



“Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!” Psalm 100:2

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 wide range of musical ability join together each week to learn how to create beautiful music in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. Praise the Lord!

San Gabriel Christian School choral and instrumental ensembles study a wide range of repertoire and perform regularly throughout the year. 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 routine builds confidence, trains muscle memory, and fosters consistency with faster results.

This year, I’m looking forward to directing the Prep Choir and Senior Choir. I want to express my gratitude to Mrs. Anna Young for her wonderful work with the choirs last year!

I am happy to announce that Mrs. Linda Bronkar will continue to teach Beginning Strings. I’m also very excited to let you know that we will be expanding the strings program by adding one more group: Beginning Strings 2.

I am also excited to share that we will continue to offer two levels of year-long piano ensembles. Beginning Piano will meet at a new time this year. Please see details below.

Additionally, Miss Grace Gates (piano and voice teacher) will continue to offer private lessons on campus on Monday afternoons. Please reach out to her directly with any questions regarding private lessons. Her contact information is included in this packet.

Kindly sign and return the attached documents to the office by Friday, September 4, so that I can make arrangements for each class. As a reminder, instrument rentals and class placement priority are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. It is a privilege and a joy to make music together with your children. I am looking forward to a wonderful, musical school year!

Thomas Lovasz, Music Director

tlovasz@sangabrielchristian.org

CHORAL PROGRAM

PREP CHOIR:

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

Rehearsals begin on Monday, September 7, 2026.

The Preparatory Choir is specially designed for young musicians. Students will be introduced to group singing through fun and educational songs, musical movements, and ear training based on the Kodaly method. This choir will participate in our two main music department concerts during the school year.

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

SENIOR CHOIR:

Wednesdays, 2:45-3:30pm, Fridays, 2:30-3:15pm (Grades 3-8)

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

The Senior Choir provides singers with an opportunity to refine their vocal and performance techniques as an ensemble. Students will learn to cooperate and work together as a group in order to honor the Lord and bless others through high-quality, meaningful performances. The repertoire is carefully selected to expand students' musical range and develop their abilities. This choir will participate in special chapel performances, the 8th Grade Graduation performance, and the two main music department concerts during the school year.

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

*On Fridays, the school provides free daycare and homework assistance for Senior Choir students until the class begins.

STRINGS PROGRAM

BEGINNING STRINGS 1:

Instructor: Mrs. Linda Bronkar

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

Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Students in Beginning Strings 1 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 our two main music department concerts during the school year. This class is designed for students with no prior experience.

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

BEGINNING STRINGS 2:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:45-3:30pm (Grades 1-2)

Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Students in Beginning Strings 2 will continue to build on the skills they developed in Beginning Strings 1 while expanding their repertoire with new pieces from the Suzuki repertoire. Beginning Strings 2 will participate in our two main music department concerts. This class is designed for students who have at least one year of prior 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)

Rehearsals begin on Monday, September 7, 2026.

Prelude Strings is a continuation of Beginning Strings 1 and 2, providing students with opportunities to further develop their musical ear and instrumental skills. Students will learn to connect their playing with reading sheet music and play multi-part string orchestra pieces together as an ensemble. Prelude Strings will participate in our two main music department concerts. This class is designed for students who have more than two years of prior string instruction or who are accepted by special audition with Mr. Lovasz.

*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)

Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Students in String Ensemble will continue to develop musicianship and music literacy by learning more complex pieces from the string orchestra repertoire. Students will analyze various composers, historical periods, and styles of music. The String Ensemble will participate in various campus music events as well as our two main department concerts. This class is designed for students who have more than three years of prior string instruction or who are accepted by special audition with Mr. Lovasz.

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

PIANO PROGRAM

PIANO 1:

Wednesdays, 3:45-4:30pm (Grades 1-2)

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

Students will become familiar with the piano as they learn to identify note names on the keyboard, practice proper piano posture, hand shape, and gestures, and learn pieces from John Thompson's Easiest Piano Course. This class will allow students to explore the piano and begin a path toward continued musical growth. The Piano 1 Ensemble will participate in our two main music department concerts. This class has a maximum of eight students.

