



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the music program at SGCS! The music program has been one of the highlights of our school for several decades. It is an honor and a privilege to continue the tradition of teaching students to glorify God with instrument and voice. The program continues to provide an enjoyable choral and instrumental experience for everyone. Students with a range of musical ability join together each week to learn how to create beautiful music in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. Praise God!

San Gabriel Christian School choral and instrumental ensembles study a wide range of repertoire and perform regularly throughout the year. Choral instruction is based on the Kodály approach to music education and instrumental instruction is based on the Suzuki Method. Rehearsal attendance is expected and of utmost importance, as it equips each student with the skills needed to become a sensitive and knowledgeable musician. Personal practice time outside of school is required for all student musicians. A daily practice time builds confidence, trains muscle memory, and fosters consistency with faster results.

I would like to highlight two changes to the music program. Junior and Senior Choir will rehearse and perform as one group: Senior Choir. This combination will greatly benefit the students and allow for more musical flexibility. Beginning Piano with Mrs. Mabs was a wonderful success last year! I am excited to announce that we are now able to offer *two* year-long piano ensembles and *two* private instructors. Along with Mrs. Mabs, Miss Grace Gates will be available for on-campus voice and piano lessons. She is an incredibly gifted teacher and musician, and we are so happy to have her at SGCS! Please reach out to them directly with questions regarding lessons. You can find their contact information in this packet.

Kindly sign and return the attached documents to the office by Friday, September 2nd so that I can make arrangements for each class. As a reminder, instrument rentals and class priority are given on a first come, first served basis. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. It is a privilege and my joy to make music together with your children. I am looking forward to a wonderful, musical school year!

Erin Gutierrez, Music Director

egutierrez@sangabrielchristian.org

CHORAL PROGRAM

PREP CHOIR:

Mondays, 2:45-3:30pm (Grades TK-2)

Rehearsal begins on Monday, September 11, 2023.

The Preparatory Choir is specially designed for young musicians. Students will be introduced to group singing through fun and educational songs, musical movement, and ear training based on the Kodály approach. This choir will participate in various performances and music department concerts.

*Please send a snack for your student as there will be a short break before class begins.

SENIOR CHOIR:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:45-3:30pm (Grades 3-8)

Rehearsal begins on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

The Senior Choir provides singers with an opportunity to refine vocal and performance technique as an ensemble. Students will learn to cooperate and work as a group in order to honor the Lord and bless others with a quality and meaningful performance. Repertoire is carefully chosen to motivate and enhance the students' musical range and ability. This choir will participate in chapel performances and music department concerts.

*Please send a snack for your student as there will be a short break before class begins.

PIANO PROGRAM

PIANO 1:

Tuesdays, 2:45-4:00pm (Grades 1-2)

Rehearsal begins on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Students will become familiar with the piano by learning keyboard topography and proper techniques, and start reading music notation. Students will explore significant composers for the piano, and listen and engage with famous works for the piano. This class will give your student the opportunity to explore the piano and start on a trajectory toward continued musical growth! This class has a maximum of 18 students.

PIANO 2:

Tuesdays, 1:15-2:00pm (Grades 3-5)

Rehearsal begins on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Students will learn the fundamentals of piano playing and learn pieces in both individual and group contexts. Through rhythmic, pitch, and technical exercises, students will build a foundation of pianistic technique. Students will learn pieces by rote (listening and imitation) and reading, and will play pieces for solo and ensemble playing. This class has a maximum of 18 students.

*This class will meet during the last 15 minutes of math class (homework prep) and continue through afternoon recess.

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS:

On-campus private lessons can be arranged directly with the instructor and are available on a first come, first served basis. Please contact the instructors for more information and for their availability.

Mrs. Faith Mabs (piano): faithelizabethgates@gmail.com

Miss Grace Gates (piano, voice): gracekgates@gmail.com

STRINGS PROGRAM

BEGINNING STRINGS:

Wednesdays & Fridays, 2:45-3:30pm (Grades K-2)

Rehearsal begins on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

Students in Beginning Strings will develop their musical ear and instrumental skill through lessons based on the Suzuki Method and its repertoire. Students will practice playing individually and as a group in preparation for more advanced ensembles. Students may choose to play the violin, viola, or cello. Beginning Strings will participate in various music events on campus, including music department concerts. This class is designed for students ranging from having no prior musical experience to those with up to 2 years of string instruction.

