



# West Michigan Homeschool **FINE ARTS CATALOG** 2024-2025

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

(Psalm 33:3)



[www.wmhfa.org](http://www.wmhfa.org)

*Welcome to WMHFA! We are excited in your interest to have your child learn music. Please read through this information thoroughly and feel free to contact us at [office@wmhfa.org](mailto:office@wmhfa.org) if you have questions.*

## Enrollment Information

**Early Enrollment Deadline:** Avoid **\$25 Late Fee** by enrolling online at [www.wmhfa.org](http://www.wmhfa.org) **before August 1**

**Price Structure:** Students may take one class during the regular class season (September to April) for \$360. Students may take unlimited classes for \$720. Early Bird Discount! Those who pay their class fees in full by November 30 can take unlimited classes during the regular class season for the reduced rate of \$540. (Marching Band not included.)

**Payment Due Date:** All accounts must be paid in full by November 30 (*see page 8*)

*A 3.5% service charge will be added to all credit card transactions. To avoid this fee, you may pay by cash, check, or ACH.*

**Check out the enclosed information to get all the details, times & locations**

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### WMHFA Board of Directors

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*President*

**Mrs. Wendy March**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Mr. Otis Crawford**  
*Director*

**Rev. Ken Ford**  
*Director*

**Mr. Brett Elder**  
*Director*

### Staff

More information about our staff can be seen at [wmhfa.org/staff](http://wmhfa.org/staff).

### Purpose

West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Association (WMHFA) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to assist and support families in the musical education of their homeschooled children. The motive behind this is to glorify God as we allow Him to create opportunities for our children to minister through music. As believers in God, we desire to be used by Him to create a thirst for righteousness as we minister before those who do not know Him. As we instruct and lead our children, God will increase their abilities to accomplish His purposes, bringing Him glory. The programs offered by WMHFA are not designed to meet all the musical educational needs of a child; rather they are intended to supplement the musical training received in homeschooling.

### Statement of Faith

WMHFA has a statement of faith that is reflected in its purpose as stated above. The statement of faith is not meant to exclude anyone from WMHFA; rather, it is presented so that anyone wishing to join will be aware of the tenets of the group. Along with our purpose, this statement of faith will serve as a foundation for harmonious unity, for mutual support, and for developing character in our children, which will be an outgrowth of their faith. Following is a summary of the Statement of Faith.

#### **We Believe...**

- The Bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God.
- There is one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- Man, though created in God’s image, has been separated from God by sin through birth and by choice (action).
- Jesus Christ came to earth to pay the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross.
- God’s love for mankind was the motivation for Christ to come and die for us.
- Salvation and eternal life are offered as a free gift to each person.
- Genuine trust in Christ will result in a commitment to Him, love for Him, and a desire to please God.
- We are fearfully and wonderfully made by a loving Creator as either male and female which is part of His design and purpose for the world.

## Class Fees

**Flat Rate** - The Class Fees at WMHFA are a flat rate charged per student. The fee student is \$360/student. This allows the student to take one class for the regular school year.

**Multiple Class Add-on** - Students wishing to take more than one class may add an unlimited class pass for an extra \$360. Those who pay their class fees in full by November 30 may add an unlimited class pass for \$180.

**Family Discount\*** - There is a cap on how much a family will be charged based on the number of students enrolled. The limits are: \$1980 for 4 or 5 students, \$2160 for 6 or more students.

**Marching Band not subject to pricing above.** Cost per student \$360 (max per family \$1080.)

### Other Important Information

- No Annual Family Enrollment Fee (Returning families are subject to a \$25 late fee after August 1.)
- Fees cover all required class supplies (books, reeds, valve oil, strings, skirts, tuxedo shirts, cummerbunds, bow ties, etc.)\*\*
- Fees include a SmartMusic subscription for every student
- Some classes are not covered by homeschool partnerships.

\* Discount applies to self-pay families only

\*\* Limits do apply. Also, does not include instruments, accessories, repairs, or shoes. Supplies must be picked up or ordered through WMHFA. Reimbursements will not be issued.

## Class Descriptions

### **Beginning Band**

*Taught by Mrs. Wendy March & Mr. Nick DeBone*  
Tuesdays, 8:30-10:00 am - Kalamazoo  
Wednesdays, 8:30-10:00 am – Grand Rapids



Beginning Band is for students with little or no musical training on a chosen instrument. To participate in Beginning Band, students must be at least 9 years old and attend an Instrument Fitting. The **Instrument Fitting** is a time for your child to see and play all the different instruments that are available under the direction of trained personnel. With the information gathered at the Instrument Fitting, we are better able to determine what instrument your child would enjoy playing based on their aptitudes, abilities, and desire.

The **Instrument Fittings** will be conducted during the summer. See the dates and sign up for the session that best fits your schedule by going to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org). *If you already have an instrument, please bring it to the fitting for our instructors to inspect.*

#### **Students interested in Beginning Band percussion (drums):**

- No previous percussion (drum) lessons are required
- Students must have at least 2 years experience on piano/keyboard/mallet percussion within the past 3 years. A keyboard/mallet audition is required. Prepare a piece of your choice. Bring your music and current book to the audition.
- **Auditions** are by appointment only during the summer. To schedule an appointment go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org)
- All students must pass a rhythm evaluation with the beginning band instructor
- The instructor will select a maximum of 7 students for the percussion section of the Beginning Band. Students will be chosen based on the individual cumulative scores of the evaluations listed above.
- **Returning Students** enrolled in a higher level band need to be aware that only one returning (multiple-instrument) student will be chosen for Beginning Band percussion each year.

Every effort is made to ensure your child's success. The Beginning Band is divided into instrument sections under the direction of qualified instructors. After a few months they will be able to play together as a collective band. Students may practice using SmartMusic, an interactive computer program that makes practice rewarding and enjoyable. Every student in WMHFA may receive a subscription.

Students wishing to join Beginning Band on a second instrument should be in Advanced or Concert Band before beginning a second band instrument. Intermediate Band students must get approval from the director before joining Beginning Band on a second instrument.

