

# Worthington Kilbourne High School

## 2021-2022

### Orchestra Handbook

Mr. Chidsey, Orchestra Director

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#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide members of the Worthington Kilbourne High School Orchestras a clear understanding of what the program expects from its members and what its members can expect from the program.

It is *required* that every member and their guardian/s take the time to read and understand the responsibilities outlined in this handbook. In doing so, we can create the best possible experience for everyone to develop as musicians, string players, and people.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Orchestra is a four year course providing instruction in individual technical development, interpretive skills, ensemble training, musicianship, and leadership. Class instruction addresses these areas as they relate to each student's instrument within the orchestra program.

Selection of literature is based upon technical, musical, and performance considerations. During any particular year, the group performs a wide variety of music from all historical periods. While one musical period may be stressed for its contribution to individual skills, another may be used to work on developing a particular aspect of musicianship or ensemble style.

## REHEARSAL PROCEDURE

1. Be in place with equipment (instrument, music, *pencils!!!!*), and as needed mute, rosin, and a soft cloth. Be ready to begin rehearsal by the start of the period.
2. Be courteous and respectful to **everyone** in the room, including when and how you talk. Also be courteous to our rehearsal and performance spaces.
3. Gum, candy, food, and drink (other than water) are never permitted in the music area.
4. In this age, cell phones can be a valuable resource as a musician. **HOWEVER**, **only** take out your cell phone when/if instructed to do so by the director.

Students are expected to have the proper equipment at each class. This includes an instrument and bow in good condition, music, pencil, mute, and rosin. Violin and viola players need to have an extra set of strings and a name tag on their case. If you have *any* questions about obtaining proper equipment, see Mr. Chidsey or Ms. McGreehan for clarification and assistance.

## MUSIC

All music performed by the Worthington Kilbourne Orchestras will be provided by the school district. All original copies of music must remain property of the Worthington Schools. Students are expected to take good care of all music; it is your textbook!

All original copies will be kept in school folders. No student is allowed to take their school folder home. Practice copies will be provided for home use and will also be available online. It is a good idea to keep your practice copies at hand during rehearsals so that you may copy fingerings, bowings, and other markings from your original copies to your practice copies.

Lastly, the music in your school folders are all original copies from the publisher. It may cost \$2.50 up to \$10.00 to replace a piece of music. Generally, two people are assigned to a folder. **Both students** are responsible for the care of the music.

## INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Members of successful orchestras require students practice outside of the orchestra period. A few guidelines for practicing are listed below:

1. Frequent practice for a moderate length of time is of greater benefit than one or two extended sessions.
2. Quality practice is more beneficial than length of time. We will go over quality practicing techniques in class.
3. Your performance ability on your orchestra music will improve if you include scales, etudes, and solos in your practice. If you have questions about how to implement these aspects into your practice, see Mr. Chidsey.
4. Always try your best and ask the director for help if you need it. It is of the utmost importance that we all adopt a growth mindset, especially if something is difficult-- never give up!

## **CHAIR PLACEMENTS**

- Chair placements serve two purposes:
  1. To hear each student individually in order to learn and understand the student's strengths and areas for improvement;
  2. And to effectively seat each section and orchestra.
- Materials for the placements may include a scale, solo excerpt, and sight-reading. Solos may be chosen from orchestra repertoire, ability level Packets, or from the student's choice.
- A rating scale will score each example played in the assessment. Areas of evaluation include tone, intonation, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, key signature, style, phrasing, articulation, posture, playing facility, and/or other musical and technical considerations chosen by the directors.
- Chair placements held throughout the year will be included in your quarterly grade.
- ***Special note:*** Although chair placements will aid in determining where you sit in the ensemble, you and your section will rotate seating frequently throughout the year. The final concert seating will be determined 1 or 2 weeks prior to each concert.

## **PERFORMANCES**

Performance is the natural culmination of the daily learning experience in rehearsals, and is an important part of the evaluation process. Both rehearsal and performance are necessary for a positive orchestra experience.

All students must arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled beginning of the concert. This time is for tuning, music check, and proper warm up. Students who arrive late will have points deducted from their concert grade.

## **CONCERT ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at **all** performances is *required*. A student who misses a performance not only negates previous efforts, but also affects the overall sound of the orchestra.

**Attendance and participation at performances is mandatory.**

All concert dates are printed in this handbook. If there are any changes to the dates or times stated in the calendar, these will be given as early as possible and at a reasonable time. If changes cause a conflict, the conflict must be discussed with the director as soon as possible. Consider all orchestra concerts (and their potential outside-of-the-school-day rehearsals) a **mandatory school-related event**.