*Please send a snack for your student as there will be a short break before class begins.

PRELUDE STRINGS:

Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:15-2:00pm (Grades 3-5)

Rehearsal begins on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

Prelude Strings is an extension of Beginning Strings. Students will continue to develop their musical ear and instrumental skills in more challenging ways. Instruction is based on the Suzuki Method and the method book, Learning Together, which consists of sequential unison and harmonic repertoire for string instruments of the orchestra. Prelude Strings will participate in various music events on campus, including the two music department concerts. This class is designed for students who have more than 2 years of prior string instruction or by special audition with Mrs. Gutierrez.

*This class will meet during the last 15 minutes of math class (homework prep) and continue through afternoon recess.

STRING ENSEMBLE:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00-2:45pm (Grades 6-8)

Rehearsal begins on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Students in String Ensemble will continue to develop musicianship and music literacy through personal and group practice. Students will analyze various composers, historical periods, and styles of music. The String Ensemble will participate in various campus music events and school functions. This class is designed for students who have more than 3 years of prior string instruction or by special audition with Mrs. Gutierrez.

*This class is a middle school elective that will meet during 7th period.



Music Department Calendar

September

Friday, 1	Enrollment & Rental Forms Deadline
Tuesday, 5	Senior Choir, String Ensemble, Piano 1 & 2: Rehearsal Begins
Wednesday, 6	Beginning Strings, Prelude Strings: Rehearsal Begins
Monday, 11	Prep Choir: Rehearsal Begins

October

Friday, 6	Beginning Strings: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day)
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November

Friday, 3	Prep Choir: TK/K Preview Day Performance Call Time: TBA
W-F, 8-10	All Ensembles: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day & Parent-Teacher Conferences)
M-F, 20-24	All Ensembles: No Rehearsal (Thanksgiving Break)
Wednesday, 29	Senior Choir: Grandparents' Day Performance Call Time: TBA

December

Monday, 4	All Ensembles: Dress Rehearsal, 2:45-4:30pm (Prep Choir dismissed at 3:30pm)
Thursday, 7	Choral & Instrumental Christmas Concert, 6:30pm Call Time: 5:45pm in the Sanctuary

Note: Ensembles will not rehearse after December 7th. Rehearsals will resume after Christmas break.

Thursday, 14	TK-3rd Grade Christmas Musical, 6:30pm Call Time: TBA
Friday, 15	Senior Choir: All-School Christmas Chapel, 8:15am Call Time: 8:05am in the Sanctuary

January

Tuesday, 9 String Ensemble, Senior Choir, Piano 1 & 2: Rehearsal Resumes

Wednesday, 10 Prelude Strings, Beginning Strings: Rehearsal Resumes

Monday, 22 Prep Choir: Rehearsal Resumes

February

Monday, 19 Prep Choir: No Rehearsal (Presidents' Day)

March

Friday, 1 Beginning Strings: No Rehearsal (Professional Development Day)

Friday, 8 Beginning Strings: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day)

Friday, 29 Senior Choir: All-School Easter Chapel, 8:15am
Call Time: 8:05am in the Sanctuary

Friday, 29 Beginning Strings: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day)

April

M-F, 1-5 All Ensembles: No Rehearsal (Easter Break)

Friday, 19 Beginning Strings: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day)

May

Monday, 13 All Ensembles: Dress Rehearsal, 2:45-4:30pm (Prep Choir dismissed at 3:30pm)

Thursday, 16 Choral & Instrumental Spring Concert, 6:30pm
Call Time: 5:45pm in the Sanctuary

Note: Ensembles will not rehearse after May 16th. Happy Summer!

Thursday, 23 6th-8th Grade Spring Musical, 6:30pm

June

Thursday, 6 Senior Choir: 8th Grade Graduation Performance
Call Time: TBA

Please Note: Students are expected to attend all rehearsals, special events, and performances. Absences due to personal illness or emergency may be excused as outlined in the SGCS Parent Handbook.