### **Intermediate Band**

*Taught by Mrs. Wendy March & Mr. Nick DeBone*  
Tuesdays, 10:10-11:40am - Kalamazoo  
Wednesdays, 11:45 am - 1:15 pm – Grand Rapids

The Intermediate Band is open to students who have played at least one year on an instrument. Last year's WMHFA beginners will automatically qualify to be enrolled in the Intermediate Band unless changing to a new instrument. **Students should expect to spend 1 to 3 years in this band.**

AN AUDITION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL **NEW STUDENTS** ENROLLING IN THIS BAND! (Last year's beginners do not need to audition). To schedule an appointment go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org).

**New Student Audition Requirements:** Students will be expected to play an assigned piece, a piece of your choice, and do a sight-reading exercise (see website for details).

### **Advanced Band**

*Taught by Mr. Nick DeBone*  
Tuesdays, 1:25 pm - 2:55 pm - Kalamazoo  
Wednesdays, 11:45 am - 1:15 pm – Grand Rapids

The Advanced Band is open to students who have played at least two years on an instrument. AN AUDITION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLING IN THIS BAND (Beginning Band students must complete Intermediate Band before auditioning for the Advanced Band). **Students should expect to spend 2 to 3 years in this band.** Festival attendance is required (see page 6).

**Audition Requirements:** Students will be expected to play several scales from memory as well as an assigned piece (see website for details). **Sight-reading is also required.** Scores are based on Tone, Prepared Music, Sight Reading, and Tonguing.

**Auditions** are by appointment only during the summer. See the website for appointment times. Appointments will be scheduled on a first come basis. If you cannot make the scheduled audition date or if the schedule fills up, you must schedule for an earlier time.

**To schedule an audition appointment go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org)**

### **Concert Band**

*Taught by Dr. Al Harrison*  
Wednesdays, 11:45 am - 1:15 pm – Grand Rapids only

The Concert Band, our highest-level band, is open to students who have at least three years experience. AN AUDITION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLING IN THIS BAND (Intermediate Band students must complete Advanced Band before auditioning for the Concert Band). Festival attendance is required (see page 6).

**Audition Requirements:** Students will be expected to play several scales from memory as well as an assigned piece (see website for details.) **Sight-reading is also required.** Scores are based on Tone, Prepared Music, Sight Reading, and Tonguing.

**Auditions** are by appointment only during the summer. See the website for appointment times. Appointments will be scheduled on a first come basis. If you cannot make the scheduled audition date or if the schedule fills up, you must schedule for an earlier time.

**To schedule an audition appointment go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org)**

### **Instrumental Ensembles**

A variety of instrumental ensembles are available for those who desire a greater challenge and want to excel musically. The Ensembles also have greater opportunities to perform in public. The instrumental ensembles vary from year to year but may include: **Flute, Woodwind, & Brass.** Members are chosen in the fall from those currently enrolled in Concert Band (possibly Advanced Band). Enrollment in these groups is by audition or invitation only at the director's discretion. Auditions and invitations will be announced in September. Some groups require festival attendance for Solo & Ensemble (see page 6).



## Drumline/Percussion Ensemble

Taught by Mr. Brennen Ferdig & Mr. Chase Garrett  
 Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00—Kalamazoo Percussion Ensemble  
 Wednesdays, 1:25-2:25—Grand Rapids Drumline  
 Wednesdays 3:00-4:00—Grand Rapids Percussion Ensemble

Students enrolled in the drumline will learn to play cadences and perform routines to sharpen and improve their drumming skills. The Drumline is open to all percussion students enrolled in a WMHFA band or the WMHFA Symphony Orchestra.

Percussion Ensemble provides an opportunity for students enrolled in Intermediate, Advanced, or Concert Band to play all varieties of percussion instruments. This may include: orchestral or marching percussion, auxiliary, drum-set, steel pan, household objects, trash cans and many others! Each semester music is chosen based on group size and playing ability. This group is ideal for drummers to hone their skills and expand their musical versatility.

## Big Bands

*Big Band I*—Taught by Dr. Al Harrison, Wed. 3-4:30pm—Grand Rapids  
*Big Band II*—Taught by Mr. Nick DeBone, Wed. 3-4pm—Grand Rapids  
*Big Band III*—Taught by Mr. Nate VanderWerf, Wed. 3-4pm—Grand Rapids

**Big Band I** is our top level group. Emphasis will be on preparing and performing literature written for a traditional jazz ensemble. Weekly practice is expected and private lessons are greatly encouraged. All lead players and rhythm section players will be expected to solo. This is a very active and portable group; there are likely to be extra performances in addition to the normal schedule. If you're looking to play in college this is a group that performs at several college festivals and is a great foot in the door. Auditions required.

**Prerequisites:** Play alto, tenor or baritone saxophone, trumpet, trombone, upright or electric bass, piano, guitar or drum set. All participants must be able to read printed music.

**Big Band II** is an intermediate level. Auditions required.

**Big Band III** teaches the basics of Big Band. Auditions may be required.

Audition practice will be held at orientation. Auditions for band placement will be held the following week. All players must be enrolled in a regular WMHFA band or orchestra. All students must have a minimum of one year experience on their instrument.

Required Class Materials Provided by WMHFA (*instruments not included*)

*Required performances will include all WMHFA concerts and various Jazz Festivals.*

## Marching Band (summers only)

Taught By: Mr. Nick DeBone, Drumline staff, and Colorguard staff

Northern Lights Home School Marching Band is an exciting opportunity for WMHFA students to let their "Light" shine before thousands of people each year. The Marching Band season begins with one week of band camp (day camp) and continues through the summer months. After band camp, students meet weekly on Wednesday mornings to rehearse for the parades they will be performing in. To participate in Marching Band in the summer, students must be enrolled in a homeschool band program. This band is available for ALL homeschool students who memorize the music and can march the routine while playing. (Band students must be age 11 by August.)