*The school provides free daycare and homework assistance for Piano 1 students until the class begins.

PIANO 2:

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

Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

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 piano technique. Students will explore significant composers and listen to and engage with famous works written for the piano. The Piano 2 Ensemble will participate in our two main music department concerts. This class has a maximum of eight 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 instructor for more information and for her availability.

Miss Grace Gates (Piano and Voice): gracekgates@gmail.com

For a list of recommended off-campus private lesson instructors, please email me at tlovasz@sangabrielchristian.org.



Music Department Calendar

September

Friday, 4	Enrollment & Rental Forms Deadline
Monday, 7	Prep Choir, Prelude Strings: No Rehearsal (Labor Day)
Tuesday, 8	Piano 2, Beginning Strings, String Ensemble: Rehearsals Begin
Wednesday, 9	Prelude Strings, Senior Choir, Piano 1: Rehearsals Begin
Monday, 14	Prep Choir: Rehearsals Begin

October

Friday, 2	Senior Choir: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day)
Monday, 12	Prelude Strings, Prep Choir: No Rehearsal (Columbus Day)

November

Tuesday, 3	Senior Choir & String Ensemble: Grandparents' Day Performance/Assembly
W-F, 11-13	All Ensembles: No Rehearsal (Veteran's Day & Parent-Teacher Conferences)
M-F, 23-27	All Ensembles: No Rehearsal (Thanksgiving Break)

December

Monday, 7	All Ensembles except Piano 1 & 2: Dress Rehearsal, 2:45-4:30pm (Prep Choir dismissed at 3:30pm)
Tuesday, 8	Piano 1 & Piano 2: Dress Rehearsal, 1:15-2pm
Friday, 11	Choral & Instrumental Christmas Concert, 6:30pm Call Time: TBA

Note: Ensembles will not meet after December 11. Rehearsals will resume after Christmas break.

Thursday, 17	TK-2nd Grade Chorus Christmas Musical, Matinée Performance: 1:30pm, Evening Performance: 6:30pm Call Time: TBA
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Friday, 18 Senior Choir: All-School Christmas Chapel, 8:15am
Call Time: 8:05 am in the Sanctuary

January

Tuesday, 5 Beginning Strings, String Ensemble, Piano 2: Rehearsals Resume

Wednesday, 6 Prelude Strings, Senior Choir, Piano 1: Rehearsals Resume

Monday, 11 Prep Choir: Rehearsal Resumes

Monday, 18 Prep Choir, Prelude Strings: No Rehearsal (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

February

Monday, 15 Prep Choir, Prelude Strings: No Rehearsal (Presidents' Day)

March

Friday, 5 Senior Choir: No Rehearsal (Professional Development Day)

Friday, 12 Senior Choir: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day)

Friday, 26 Senior Choir: All-School Easter Chapel, 8:15am
Call Time: 8:05am in the Sanctuary

Friday, 26 Senior Choir: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day)

April

M-F, 3/29-4/2 All Ensembles: No Rehearsal (Easter Break)

Friday, 23 Senior Choir: No Rehearsal (Minimum Day)

May

Monday, 10 All Ensembles except Piano 1 & 2: Dress Rehearsal, 2:45-4:30pm (Prep Choir dismissed at 3:30pm)

Tuesday, 11 Piano 1 & Piano 2: Dress Rehearsal, 1:15-2pm

Thursday, 13 Choral & Instrumental Spring Concert, 6:30pm
Call Time: TBA

Note: All ensembles except String Ensemble will not rehearse after May 13. Happy Summer!

Thursday, 20 3rd-5th Grade Chorus Spring Musical: Matinée Performance: 1:30pm,
Evening Performance: 6:30pm

June

Thursday, 3

Senior Choir: 8th Grade Graduation Performance, 6:30pm

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 and Senior Choir 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:

White polo shirt

Black pants

Nice dress shoes

Ladies:

White polo shirt

Black pants or skort

Nice dress shoes

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.