Any students involved in athletics, other school and/or community organizations, or who have work commitments must inform your coach, advisor, or supervisor well in advance about their orchestra performance schedule so conflicts may be avoided.

The **only** time a student is excused from a performance is in the event of a family emergency. A parent or guardian needs to inform the director preferably before the concert, or at least by the next day.

If there is a conflict you know of, please fill out the following google form (also available on Google Classroom/Schoology) designated for requests to be absent:

<https://forms.gle/hp71wddjie9Ubqgk8>

Upon completion of the above form, the directors will make a final decision on whether or not an absence is excused. If the absence is excused, the directors will assign the student make-up work either in the form of a playing test or written paper. **If an absence is unexcused, the student will not receive credit and will not be allowed to make up the points lost due to absence.**

## **CONCERT DRESS**

*All students are required to wear the following for concerts:*

- **Black** dress shirt – plain, long sleeve.  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeve blouses are acceptable.
- **Black** dress pants or full length skirt – Leggings and/or black jeans do not count!
- **Black** dress socks or tights – No white socks or athletic socks please!
- **Black** dress shoes – No tennis shoes, sandals or flip-flops.

If you are not sure about a specific outfit or if you need clarification on the above, see the directors. Any student with inappropriate dress (i.e.- white socks, short skirt, sneakers, no ties) will be asked to change. Concert dress infractions can result in a lowering of your grade on a case-by-case basis.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

All nine weeks grades are based on the following criteria:

1. Musicianship -- 40%
2. Equipment Upkeep and Accessories -- 15%
3. Weekly Practice Logs -- 15%
4. Performances and Chair Placements -- 30%

1. **Musicianship includes:**

- a. Following rehearsal procedure outlined above, including promptness and class preparation.
- b. Demonstrating correct posture, playing position, and performance skills.
- c. Participating positively in rehearsal by marking music, following directions, and always being ready to play.
- d. Keeping fingernails trimmed so as not to impede hand technique.

2. **Equipment Upkeep and Accessories Maintenance:**

- a. Instrument
- b. Full ribbon of horsehair on bow
- c. Music
- d. Pencil

- e. Mute
  - f. Rosin
  - g. Spare Strings
  - h. Soft Cloth
  - i. It also includes replacing broken strings and needed instrument repairs within a reasonable period of time. All strings need to be replaced every year.
3. **Weekly Practice Logs:**
- a. I will stress that this is strictly a completion grade. The goal is honest answers. Even if you do not practice in a given week, you must fill out this form to get credit: <https://forms.gle/mkZsivqoAcUnoPtR6>
  - b. This form will also be available on Google Classroom/Schoology.
4. **Performances and Chair Placements:**
- a. Fulfillment of this criteria is detailed in the "Chair Placements," "Performances," "Concert Attendance," and "Concert Dress" sections above.

**Grading Scale:**

A+ = 100%	C+ = 78-79%
A = 93-99%	C = 73-77%
A- = 90-92%	C- = 70-72%
B+ = 88-89%	D+ = 68-69%
B = 83-87%	D = 63-67%
B- = 80-82%	D- = 60-62%

## **IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT**

All personal equipment should be clearly labeled with the student's name, address, phone number and school. This is for your protection. You should also have your instrument's make, model, serial number, and purchase price written down and filed at home. Having a good photo of the instrument and accessories is also a good idea. Instruments that are not locked up can, and have, disappeared. Specific information on the instrument may help the police recover the instrument.

## SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Students are responsible for all school-owned equipment assigned to them. This includes instruments, rosin, bows, endpin stops, and mutes. Any equipment damaged or lost will be the responsibility of the student or students assigned to them. The student may either replace the equipment or may reimburse the cost of replacing or repairing the equipment to the orchestra fund.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. If you do not have a private teacher and are interested in beginning lessons, a list of teachers in this area is available from the director.

## ADJUDICATED EVENTS

### *SOLO AND ENSEMBLE*

Students in the vocal and instrumental music programs are strongly encouraged to participate in the OMEA Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Events held every January or February. The purpose of this event is to promote and encourage students' improvement in the areas of musicianship and technique. The following guidelines are required for students to benefit from this experience:

1. Students must select music from an approved list of music published by the Ohio Music Educators Association. Your director has this list.
2. Students must be a member of the school orchestra in order to participate in string events.
3. Students must have a copy of their solo or ensemble for the adjudicator. The adjudicator's copy **must have every measure numbered or the overall rating will be lowered by one level**. Any ensemble copies must be in score form.
4. Music is divided into three categories **C, B, and A**, with **A** being the most difficult.
5. It is strongly recommended that a student at the high school level who is not taking private lessons or has not participated in contest enter "B" or "C" classification. The second or third year will provide ample time to advance to the "A" level.