## Beginning/ Elementary Music



### Beginning Music Class

Taught By: Mrs. Dani DeBone  
 Wednesdays, 10:10-11:10- Grand Rapids (ages 5-6)

### Elementary Music Class

Taught By: Mrs. Lori Beason  
 Tuesdays, 9:00 -10:00 - Kalamazoo (ages 5-8)  
 Wednesdays, 11:45-12:45 - Grand Rapids (ages 7-8)

These classes are for students ages 5 to 8 and will teach music theory and appreciation, sight-reading, rhythm skills, theory, and other musical topics. Students in the Elementary Music Class will be able to learn to play the recorder as well as other various instruments. They are designed to be comparable to a typical elementary music class for grades K–3rd.

All supplies are included in class fees.

## Orchestra



### Beginning Orchestra

Taught by Mrs. Elisabeth Sooy  
 Wednesdays, 11:45 am-1:15 pm – Grand Rapids

Beginning Orchestra is for students with little or no musical training on a string instrument. To participate in Beginning Orchestra, students must be at least 9 years old by the beginning of the class and attend an Instrument Fitting Interview. **The Instrument Fitting Interview** is a time for your child to see and play all the different instruments that are available under the direction of trained personnel. With the information gathered at the Instrument Fitting Interview, we are better able to determine which instrument your child would enjoy playing based on their abilities, and desire.

**The Instrument Fittings** will be conducted during the summer. See dates and sign up for the session that best fits your schedule by going to our website at [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org). *If you already have an instrument, please bring it to the fitting. Before buying an instrument, please have it evaluated by one of the string instructors to avoid wasting money on a lemon. **NOTE: Natural wood finished instruments only. Unnatural colored instruments will not be allowed.***

Every effort is made to ensure your child's success. The Beginning Orchestra is comprised of the following instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The Beginning book is very user-friendly to help the child "teach" himself. Students may also practice using SmartMusic, an interactive computer program that makes practice rewarding and enjoyable. Every student enrolled in WMHFA will receive a subscription.

### Horizon Strings—Kalamazoo

Taught by Mrs. Karin Loberg Code  
 Tuesdays, 8:30-10:00 am - Kalamazoo

This class is for Beginning Students (see Beginning Orchestra) and for students who are not yet ready for Philharmonia Orchestra. In addition to basic string-playing skills, students will learn fundamentals of music notation and theory. There will be introductory ensemble pieces taught in the second half of each class period.

### Philharmonia Orchestra—Kalamazoo

Taught by Mrs. Karin Loberg Code  
 Tuesdays, 1:25 pm - 2:55 pm - Kalamazoo

This orchestra is open to students who have played at least one year on one of the following instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, or String Bass. **Students should expect to spend 2-4 years in this class.**

AN AUDITION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLING IN THIS ORCHESTRA! To schedule an appointment go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org).

### Intermediate Orchestra—Grand Rapids

Taught by Mrs. Elisabeth Sooy  
 Wednesdays, 8:30 am - 10:00 am – Grand Rapids

This orchestra is open to students who have played at least one year on one of the following instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, or String Bass. Last year's WMHFA beginners will automatically qualify to be enrolled in this orchestra unless they have changed to a new instrument. **Students should expect to spend 1-3 years in this class.**

AN AUDITION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL **NEW STUDENTS** ENROLLING IN THIS ORCHESTRA! (Last year's beginning orchestra students do not need to audition.) To schedule an appointment go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org).

### Advanced Orchestra—Grand Rapids

Taught by Mrs. Kristen Shoup  
 Wednesdays, 8:30 am - 10:00 am - Grand Rapids

This orchestra is open to students who have played at least two years on the Violin, Viola, Cello, or String Bass. AN AUDITION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLING IN THIS ORCHESTRA. (Beginning Orchestra students must complete Intermediate Orchestra before auditioning for Advanced Orchestra.) To schedule an appointment go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org). **Students should expect to spend 2-3 years in this class.**

Festival attendance is required (see page 6).

**You may want to consider renting a stringed instrument. Rentals include all repairs at no extra cost. You are also able to move up to the next size at any time. All money put towards the rental applies towards the purchase of your final instrument.**

## Symphony Orchestra - Grand Rapids Chamber Strings - Kalamazoo

Taught by Mrs. Kristen Shoup & Mrs. Karin Loberg Code  
Tuesdays, 10:10-11:40 am - Kalamazoo  
Wednesdays, 1:25-2:55 pm - Grand Rapids

These classes are open to all experienced string students (*and advanced level wind and percussion instruments - Grand Rapids*) **by audition only**. Auditions will consist of scales, a prepared piece, and sight-reading (see website for details). Festival attendance is required (see page 6).

To schedule an audition appointment go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org)

## Fiddles, Pops, & More

Taught by Mrs. Elisabeth Sooy  
Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00 pm - Grand Rapids

This class is open to accomplished string players including violin, viola, cello and bass. Different styles of fiddle will be played i.e. American, Irish, reels, hoedowns, jigs, and waltzes. Other small ensemble pieces will also be explored. The Fiddles, Pops, & More Class is open to students enrolled in Advanced or Symphony Orchestra. Auditions are required for new students.



## Choir

Taught by: Mrs. Lori Beason, Mrs. Elisabeth Sooy,  
Mr. Joel Snyder  
Tuesdays, 12:15pm - 1:15pm - Kalamazoo  
Wednesdays, 10:10-11:10 am - Grand Rapids

Choir is an excellent opportunity to grow as a musician. Students will enjoy singing interesting music that will be used to develop their voice to sing on pitch as well as develop musically by singing with dynamics and emotion. Students will also be exposed to fun and interesting breathing exercises, vocal warm-ups, number singing, vocal techniques, and musical terms that will help your child to sing with musicality. Upper level choirs are exposed to and develop sight-reading skills.

