



2024 – 2025  
GCHFA Program Guide

Registration for the 2024-25 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 29, the fee will increase to \$125. On August 31, it will increase to \$135.

This Program Guide contains information about GCHFA and the 2024 - 2025 programs. Please read through this information thoroughly and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

#### NEW THIS YEAR

- We will be meeting at Faith Presbyterian Church 1201 N. Beneva Rd. Sarasota
- Nuvo Wind Instruments class: a pre-band class for students who have completed at least one year of recorder class; or for students aged 9+ who are not quite ready for a band instrument; instruments included are the jFlute, Clarineo, jSax, and jHorn.

For class schedules, fees, descriptions, instructor bios, calendar and more, visit [GCHFA.org](http://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](mailto:LME@GCHFA.org) or phone: 941-232-1296.

## 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 Faith Presbyterian Church 1201 N. Benva Road in Sarasota.

## Weekly Class Schedule

GCHFA classes will meet during the school year on Mondays. The fall semester will run from September 9, 2024 through December 16, 2024 every Monday. The spring semester will run from January 6, 2025 through April 21, 2025 every Monday. We WILL take a break during the week of Thanksgiving and Spring Break (following the Sarasota County school calendar).

## 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**. It is important to know who will be absent so we can plan accordingly with our teachers and classrooms.

### 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 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 music students. 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. Each student will receive a practice card at the beginning of each semester. Lost

practice cards may be replaced for \$2 at the information table.

## Concerts

We will have a Winter (December) and Spring (April) 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 black shirt tucked into pants, belt, black necktie (Christmas tie may be worn for Winter Concert), black socks & black shoes.

Ladies: black pants or mid-calf to long skirt, black long sleeve or  $\frac{3}{4}$  length blouse, black socks/hose/tights and black shoes. Basically, black from top to 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 29, 2024 will increase to \$125 and no more than \$375 per family. After August 31, 2024, the fee will go up to \$135 and no more than \$405 per family. 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 for which they are auditioning, and we will adjust it if necessary.

## Parent/Family Involvement

### \*THIS IS BEING REWORKED FOR NEXT YEAR

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.

## 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 the first day of class.
- Two Payment Plan: The first half of your tuition for classes will be due by September 9, 2024 and the other half by January 6, 2025. All other items such as 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 9/9/24

25% refunded after 9/16/24

No refunds after 9/23/24

**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 and proceeds help with our end of the year party.

Another way that helps GCHFA as well as individual families is through a gift card program called Raise Right. Shop with gift cards you purchase through Raise Right rather than cash or credit cards and start saving now towards your tuition costs. Contact Jenni Stahlmann at [stahlmannclan@gmail.com](mailto: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. 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 parent monitored Social Hall area for students to hang out with friends to play quietly as well as a Study Hall so students can do their homework. Students will not be permitted to roam the facilities, inside or outside, unsupervised.

## **Social Hall**

The Social Hall is for quiet conversation, card games and/or board games, and lunch. It is not for loud, uncontrolled behavior or roughhousing and must have a parent monitor. Faith Presbyterian has a nice youth room which includes ping pong, a pool table, and basketball game. These games are for us to use but must be used properly. The church has rules that will be posted and must be adhered to. Students who misuse it will lose the privilege of using it. There is a security camera in this room. Social Hall will be closed if a parent is not assigned to monitor.

## Study Hall

A specific room for Study Hall will be assigned for students and/or parents who need a quieter space to work. Parent volunteers are needed to monitor this room.

## Playground

There is a playground available, but parents must be monitoring this area.

## 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. 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 outside.

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. GCHFA sweatshirts are also acceptable and encouraged over other sweatshirts. 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, they will need to rent one 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 have one main entrance for everyone to enter before going to their classrooms. Door greeters will be a volunteer position for parents.

## Conduct

This code of conduct will be enforced before, during, and after class anywhere on the property. If any of the following behaviors are exhibited, parents will be contacted and the necessary action will be taken. The following behavior will not be tolerated:

- 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, with the exception of protecting the ears from loud instruments. 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 (Local or online music store or GCHFA, if available)	varies	X		=	
3. Music Stand & Carrying Case (Amazon or local music store)	\$20-50	X		=	
4. Band, Orchestra & Theory Books (Amazon or local music store)	\$25	X		=	
5. Class Fees					
Band (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced)	\$180	X		=	
Jazz Lab	\$180	X			
Fusion Jazz Band	\$300	X			
Orchestra (Applied, Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced)	\$180	X		=	
Choir (Elementary, Junior or Senior), Music & Motion	\$170	X		=	
Recorder (includes recorder & materials)	\$180	X		=	
Nuvo Wind Class (after 1 yr of recorder or 9 yrs old+)					
Music & Motion (ages 1-5)	\$150	X			
6. Non-Volunteer Fee (optional)	\$200	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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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 or pay \$200 to offset the costs of jobs we may need to hire done. \*We are reworking our volunteer commitment for next year.

**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