

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND HEALTH SCREENING

REVISED POLICY FOR 2020-21: Please note that this policy has been revised for the 2020-21 season due to the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a typical year, GTCYS students are allowed to miss up to two rehearsals per concert cycle (typically 2-3 cycles per season), and attendance at concerts and retreats is required. We anticipate shifting back to a more structured policy in the future.

Consistent attendance is the cornerstone of GTCYS' orchestras' commitment to excellence; however, taking care of our community's health is of greater importance. Students will not be penalized for absences this year.

Prior to every GTCYS activity, students must complete an online health screening survey. **In the event of symptoms or illness of any kind, students must stay home.** Please bookmark this page and incorporate this screening & reporting step into your GTCYS routine: [GTCYS Attendance and Health Screening Forms](#)

Any student who has felt ill with symptoms of any kind – COVID-19-related or otherwise – within 48 hours of the GTCYS activity must stay home. Similarly, students must stay home if they have been diagnosed or exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days. All activities will be livestreamed via YouTube so students may listen, play along, and learn remotely as they are able.

How to complete the health screening form for eligibility to attend in person activities:

1. Complete a health screening form in advance of every GTCYS activity. Health screening forms are due by 4:00pm for students to be admitted to evening activities.
2. Find your orchestra's health screening form here: [GTCYS Attendance and Health Screening Forms](#)

What happens when GTCYS students need to be absent?

1. Complete the [GTCYS Future Absence Form](#) as soon as you are aware that you will miss a GTCYS activity for any reason (vacation, school event, illness, etc.). Knowing who is present and who is absent is important for conductors to effectively plan their rehearsals.
2. If students accrue multiple absences, they may be asked to record and submit short passages from the orchestra's music to demonstrate their progress and musical understanding despite absences. GTCYS staff and conductors will work with each family on case by case basis to address attendance this year.

WHEN HEALTHY, GTCYS members should make every effort to participate in all GTCYS activities, including rehearsals, retreats, and concerts. Please do your best to honor your commitment to your orchestra and not to schedule other events on your GTCYS rehearsal night. GTCYS members are all responsible for knowing the time commitment for their orchestra. Subscribe to your orchestra's calendar here: [GTCYS Orchestra Calendars](#)

Prioritizing School Band and Orchestra Concerts: When school band or orchestra concerts conflict with GTCYS activities, students should prioritize their school ensemble commitment over GTCYS. Please remember to inform GTCYS of the conflict as soon as possible.

Promptness and pre-rehearsal details:

- Each student will be assigned an arrival time for their GTCYS rehearsal to facilitate staggered, physically distanced entrances into the rehearsal space. They will proceed through a sanitization and temperature check station, set-up, warm-up, and tune in advance of the rehearsal start time.
- GTCYS' conductors will begin rehearsal promptly by the listed event start time.

What if there is bad weather? Cancellations due to weather are very rare—please assume a GTCYS activity will continue unless you hear otherwise. In the event of weather which might result in unsafe conditions, GTCYS will email families and post the notification on www.gtcys.org. Decisions regarding cancellations will be made by noon. It is parents' responsibility to check their email and GTCYS' website for an announcement. Online instruction may replace live instruction in the case of weather cancellations.

Students' health and safety is always our highest priority at GTCYS. We are aware that families come from across the region for GTCYS activities. Families should use their best judgement regarding travel and attendance.