- **Youth Chorus (K)** ages 7-13
- **Concert Choir (K)** ages 14-19. Festival attendance is required (see page 8.)
- **Elementary Choir (GR)** ages 7-12
- **Middle School Choir (GR)** ages 11-14. Festival attendance may be required.
- **Senior Choir (GR)** ages 14-19. Festival attendance is required (see page 6).

## Northern Lights Chorale

Taught by: Mr. Joel Snyder  
Cost: \$10 to enrolled Senior Choir members only  
Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 am - Grand Rapids

This talented group of 20 young men and ladies is available by audition only. Several performance opportunities, in addition to the Christmas and Spring concerts, take place each year along with participation in the District and State MSVMA festivals. Students must be at least 14 years old.

**Audition Requirements for Northern Lights Chorale Members:** The Chorale audition music is "America the Beautiful" (memorized). Sight-reading is required, a tonal memory test will be given and students may sing a song of their choosing A Capella (optional).

**Auditions** are by appointment only during the summer. Go to [wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org) to schedule your audition

**Prerequisite:** Students must be enrolled in Sr. Choir.

**Required Commitment:** The Chorale will participate in the MSVMA Vocal Solo & Ensemble Festival in February as well as the State Vocal Solo & Ensemble in May. Enrolled students must commit to participate in the festivals. The Chorale also has a variety of performances outside WMHFA. Members need to be available for these events.

**Required Materials:** Uniform Tuxedos for boys, uniform dress, jewelry & matching black shoes for girls (*estimated cost per student: \$125*)



## Handbell Choirs (Grand Rapids)

Taught By: Mr. Richard Wiltse  
Wednesdays: Aurora Handbell: 10:10—11:10 am  
Advanced Handbells 1:25 pm—2:25 pm  
Middle Handbells 2:30 pm—3:30 pm  
Intermediate Handbells 11:45 am—12:45 pm  
Elementary Handbells 9:00-10:00 am

Because regular attendance of each member is crucial to the success of the group, only students who can commit to attending every or nearly every rehearsal and performance should participate. Attendance at the last few rehearsals prior to a performance is especially crucial. Basic music theory is introduced in varying degrees at each level, which is helpful to students in all of their musical endeavors.

- **Elementary Handbells** is a beginning level class aimed at students new to formal music instruction ages 7-10. Older students may also enroll. Students begin the year on handchimes, which have a beautiful sound, are easy and fun to play, and are a great tool for learning the techniques of ringing handbells, which are then introduced later in the year. Students are expected to be able to read, follow directions, and be emotionally mature enough to withstand the inevitable frustrations that come with learning something new and being part of a group. Music reading skills and prior musical experience are helpful, but not required for participation. This class is a great way to develop and sharpen music reading skills and overall musicianship!
- **Intermediate & Middle Handbells** are follow-up classes to Elementary Handbells aimed at students ages 9-13 who have experience reading music. No prior experience with handbells is needed for participation, but completion of at least one year of handbells, band, choir, or orchestra is helpful. Students will learn various basic handbell techniques and rehearse and perform a wide variety of handbell literature at an intermediate level.
- **Advanced Handbells** is follow-up class to Intermediate Handbells aimed at students ages 11 & up who are able to comfortably read music. No prior experience with handbells is needed for participation, but completion of at least one year of handbells or other musical instruction is very helpful. Students will learn various basic and advanced handbell techniques and rehearse and perform a wide variety of handbell literature at intermediate & advanced levels.
- **Aurora Handbell Choir** is our most advanced handbell class and is open to students ages 14 & up who have very strong music reading and rhythmic skills. Prior handbell experience is strongly recommended. Students will develop advanced handbell techniques and rehearse and perform a wide variety of handbell literature at a very advanced level. Performance at Kentwood Community Church on a Wed. morning in Jan. or Feb. is required for all participants.



## Introductory Guitar (Grand Rapids)

Taught By: Mrs. Dani DeBone  
Wednesdays: 1:55 pm - 2:55 pm

This class, for ages 12 and up, will involve learning the basics of playing an acoustic guitar: posture, tuning, strumming, and finger picking. We will learn some scales and read melodies on a staff, but will also focus on chords and reading chord sheets. We will also spend class time learning basic music theory. This class intends to set students up well to join a church worship team, play popular music while singing along, and understand overall song structure of modern (worship) music.

## Ukulele Class (Grand Rapids)

Taught By: Mrs. Dani DeBone  
Wednesdays: 3:00 pm — 4:00 pm

The beginning ukulele class will be ideal for students ages 8 to 11 who want to learn a first instrument, or who already have musical experience. We will learn to play the ukulele and practice how to read music and rhythms using fun games and activities.



## Colorguard

Instructors: TBD

Tuesdays: *Intro to Colorguard* 8:30-9:00

*Middle/Senior Guard* 9:00-10:00

*Junior/Middle Guard* 10:10-11:10

Wednesdays: *Junior Guard*: 1:25-2:25 pm

*Middle Guard*: 2:25-3:25 pm

*Senior Guard*: 3:30-4:30 pm

- **Junior Guard** is a beginning level guard (ages 8-11) where the students will learn basic flag choreography with 4' flags and other props in addition to beginning dance concepts.
- **Middle Guard** is an intermediate level guard (ages 11-14) where the students are ready for the challenge of learning 5' tall flag and more advanced dance skills using the flags and other props.
- **Senior Guard** is an advanced level guard (ages 14-19) where students learn how to spin 6' tall flag along with challenging dance skills.
- **Intro to Colorguard (KZ)** is required for all students new to Colorguard. Students must also be enrolled in Middle/Senior or Junior/Middle Guard.

All guards will perform short routines set to music showing all the skills they've learned during each session.

Colorguard students must wear comfortable, supportive athletic shoes for all practices. Flip-flops, sandals, etc. will not be permitted.

Students may use WMHFA owned flags and poles or may purchase their own. All WMHFA owned materials must be returned at the end of the year.