6. Students receive a rating and a written comment sheet about the performance. The rating system used is I, II, III, IV, and V with a I being the top rating or "superior". Students who participate and receive a I or a II rating are entitled to purchase a medal. All participants receive a certificate.
7. Students who participate, as a member of an ensemble should be aware of the importance of regular group practice three (3) months prior to the contest. Two (2) or three (3) rehearsals per week will result in an outstanding experience for all!!
8. Soloists are not required to have accompanists, but are strongly encouraged to use piano accompaniment for the best overall experience.
9. Freshmen have a choice of entering in either high school or middle school contest, but may not participate in both.

Mr. Chidsey and Ms. McGreehan will be more than happy to answer any questions pertaining to solo and ensemble if you are interested.

#### ***STATE ORCHESTRA AND LARGE GROUP PERFORMANCE***

The Worthington Kilbourne Orchestra has the option of participating in the Ohio Music Education Association State Orchestra Adjudicated Event held every February or March. The decision to participate is made on a year-to-year basis and with the following considerations:

1. Educational benefits to be gained for the students in the particular group.
2. Instrumentation of the particular group.
3. Group characteristics such as rehearsal technique throughout the year, presenting a teachable attitude, an ability to listen and take directions, and a willingness to work hard as a group in order to achieve something that cannot be achieved as individuals.
4. Music ability level of the particular group to handle music required in regular classroom lessons. Other orchestra literature cannot be excluded at the expense of preparing for the event.

## **REGIONAL AND ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA**

At the end of the school year, OMEA sends to all high school orchestra and band directors a letter and applications for students to audition for the South-Central Region Orchestra. This orchestra is made up of the best instrumentalists from Franklin County to counties extending down to the Ohio River.

The top players in each five regional orchestras in Ohio are selected to participate in the OMEA All-State Orchestra. This elite group performs for the OMEA Convention held every February at a major city in Ohio. This is a wonderful opportunity to perform with some of the best young instrumentalists in the state.

## **YOUTH ORCHESTRAS**

Students in orchestra have the opportunity to audition for the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra (grades 9-12), the Youth Philharmonic of Central Ohio (grades 8-12), and the Columbus Symphony Cadet Orchestra (grades 7-10). These orchestras are made up of members from all over Columbus and outlying areas. All students are required to audition and must be a member of their school orchestra. Auditions are held every spring.

These groups have weekly rehearsals and several weekend retreats. Performance schedules are quite challenging, yet rewarding, and the groups often travel outside of Franklin County for concerts and clinics.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Mr. Chidsey
  - Office phone/voice mail number: **614-450-6479**
  - Email Address: [mchidsey@wscloud.org](mailto:mchidsey@wscloud.org)
  
- Ms. McGreehan
  - Email Address: [amcgreehan@wscloud.org](mailto:amcgreehan@wscloud.org)
  
- **Google Classroom Codes:**
  - Symphonic Orchestra: p2vlu3v
  - Philharmonic Orchestra: zhxybuw
  
- **Orchestra Website:** [www.worthingtonorchestra.com](http://www.worthingtonorchestra.com)

## **2021-2022 ORCHESTRA CALENDAR**

### **October**

Tues, Oct 27            7:30pm            Symphonic and Philharmonic Concert    WKHS

### **December**

Thurs-Sat, Dec 9-11 7pm/1pm    "Home for the Holidays"                    WKHS

### **February**

Thurs, Feb 10            7:30pm            Symphonic and Philharmonic Concert    WKHS

\*Sat, Feb 19            All day            Solo & Ensemble                            TWHS

\*Fri/Sat, Feb 25-26 7:30pm            WKHS Musical                                WKHS

### **March**

Sat, Mar 26            All Day            Central Ohio String Invitational            TBD

### **May**

Wed, May 4            7:30pm            HS/MS Concert                                WKHS

*\*Denotes that attendance at this event is optional*

# INFORMATION SHEET (Detach and Return!)

*Filling out the information below confirms that both the student and parent/guardian have read and understand all policies outlined in the handbook. In addition, the parent/guardian confirms availability for all of the concert dates and will notify Mr. Chidsey of any concerns in a timely manner.*

**Student Name (Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name (Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Email** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please provide a reliable email address that you will check. The directors will send out reminders and important information regarding concerts, etc.)*

**Please complete this form and return to Mr. Chidsey by Friday,  
August 27!**