



2023 – 2024
GCHFA Program Guide

Registration for the 2023-24 season opens July 1. The non-refundable Student Enrollment Fee of \$100 per student will be charged at time of registration using the payment method indicated on your account. On July 24, the fee will increase to \$125. After August 27, it will increase to \$135.

This Program Guide contains information about GCHFA and the 2023 - 2024 programs. Please read through this information thoroughly and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

For class schedule, fees, and descriptions visit GCHFA.org.

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Contact Information

For program or administrative questions about GCHFA, contact:

Mrs. Lisa Evans, GCHFA Founder and Executive Director

email: LME@GCHFA.org or phone: 941-232-1296.

Please visit GCHFA.org for class descriptions, schedules, instructor bios, calendar, and updates.

Mission Statement

Gulf Coast Homeschool Fine Arts (GCHFA) exists to provide excellent music programs and instruction for students to develop their talents and maximize their potential in order to bring glory to God and minister to others.

Location

GCHFA will meet at Covenant Life Church 8490 McIntosh Road in Sarasota. (Just 10 minutes off of I-75)

Weekly Class Schedule

GCHFA classes will meet during the school year on Mondays. The fall semester will run from September 11, 2023 through December 11, 2023 every Monday. The spring semester will run from January 8, 2024 through April 22, 2024 every Monday. We will not take a break during the week of Thanksgiving or Spring Break as families typically take off other times of the year.

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA, formerly Gardiner scholarship)

Over the years, a number of students who receive the FES-UA have participated in GCHFA. Unfortunately, GCHFA has been unsuccessful in becoming a pre-approved provider with Step Up for Students (SUFS, the largest administrator of the scholarship). With the inconsistencies of SUFS, parents have had mixed results in being reimbursed for expenses related to GCHFA. Please contact Sarah Stolarczyk (brianandsarah@thestolarczyks.com) for help with the reimbursement process.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Homeschool and Private Students

Students who are homeschooled may participate in GCHFA. Students who attend a private school or virtual school that does not offer music programs may also join if classes align with their school schedule.

Attendance

Weekly Class Time:

Students are expected to attend all weekly classes. We understand that families go on vacation and sickness happens so if a student will be absent, an absent form must be submitted through the Parent Portal. The reason this is so important is so we can plan accordingly with our teachers.

Dress Rehearsals & Concerts:

Students are **required** to attend the 2 classes prior to concert week, the dress rehearsal and all performances. An exception will be made if a child is sick. If your child misses those two weeks, the teacher may decide that your child will not participate in the concert or may ask for a meeting with you and your child to discuss if there are any options regarding their participation. The final two classes before a concert are crucial for any ensemble and it is important for every student to be there so that the ensemble and individual student can perform their very best. If students will miss more than 3 (known) practices in a semester, some extra private lessons are highly recommended to keep up with the class.

Daily Practice

Daily practice is required of all recorder, band, and orchestra members. Beginning students will be required to practice at least 5 days a week, 15 minutes a day, gradually being increased by the director to 30 minutes a day. Intermediate and Advanced levels will be required to practice for at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week or whatever time the instructor deems necessary. Weekly practice records must be signed by parents and turned in every Monday. If a student does not practice, causing them to get behind the other students, parents will be contacted. Some private lessons may be recommended for the student, or the

student may be dropped to a lower level. Daily practice is important and essential for the good of the entire group. Lost practice cards may be replaced for \$2 at the information table.

Concerts

We will have a Winter and Spring Concert for all students. Dates and location can be found on the calendar at GCHFA.org. Some groups will have other opportunities for concerts which will be scheduled at the beginning of each season. Advanced groups may participate in MPA, in which all students are expected to attend unless there is sickness or other unexpected situations.

Concert Attire

All students will be required to provide the appropriate clothing for concerts. We desire for the groups to look professional and uniform.

Gentlemen: black dress pants, long sleeve white shirt tucked into pants, belt, dark necktie (Christmas tie may be worn for Winter Concert), black socks & black shoes.

Ladies: black pants or mid-calf to long skirt, white long or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeve shirt/blouse, dark socks/hose/tights and black shoes. Basically white on the top and black on the bottom including feet!

Student Enrollment Fee

A **non-refundable** Student Enrollment Fee of \$100 per student will be charged upon enrollment and not more than \$300 per family. Enrollment on or after July 24, 2023 will increase to \$125 and no more than \$375 per family. After August 27, 2023, the fee will go up to \$135. It is important to know who will be returning or joining as soon as possible so we can plan our classes accordingly. If you are unsure which class your child will be in due to auditions, place them in the class they are

auditioning for and we will adjust it if necessary.

Parent/Family Involvement

Due to the number of students involved in GCHFA, it takes every family to assist with the weekly operations, instrument fittings, concerts, yearbook, end of year party, and more. When everyone gets involved, it helps to keep our program costs reasonable, so we don't have to pay others to do the jobs. A link to signup.com will be sent out that has a list of jobs including weekly (or almost weekly) 30 to 75-minute time slots, along with others that need to be done at specific times of the year.