Classes will be grouped by age. No auditions are required and students will remain in the same level for the entire year. Senior colorguard students wishing to spin a Saber or Rifle must purchase their own. WMHFA owned items will be available for short-term use only for new students to try out. For concert attire, students may be asked to provide a top and bottom to go along with the theme of the song picked. The instructors do their best to ensure that families will NOT have to purchase new clothing items for the concert. Students must purchase their own shoes.

## Performances



### Concert Dates

Students are expected to perform in concerts. WMHFA Concerts are held twice a year, in December and in April.

### Festival Dates

Many of the advanced groups have the opportunity to perform for adjudication purposes in the spring. The group is constructively critiqued and given direction by professional music educators in each field. This is a requirement for membership in those groups. Watch the newsletter for details. Dates will be posted as soon as they are available. These are general guidelines and are subject to change.

- **February** - District HS Vocal Solo & Ensemble Festival (Northern Lights Chorale)
- **Late February/Early March** - Band & Orchestra Festival (Advanced Bands & Orchestras and above)
- **February** - District Choral Festival (Sr. Choir and Concert Choir)
- **April**—State HS Vocal Solo & Ensemble Festival (Northern Lights Chorale)
- **May**—State Choral Festival (Sr. Choir and Concert Choir)

### Jazz Festivals:

Students in Big Band 1 are expected to participate in Jazz Festivals. Some of the festivals WMHFA participates in include the following:

- WMHFA Winter and Spring Concerts
- CMU Jazz Festival
- WMU Jazz Festival
- MSU Jazz Festival
- TAC Jazz Festival

Dates will be announced as soon as they are available. See [wmhfa.org/calendar](http://wmhfa.org/calendar) for the latest information.

### Other Festival Dates (Optional participation)

WMHFA provides an opportunity for students to prepare a solo or an ensemble of 2 or more students to perform for adjudication purposes. The student is constructively critiqued and given direction by professional music educators in each given instrument field. This is a great opportunity for students to learn and grow musically! Watch the newsletter for details. These are held in the spring.

- Vocal Solo & Ensemble (if they qualify, they may go to State Festival)
- Instrumental Solo & Ensemble Festival

### Miscellaneous Performances

Certain classes have extra performances. See class schedules for details.

## Important information for students not in classes

PLEASE DO NOT USE WMHFA AS A DAY CARE PROVIDER! If you are waiting at the building during your child's class, please keep your non-students with you at all times. We have many students using the buildings every week and have found it necessary to have all students in a class or with their parent in a Study Hall or a Social Hall to maintain order. Students will not be permitted to roam the facilities, inside or outside, unsupervised.

### Nursery for Instructors & Helpers

A staffed Nursery is available for instructors and those who are helping out in other areas of the building.

### Nursery for Parents

Parents of small children who are waiting on students participating in classes may use the nursery as well if there is room, but they must stay with their children in the nursery. Although the nursery is staffed, the nursery helpers are only responsible for children of instructors or other WMHFA helpers currently working.

### Social Hall/Study Hall

Many students may have to wait quite a while between classes or have to wait for a sibling to finish classes; therefore we provide a Social Hall or a Study Hall to assist in keeping them occupied. The Social Hall/Study Hall areas are not always supervised, so parents must be responsible for supervising their own children.

- **The Social Hall** is for conversation and game playing. It is not for loud, obnoxious behavior or roughhousing. At times a class will meet in the same area (for example, the gymnasium.) Students are to be quiet and respectful to the instructor and students in the class. Failure to cooperate will be grounds for disciplinary action.
- **The Study Hall** is a quieter room that will be available all day for families waiting on students participating in classes. Parents are free to bring their children into the Study Hall and do schooling with them.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILDREN OFF AND LEAVE THEM UNLESS THEY ARE ENROLLED IN CLASS. WMHFA is not responsible for the supervision or care of children left unattended at the building. Students who are not enrolled and are on the premises without an adult will be asked to call their parents and be picked up.

**Students not enrolled in a class must be under the supervision of a parent or other designated adult at all times.**

### Download the WMHFA Mobile App



## Kalamazoo Location & Schedule Overview

*WMHFA Kalamazoo meets weekly on Tuesdays at TBD*

**Fall Session** starts September 3 and ends with the concert December 10\*  
**Spring Session** starts January 7 and ends with the concerts in April (Band/Choir/Colorguard April 22; Orchestra April 15).\*  
 \*Concert times subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

**Below is a schedule overview of all Kalamazoo classes offered in 2024-2025**  
**ORIENTATION FOR ALL FAMILIES—August 27 at 10am**

BANDS	ORCHESTRAS	OTHER	COLORGUARD
Beginning Band 8:30-10:00	Horizon Strings 8:30-10:00	Elementary Music Class 9:00-10:00	Intro to Colorguard 8:30-9:00 Middle/Senior Colorguard 9:00-10:00 Junior/Middle Colorguard 10:10-11:10
Intermediate Band 10:10-11:40	Chamber Strings 10:10-11:40	Choirs 12:15-1:15	
Advanced Band 1:25-2:55	Philharmonia Orchestra 1:25-2:55		
Percussion Ensemble Big Band 3:00-4:00			

## Grand Rapids Location & Schedule Overview

*WMHFA meets weekly on Wednesdays at Corinth Reformed Church 129 100th St SE, Byron Center, MI 49315*

**Fall Session** starts September 4 and ends with the Concerts in December (Choir/Colorguard—December 12; Band/Orchestra/Handbells—December 14).\*  
**Spring Session** starts January 8 and ends with the April concerts. (Choir/Colorguard—April 24; Band/Orchestra/Handbells—April 26)\*  
 \*Concert times subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

**Below is a schedule/class location overview of all Grand Rapids classes offered in 2024-2025**  
**ORIENTATION FOR ALL FAMILIES—August 28 at 9am**