Concert Attire

Instrumental Ensembles Formal Concert Attire

Gentlemen:

White collar long-sleeved shirt
Black dress pants and black belt
Long black tie
Black dress shoes and black socks

Ladies:

Black formal dress with black tights **or**
black dress pants and white blouse with sleeves
Flat or low-heeled black shoes
Hair up (ponytail or bun)

Prep Choir Formal Concert Attire

Gentlemen:

Red polo shirt
Navy blue pants
Nice dress shoes

Ladies:

Red polo shirt
Navy blue pants or skort
Nice dress shoes

Senior Choir Formal Concert Attire

Gentlemen:

White collar long-sleeved shirt
Black pants and black belt
Long black tie
Scarlet sweater vest (rental from SGCS)
Black socks and black shoes

Ladies:

White collar long-sleeved blouse
Black skort and black tights
Scarlet sweater vest (rental from SGCS)
Black close-toed shoes
Hair up (ponytail, bun, etc.)

All Ensembles Chapel Performance Attire

Gentlemen:

SGCS music department t-shirt
Denim pants
Close-toed shoes

Ladies:

SGCS music department t-shirt
Denim pants or skort
Close-toed shoes

Please Note: The San Gabriel Christian School dress code will remain in place for all concerts and music events, *both on campus and off campus*. Please refer to the SGCS Student Handbook for specific guidelines.



Music Program Enrollment Form

Please return this form to the school office by **Friday, September 1, 2023**.
All fees will be billed by the school once the enrollment forms have been processed.

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Phone Number _____

Parent E-mail Address _____

Student Shirt Size ☐ Youth S ☐ Youth M ☐ Youth L ☐ Youth XL
 ☐ Adult S ☐ Adult M ☐ Adult L ☐ Adult XL

I would like my child to participate in the following ensemble(s):

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prep Choir (TK-2) | Yearly Fee: \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Choir (3-8) | Yearly Fee: \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning Strings (K-2) | Yearly Fee: \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prelude Strings (3-5) | Yearly Fee: \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> String Ensemble (6-8) | Yearly Fee: \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piano 1 (1-2) | Yearly Fee: \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piano 2 (3-5) | Yearly Fee: \$125 |

* The yearly fee includes the SGCS music t-shirt and attire rentals. It does not include instrument rental. Due to the school's limited rental availability, school instruments will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Rental stores are available upon request. Please see the rental agreement form for additional information.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____



Instrument Rental Agreement Form

Student Name _____

Grade _____ Ensemble _____

Instrument _____ Tag Number _____

- A \$125 fee to use a school-owned instrument for the school year will be charged through FACTS.
- By signing this form, the parents and student assume liability for the instrument.
- Upon receiving the instrument, please examine it thoroughly, noting scratches, dents, cracks, etc.
- Any damage to the instrument while on issue to the student is the sole responsibility of the parents.
- The user fee covers *only* the use of the instrument. It does not cover damage repair. The school will assume responsibility for general maintenance, which will be determined by the teacher.
- Please contact Mrs. Gutierrez if the instrument needs any repairs.
- In the event of malfunction or damage during the school year, the parents will be financially responsible for any necessary repairs to the instrument.
- The instrument must be returned on or before June 3, 2024 in the same condition in which it was issued.
- Rental extensions through summer break will be available for returning students.

Parent Agreement

I understand that a \$125.00 user fee will be charged to my FACTS account for my child's instrument. I agree to the above terms. I understand that I am financially liable for any damage (accidental or otherwise) while the instrument is under contract.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Students, please carefully read the following:

- Proper care includes keeping the instrument in its case when not in use and keeping the instrument from extreme heat. This means that the instrument cannot be left in the car for any length of time.
- Proper care also includes wiping down the instrument with a soft cloth after each use to prevent the buildup of rosin, sweat, or saliva.
- The instrument should only be played and handled by the student. At no time are others, including friends and siblings, allowed to touch or play the instrument.

Student Agreement

I agree to keep my instrument in the best condition possible.

I have read and understand the rules above.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Upon visual inspection, I have noted the following regarding condition of the instrument:

Please return this signed document to the school office by **Friday, September 1, 2023**.