If you are healthy, but too busy to help, you just need some "me" time, or your child is old enough to drive themselves, you may pay a \$150 fee for the year that will be added to your account and charged the first day of classes. When enrolling, please select the appropriate option so we know whether or not you will be signing up to help. If you haven't signed up for a spot by the 2nd week of classes, we will charge your account the \$150 fee.

Tuition

You have options! When enrolling, you will be required to choose which Membership Type you prefer to pay. These are your options:

- Full Payment: Pay your entire balance by September 11, 2023.
- Two Payment Plan: The first half of your tuition for classes will be due by September 11, 2023 and the other half by January 8, 2024. All other items such as enrollment fees, non-volunteer fees, books, extra shirts, reeds, oil, etc. are due on the first day or at time of purchase.
- Monthly Payment Plan: For families who need to pay over a longer

period of time, we will divide the total of your class tuition by 7 months. Your account will be charged on the first Monday of every month September through March.

If the payment is unable to be processed on the due date, a \$5 late fee will be added to your account. Every month the payment remains unpaid, your account will be charged an additional \$5 late fee. Unpaid/uncommunicated balances may cause your child to be dropped from the class or prevent participation in a concert.

Allowable refunds for class tuition only are as follows:

50% refunded after 9/11/23

25% refunded after 9/18/23

No refunds after 9/25/23

Note: If you drop a class, you are required to pay the balance of your tuition. (See "Questions & Answers"- page 8 for more information)

Fundraising

It costs a lot to run an organization such as GCHFA. We do many things to try to keep tuition costs reasonable, so it is sometimes necessary to have fundraisers. It is expected that every family will participate in helping raise funds to help with operating costs. One fundraiser we have throughout the year is our concessions. We ask families to donate snacks and drinks that we sell during the GCHFA day. Another way that helps the families defer their GCHFA costs is through Raise Right. Shop with gift cards you purchase rather than cash or credit cards and start saving now. Contact Jenni Stahlmann at stahlmannclan@gmail.com to sign up.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required to be in GCHFA but are strongly encouraged. A

student who receives individual instruction will generally progress faster than those who do not. Some of our instructors have time to teach during a GCHFA day. You may check with them directly for availability.

STUDENT GUIDELINES AND GENERAL RULES

GCHFA has guidelines and rules that every student is expected to follow. Besides the typical expectations, we want to encourage our students to do the following In accordance with God's word in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Since GCHFA desires to honor God and His Word, we require all of our students to exhibit the following minimal personal virtues:

- Kindness
- Truthfulness
- Courtesy toward others and respect for their property rights
- Punctuality in attendance and work
- Respect for and obedience to those in authority
- Diligence in effort and attention

Student/Family Hangout Areas

We will have many GCHFA students using the building every Monday for music classes as well as Liberty Academy and the preschool. At times students may be waiting for a class to begin or for a sibling to finish, so for the safety of everyone, we have found it necessary to enforce the rule that students are not to be roaming the facility or hanging out where adults are not present; GCHFA will provide a Social Hall area for students to hang out with friends to play quietly. There are many areas for studying but again a parent or adult must be supervising. Students will not be permitted to roam the facilities, inside or outside, unsupervised. Students may use

the basketball court area, outdoor GaGa Ball pit and green area for outdoor play as long as there is an adult supervising.

Social Hall

The Social Hall is for quiet conversation, card games, board games or other games provided. It is not for loud, obnoxious behavior or roughhousing. Covenant Life has a wonderfully fun room which includes ping pong, air hockey, and a pool table. These games are for us to use but must be used properly. No standing on the tables. No nerf guns, throwing balls or things that fly through the air are to be used in this room. The Social Hall must be supervised by a parent volunteer.

Study Hall

A specific room for Study Hall will not be provided this year; however, there are lots of quiet areas with tables for students to do schoolwork. Parents or other adults should accompany students.

Instrument Code

- Students should never play another student's instrument.
- Students other than drummers should never touch the percussion equipment.
- Students who rent an instrument from GCHFA will pay for and make good to the satisfaction of GCHFA any damage or loss with the exception of reasonable wear at the sole discretion of GCHFA.
- Students should come to GCHFA with working instruments. If you don't know where to have your instrument fixed, go to GCHFA.org under the Resources tab.

Building Code

The atmosphere of GCHFA must be one of order, discipline, and cooperation. We must especially respect the facilities that we use weekly. No running or

roughhousing will be permitted at any time. Students and parents must remain in areas designated only for GCHFA. Because there are other organizations besides our group using the facility, we must stay out of those classrooms and be quiet when using a shared space. Families are welcome to bring lunch but please clean up after yourselves. Do not leave messes for others to clean up. Food may be eaten in the Social Hall room or in the lobby.