Time	BANDS	ORCHESTRAS	CHOIRS	COLORGUARD	MISC. CLASSES
9am	Beginning Band 8:30-10:00	Intermediate Orchestra Advanced Orchestra 8:30-10:00	N. L. Chorale 9:00-10:00		Elementary Handbells 9:00-10:00
10am					
11am			Elementary Choir Middle School Choir Senior Choir 10:10-11:10		Aurora Handbells 10:10-11:10
12pm	Intermediate Advanced Concert Bands 11:45-1:15	Beginning Orchestra 11:45-1:15			Intermediate Handbells Elementary Music Class 11:45-12:45
1pm					
2pm	Ensembles 1:25-1:55 Drum Line 1:25-2:25	Symphony Orchestra 1:25-2:55		Junior Guard 1:25-2:25	Advanced Handbells 1:25-2:25 Introductory Guitar 1:25-2:25 Middle Handbells 2:30-3:30
3pm	Big Band 2 & 3 3:00-4:00 Big Band 1 3:00-4:30	Fiddles, Pops, & More Class 3:00-4:00		Middle Guard 2:25-3:25 Senior Guard 3:30-4:30	Percussion Ensemble 3:00-4:00 Ukulele 3:00-4:00
4pm					



## Expectations

### Age

WMHFA is for all homeschool students between the ages of 5 to 19. See class descriptions for specific age requirements. **Students must be the appropriate age at the start of class.** Exceptions must be approved by the instructor and the administration.

### Daily Practice

Daily Practice is required for most classes. Specific requirements will be assigned in class. Typical requirements would be practicing at least 5 days a week and/or 2 1/2 hours per week. Beginning students will gradually increase their practice time throughout the first few months. Weekly practice records must be signed by parents and turned in every week at class. If a student does not practice, they may have their seating changed, be placed in a lower ensemble, or may be dismissed from the class.

### Excellence

Students are expected to know their part by the time of the concert. If a student is not able to perform their part in such a way that contributes to the overall excellence of the group, they may be asked to sit out for the concert.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals, concerts, and performances. Students are required to attend the rehearsal prior to a performance unless excused. Students missing more than two rehearsals within a concert period or missing a rehearsal prior to a performance may have their seating changed or may be denied permission to perform.

### Equipment

Students may be issued equipment for their classes such as books, stands, flags, poles, etc. These belong to WMHFA and must be returned in good condition when finished. Normal wear and tear is acceptable. If the student wishes to keep the equipment, they may purchase it from us.

### Uniforms

Students must wear uniform shirts (provided by WMHFA) to weekly classes. New students will receive a sport shirt for no additional cost. Returning students may purchase a new shirt for \$17 or exchange last year's shirt for a different color or size. **Exchanged shirts must be clean! Most exchanges will be for a gently used shirt.**

Concert uniforms are required to participate in all performances. WMHFA will provide the required uniform components to those who need them (except for shoes). Students who already have the required uniform items will not need to order new items. WMHFA will not be responsible for replacing lost items or items damaged by misuse. Students will not be permitted to perform if they are not in the required uniform. Uniform pieces are to be considered on loan only and should not be used for non-WMHFA purposes. When the student no longer needs the piece for WMHFA, it is to be returned.

### Performance Information (Concerts & Parades)

- Students must arrive in FULL DRESS with all necessary equipment.
- Brightly colored lipstick and nail polish is not permitted.
- Uniforms **must** be clean and pressed.
- Shoes **must** be clean and polished.
- While in uniform, students MAY NOT eat or drink anything other than water or non-staining foods.

### Private Lessons

Private lessons ARE NOT a requirement to be in WMHFA but are strongly encouraged. A student who receives individual instruction will generally progress faster than those who do not. Instructors will notify you if your child is struggling and will need lessons to keep up with the rest of the class.

### Fees

Class Fees may be paid in full or may be paid by using the following payment plan: 50% of Class Fees paid by September 4, 2024; 100% of Class Fees paid by November 30, 2023. If there are special circumstances that may cause your payment to be late, please contact us to make arrangements. Students with unpaid fees may be prevented from participation at concerts. **Note: If you drop a class, you are required to pay the balance of your tuition.** (See "Questions & Answers" - page 10 for more information)

A **Late Fee** of \$5 per month will be charged for Class Fees not paid in full by the due date. **Unpaid Class Fees may cause your child to be dropped from the class or prevent participation in a concert.** Again, if there are special circumstances that may cause your payment to be late, please call and make arrangements.

**Concert Fees** of \$5/seat will be charged to cover the cost of auditorium rental. Tickets go on sale several weeks prior to the concert.

### Dropping A Class

If you need to drop a class, please notify us at [office@wmhfa.org](mailto:office@wmhfa.org).

**Requests for Refunds** follows this schedule:

- 75% refunded after 9/11/24
- 50% refunded after 9/18/24
- 25% refunded after 9/25/24
- No refunds after 10/2/2024

### Parental/Family Involvement

Due to the number of students involved and a desire to keep the cost of our programs reasonable, we find it necessary to require all families to be involved in the operation of the WMHFA. One job requires approximately **16 times (about 1½ hours each time)** of commitment from a family. Families with 1 to 4 classes will be asked to do one job. Families with more than 4 classes will be asked to do two jobs.

A detailed list of jobs and times will be available online. A link will be emailed to you after your enrollment is received. There are certain jobs or times of the day that are harder to fill than others. Please try to sign up for these jobs to help us fill the schedule.

**Sign up** as soon as possible so we can have the fall session filled by September 2. Families who do not respond by September 2 may have a work responsibility assigned for them.

**Non-Involvement Fee\*** - If you miss a work assignment, it is your responsibility to notify the Parent Absence Coordinator so that a substitute can be found. A \$20/week Non-Involvement Fee will be charged to those who miss without notification. If you are healthy but too busy to help, you will be charged (\$360 per year for families with 1 to 4 classes and \$540 per year for families with more than 4 classes) to be of help in a different way. Indicate this when you enroll online.

*\*The Non-Involvement Fee is NOT covered by Homeschool Partnerships*

### Report Absences

If your child will be missing a class you must report the absence at [www.wmhfa.org](http://www.wmhfa.org) under "Parent Login"

**Parental Supervision** is required for all children not attending classes. If you must stay during class time, there will be designated areas available for you to take your children. There are to be no children running around inside or outside the facilities at any time. Please pick your children up as soon as their class is over.

