dates

August 25th: Western States Honor Orchestra Audition Clinic, UNC

August 31: Fall Fundraiser Kick-Off

September 22nd: GWHS Got Talent

October 16th: West Orchestra Concert (Off Campus), 7PM

November 1-3rd: Western States Honor Orchestra Festival

November 9: Middle School/Elementary School Run-Out Concerts, All Day

November 15th: All City Orchestra Concert at Northridge High School, 7PM

December 6: Mountain View HS Festival, TBD

December 13th : Winter Gala, 6pm

January 23-26: CMEA

February 7-9th: All State Orchestra

February: Combined League Honor Orchestra

February 27: Success Foundation Original Composition Concert (Off Campus), 7PM

March 1: District 6 Artwalk, TBD

March 6-9: ASTA Conference in Abq New Mexico

April 10-12: Winter Park Ski and Music Festival

April TBD: CHSAA Large Group Festival

May 15: West Orchestra Concert