Keep hallways and walkways clear of instruments, backpacks, lunch bags, etc. Remember we are guests of our host facility. Let's work together to keep our belongings in order while on campus and leave the building in as good, or better, condition than we found it. ***Damage done to the facility or its equipment will be the financial responsibility of the people involved in causing the damage.***

Dress Code

We want to create an atmosphere which enhances and adheres to the purposes we have established. A student's appearance should be modest and in good taste so as not to offend or draw undue attention to oneself. The neat appearance of our students helps to create a positive learning environment and reflects the philosophy and standards of GCHFA. Polo shirts will be provided for each student who enrolls to be worn during the entire GCHFA day. Shirts should be clean and students should exhibit good hygiene. Students should wear modest bottoms which does not include short shorts or miniskirts. Please use good judgement when coming to GCHFA. If a student does not wear their GCHFA shirt, one will need to be rented for \$3 at the Information Table for the time they are at GCHFA and returned before they leave. Extra shirts can be purchased for \$15 or used shirts for \$5. Parents can also purchase a shirt at the information table during the GCHFA day.

Drugs and Weapons

The safety and well-being of GCHFA students and their families is of utmost importance. Substances, including alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, and weapons of any kind are prohibited at all GCHFA functions and events. Possessing drugs or weapons, is strictly prohibited. Violation of this policy is cause for immediate expulsion.

Security

GCHFA will adhere to whatever security measures the church deems necessary such as having all doors locked throughout the day. We will add door greeters to the volunteer list to assist families entering.

Conduct

This code of conduct will be enforced before, during, and after class anywhere on the property. The following behavior will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action:

- Foul language or unwholesome talk
- Roughhousing
- Bullying
- Disruptive behavior during rehearsals
- Physical display of affection
- Disrespect for others, especially for those in authority
- Possession of drugs or weapons
- Physical intimidation or contact
- Pushing social agendas
- All behavior deemed inappropriate at the sole discretion of GCHFA administration.

Phones & Listening Devices

Cell phones and listening devices such as headphones or ear buds may not be used during a class. Instructors have the right to hold onto them until class is over if it is an issue with any student.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What costs are associated with GCHFA?

A: The cost calculator below provides an overview of GCHFA costs:

Estimated GCHFA Cost Calculator	Cost		# of Students		Totals
1. Student Enrollment Fee	\$100	X		=	
2. Instrument Rental or Purchase		X		=	
3. Music Stand & Carrying Case (available from GCHFA)	\$20-50	X		=	
4. Band, Orchestra & Theory Books (available from GCHFA)	\$25	X		=	
5. Class Fees					
Band (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced)	\$180	X		=	
Jazz Lab (discounted for students in other band or orch class)	\$180	X			
Orchestra (Applied, Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced)	\$180	X		=	
Choir (Elementary, Junior or Senior), Music & Motion	\$168	X		=	
Recorder	\$177	X		=	
Music & Motion	\$150	X			
6. Non-Volunteer Fee (optional)	\$150	X	1	=	

Q: What if the total cost for the year is too much to pay all at one time? Can I make payments?

A: Yes. The Class Fees for the year may be paid in two installments. 50% of the Class Fees are due by the first day of class. The remaining 50% of the class fees are due at the start of the 2nd semester. If there are financial hardships or other needs, a monthly payment plan is an option and tuition is due on the first Monday of every month from September through March. A Late Fee of \$5 per month will be charged for Class Fees not paid by the scheduled due dates. In the event of a returned check for insufficient funds, a \$35 returned check fee will be incurred and payment for all future balances will be paid by cash, credit card or money order.

Q: Why do I have to commit to the whole year and pay for it even if I drop out?

A: GCHFA is a full year program from September through April. We require that you seriously consider whether your students should be involved in GCHFA each year. We consider music education to be of great value and importance, on par with all other academic subjects and sports programs and hope that you will give this program the serious commitment it deserves. We know that there are special circumstances which may cause you to have to leave the program so for that reason there are a few exceptions to this policy:

- Serious illness in the immediate family
- Death or unemployment of a parent
- Family moving more than 50 miles from GCHFA

NO exceptions are made for students who tire of the program, re-enroll in school, or who do not want to practice. GCHFA makes annual commitments and incurs ongoing costs for instructors, facilities and more, in order to provide these programs based on your enrollment. GCHFA's costs are directly affected by your participation.

Q: Do I have to volunteer and what is my time commitment?

A: It takes many hands to make an organization like GCHFA operate smoothly. Due to the number of students involved, we need every family to be involved in the operation of GCHFA. Approximately 1-1½ hours each week is needed per family to help things run in an efficient manner, along with help for concerts and instrument fittings. There are many jobs to do that will be posted on SignUp.com such as classroom helpers or monitors, set up and clean up duties, concessions coordinator, fundraising, etc. If you are healthy but too busy to volunteer, you just need some “me” time, or your child is old enough to drive themselves, you can still help by adding \$150 to your tuition.

Q: What can your child learn from being involved in a program like GCHFA?

A:

- To play an instrument
- Discipline
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Organizational skills
- Responsibility
- Leadership skills
- Ear training
- Performance abilities
- Heightened learning abilities
- Attentiveness
- Their strengths and weaknesses
- How to handle winning and losing
- What they are capable of accomplishing