**WMHFA is not set up to be a day care provider.** We barely have room for all the students who must be here for classes.



## Student Guidelines and General Rules

### Rules

WMHFA has student guidelines and rules that every student is expected to follow. The guidelines and rules can be found below. Every family enrolling in WMHFA must sign an agreement stating they will abide by the rules.

We require all WMHFA 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

### Instrument Code

- Students should never play another student's instrument.
- Students other than the percussion students should never play on the percussion equipment.
- Students other than colorguard should never touch the colorguard equipment.
- Parents are financially responsible for the cost of repairing damage caused by the negligence or neglect of their child to WMHFA owned instruments and equipment.

### Building Code

The atmosphere of our buildings must be one of order, discipline, and cooperation. No running or roughhousing will be permitted. Absolutely no food, drink or gum will be allowed outside of designated areas. Personal media players are not allowed. Please remember we are guests in the facility. Let's work together to leave the building in as good, or better, condition than we found it. Parents are financially responsible for the cost of repairing damage caused by the negligence or neglect of their child to the building.

### Cell Phones

Cell phones may not be used by students while attending a class. Violations may result in the phone being confiscated until the end of class.

### Drugs and Weapons

No harmful substances will be allowed in or around the facility. This includes alcohol, cigarettes, or drugs. Bringing anything to the facility that is usually thought of as a weapon is prohibited.

### Dress Code

We have a responsibility to create an atmosphere which enhances and adheres to the purposes we have established. Student 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 WMHFA.

The following dress code requirements assist in achieving the goals mentioned above.

**Shirts** – All students are required to wear a WMHFA shirt. Shirts should not be altered in any way without permission.

**Pants/Slacks** – Dress or casual pants only. Pants must be neat, and not torn, ragged or faded. They should be of the correct size, not too tight or too baggy and must fit at the waist. No “jean” styles, denim fabric, hip-huggers, tight or sagging pants. Leggings do not qualify as pants/slacks. (Jeans may be worn during Marching Band.)

**Shorts** – The length of shorts must not be higher than three inches above the floor when kneeling. Shorts must be neat, and not torn, ragged or faded. They should be of the correct size, not too tight or

too baggy, and must fit at the waist. No “jean” styles, no denim fabric, and no athletic shorts except during Marching Band.

**Skirts** – The length of skirts, including slits, must cover the knee or be longer. Skirts must be neat, and not torn, ragged or faded. They should be of the correct size, not too tight, and must fit at the waist. No “jean” styles, hip-huggers, or tight skirts. Appropriate length skirts must be worn over leggings.

**Sweaters/Sweatshirts** – Sweaters and Sweatshirts must be modest and loose fitting, but not oversized. Sweatshirts must be plain or WMHFA apparel There must be a WMHFA shirt beneath sweaters or sweatshirts.

**Colorguard** – WMHFA shirt or modest, loose fitting plain T-shirt tucked into modest, loose fitting athletic pants. Shirt must not come un-tucked when arms are raised above the head. Leggings must be covered by a knee-length skirt. Jazz, dance, or athletic shoes are required.

**Hats** – Caps, hats, bandanas, dew rags, sunglasses, etc. may not be worn in the building by boys.

**Jewelry/Hair** – No earrings, chains, bracelets, nail polish, feminine makeup, or excessive/unnatural dyed hair on boys. Boys' hair may be no longer than the eyes, the bottom of the ears, and the collar.  
- No body piercing jewelry or exposed tattoos on anyone.  
- Faddish, radical or unkempt hairstyles and unnatural hair colors are to be avoided by all students (boys and girls).

**Violations** – Students violating the Dress Code may be given appropriate clothing at the cost of the family or will not be allowed to attend classes or other functions. Unless otherwise approved, this policy will be in effect during all WMHFA activities.

*Students, parents and teachers who have questions about the specific guidelines should check with the Executive Director. It is the responsibility of the Executive Director to determine what is permissible.*

### Conduct

This code of conduct will be enforced before, during, and after class anywhere on the property where the class is conducted. The following behavior will result in immediate disciplinary action:

- Foul language or unwholesome talk (Eph. 4:29)
- Roughhousing
- Disruptive behavior during rehearsals
- Physical display of affection (hugging opposite gender)
- Disrespect for those in authority
- Drugs and/or weapons
- All other inappropriate behavior as deemed by the director

***Damage done to the facility or its equipment will be the financial responsibility of the people involved in causing the damage.***

### Violations

The Executive Director and instructors are free to discipline, as deemed fit for each offense, but in most cases will use the following guidelines. If the guidelines and general rules are violated, a verbal warning will be given to the student. A record will be kept of the verbal warning. On the second violation, a written notice will be sent home to the parents. A student with a second violation may be dismissed from current or next rehearsal or performance. If there is a third offense, the student may be dismissed from WMHFA for the remainder of the year.

Students may be immediately dismissed without warning for gross infractions such as fighting, illegal activities, or immoral behavior.

Dismissed students who desire to reenroll in the program must meet with parents and Executive Director to determine if re-enrollment is allowable.

## Questions & Answers (Q & A)

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

**A: Yes. The Class Fees may be paid in any frequency that meets this schedule: 50% of the Class Fees are due by September 4\*\*, and the remaining balance of Class Fees are due by November 30\*\*. If you withdraw or your child is dismissed, you are required to pay the entire balance of your tuition.**

*\*\*A \$5 per month late charge is added each month starting in December. In the event of a bounced check, bank charges will be passed on, all future fees must be paid with a money order and a valid credit card must be kept on the family account.*

**Q: Do previously enrolled families need to enroll again?**

**A: Yes. Each annual session begins in September and ends in August. To begin a new session requires re-enrollment.**

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

**A. We require that you seriously consider whether or not your students should be involved in WMHFA each year. We consider music education to be of great value and importance, on a 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 WMHFA**
- **NO exceptions are made for students who tire of the program, re-enroll in public or private school, or who don't want to practice.**

*We have made commitments to our directors and their salaries continue, even if your student does not.*

**Q: Where can I get the supplies needed for my child to be in the program?**

**A: For your convenience, all of the supplies regularly needed by students are available from WMHFA at the Information/Supply Table. These include items such as valve oil, slide/cork grease, reeds, books, etc. These items are included in the cost of enrollment.**

**Q: How does WMHFA communicate to all the families in the program?**

**A: To keep our families informed of what is happening at WMHFA, a weekly newsletter is emailed to every family. Updates and urgent information is sent out as needed. Please notify us at [office@wmhfa.org](mailto:office@wmhfa.org) if you are not receiving the weekly newsletter.**

**Q: How do we handle a complaint? What is the procedure for solving a problem?**

**A: 1) Go to the person directly involved in the problem (e.g. volunteer worker, instructor, or administrator) please do not complain to people not involved, it only breeds more complaining, negative, critical attitudes, and makes things seem bigger than they really are. Calmly explain your position and seek for peaceful resolution.**  
**2) If going to the person responsible does not solve the problem, go to the person responsible for that individual (volunteer department leader, instructor, or administrator). Again calmly explain your situation to this person in charge. Work together on a solution**  
**3) If going to the person in charge does not solve the problem, go to the executive director.**

**Q: Who do we contact if we have more questions about WMHFA?**

**A: Email: [office@wmhfa.org](mailto:office@wmhfa.org)  
 Phone: 616-868-0236  
 Text: 616-633-1831**

**Q: Where do classes meet?**

**Grand Rapids Classes  
 Corinth Reformed Church - Use Door D  
 129 100th St SE  
 Byron Center, MI 49315**

**Kalamazoo Classes  
 TBD**

# How to get FREE CLASSES with WMHFA

## 1. Home School Partnerships

Home School Partnership is a program school districts may have available to home-educated students. Participants in Home School Partnerships may qualify to have WMHFA class fees paid by the school district. School districts with Home School Partnerships include Gull Lake, Berrien Springs, Hamilton, Three Rivers, Jenison, and Niles. For information visit the school district website and search for "Home School Partnership". (Some classes are not covered by Home School Partnerships.)

## 2. WMHFA Fundraising

Throughout the year, WMHFA offers a variety of fundraisers. These fundraisers not only help raise money for WMHFA but also help families pay their class fees. Each fundraising opportunity is a joint effort benefitting both WMHFA and the participating families. Fundraising information will be announced in the newsletter. Due to legal restrictions, we cannot give funds directly to families except for the RaiseRight program. The money raised can only be used for WMHFA expenses.

## 3. Do your shopping with RaiseRight/Scrip Gift Cards

**"What is RaiseRight?"** RaiseRight has agreements with 100's of retailers, restaurants, gas stations etc. across the nation that are willing to give you a small rebate to shop at their store. Also known as SCRIP, this gift card fundraising raises money while you make everyday purchases.

**"How does this work?"** You buy gift cards to stores that you are willing to shop at, like Meijer, D&W, Staples, Speedway, Barnes and Noble, Wal-Mart, Lands End, Ace Hardware, Lowe's and many more locations. You pay face value and your account gets the small rebate. Once you get used to buying gift cards and beginning to plan ahead, all those small rebates begin to add up.

**"Do I get all the rebate in my account?"** No. This is a fundraiser for WMHFA. Your family will receive 80% of the rebates and WMHFA will keep only 20% of the rebates earned to cover shipping and administrative costs plus help the program a little. What a way to help out WMHFA by purchasing gift cards to places that you already shop at. A Win/Win for everyone!

**"When will I see these rebates in my family's account?"** RaiseRight rebates are posted to family accounts on December 1st, April 1st and August 1st. (yes we sell RaiseRight during Marching Band!!) Cash rebate checks are mailed once a year in August.

**"How do I get started?"** Go to [www.RaiseRight.com](http://www.RaiseRight.com) click on "create a new account," fill in the information on the first page. The WMHFA enrollment code is 9D8AF44A1551. We are registered as West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts. You are now ready to place your order, PRINT your order and write a check to WMHFA for the total amount and turn in both to the RaiseRight table.

**"Why should I start to buy these gift cards now?"** What you buy now will help you with your tuition payment. Once you get in the habit of planning ahead you will see those small rebates adding up quickly. The RaiseRight program is a wonderful way to budget your pay check and stretch your money. This program is also Dave Ramsey approved. Thinking of home improvements? Buy one or two \$25 gift cards at a time to your favorite store for home improvements that participates. By spring you have enough saved and your music program tuition will be less. Same goes for Christmas, vacations, birthdays, anniversaries etc. Plan ahead now, budget those large ticket items by buying \$25 at a time. Keep these cards in a safe place and enjoy the benefits!! What a great way to be generous and not have it all come out of one pay check!!

*West Michigan Home School Fine Arts Association, Inc. holds to the truth that all people, regardless of race, are created in the image of God. Therefore, we will not discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, or national origin. All students are precious to us and will receive just treatment and equal opportunity for advancement.*



*West Michigan Homeschool  
Fine Arts Association, Inc.  
7921 Whites Bridge Rd  
Belding, MI 48809*



#### NORTHERN LIGHTS MARCHING BAND 2024 TOUR

June 1 - Mackinac Island Lilac Festival Parade  
 June 22 - Grand Ledge Yankee Doodle Days Parade  
 July 4—Richland Fourth of July Parade  
 July 13 - Ionia Free Fair Parade  
 July 27 - Byron Days Parade  
 August 3 - Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival Parade

### **What can your child learn from being involved in WMHFA?**

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

### **Questions?**

[office@wmhfa.org](mailto:office@wmhfa.org)

### **Questions by Phone?**

(616)868-0236

### **Visit us on the web!**

[wmhfa.org](http://wmhfa.org)



