

City Honors High School Orchestra Syllabus & Handbook

MISSION

The mission of The City Honors High School Orchestra is to provide exemplary musical experiences that enable players to be engaged, actively and reflectively, using high quality examples of orchestral literature from a wide range of genres and time periods.

COURSE GOALS

- To develop the aesthetic sensitivity, musical knowledge, and independent ensemble performance skills of each orchestra member.
- To develop higher level musicianship and listening skills required for critiquing and improving both individual and ensemble performance.
- To promote and develop positive interactions such as teamwork, cooperation, leadership, discipline, and creativity.
- To provide opportunities for students to acquire additional knowledge in pedagogy, conducting, music history, theory and notation.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- To perform independently and in groups, a variety of string orchestra repertoire.
- To perform with appropriate musicality, musical knowledge, and ensemble performance skills.
- To demonstrate and utilize proper playing technique and rehearsal skills.
- To demonstrate critical thinking and listening skills in regard to critiquing performances.

COURSE OUTLINE

Orchestra students are required to participate in Rehearsals, Lessons, and Performances. In addition, orchestra students are expected to practice their music outside of rehearsals as homework.

Please READ THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA MEMBERS. Complete and return the last sheet by Wednesday, September 18th for a grade.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions! You can email me at hmbutler@buffaloschools.org. You can also call me here at City Honors on ACE days at 816-4230 or at Bennett Park Montessori Center on BDF days at 816-4603.

Helen Butler-Ceppaglia, Orchestra Director

City Honors School at Fosdick-Masten Park #195 (A,C,E days) 816-4230

Bennett Park Montessori Center #32 (B,D,F days) 816-4603

hmbutler@buffaloschools.org

REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

- **Rehearsal Attendance** Students must attend rehearsals *before school 7:30am-8:04am* on ACE days. You will be issued a pass to enter the building at 7:20 am. Please report directly to the orchestra room. I will always try my best to be ready to greet you by 7:20am. Students should join REMIND in case of emergency. *You are expected to arrive in room 110 by 7:30am so we can begin at 7:35.*
 - You will lose 1 point from your rehearsal grade for every minute you arrive after 7:30.
 - Unexcused absences will be marked as a zero in the grade book.
 - If you need to miss a rehearsal for any reason other than absence from school due to illness, please consult Ms. Butler-Ceppaglia ahead of time.

- **Attend lessons** All students who do not take private lessons outside of school are required to attend a lesson with Ms. Butler-Ceppaglia once a cycle, where they will receive small group instruction. Lessons are scheduled on rotating periods throughout the school day.
 - Students will receive a zero for any absence.
 - Students may schedule a make-up lesson with Ms. Butler-Ceppaglia for an absence.
 - Students who take lessons outside of school are encouraged to take lessons to work on small ensemble solos.
 - All students are encouraged to participate in ECMEA (Erie County Music Educators) Solo Festival and NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Festival.

- **Home practice** Individual practice outside of class is essential and required.
 - *It is expected that students practice at least 30 minutes a day.*
 - Students may be asked to document their practice.
 - Students will be required to demonstrate proficiency on assignments. If you are assessed as not knowing your music, your grade will suffer.

- **Participate in performances and be a good audience for other ensembles.**
 - Attendance at all concert events is mandatory. Sports, dance recitals, vacations, or part-time work are examples of conflicts that are NOT considered legitimate. In the event of extenuating or emergency circumstances, such as serious personal illness or a death in the family, please contact Ms. Butler-Ceppaglia as soon as possible. Any such cases will be handled on an individual basis. An alternate assignment/project may be assigned.
 - At the designated warm up time, students are to be in the designated warm up area dressed in appropriate concert dress, with their instrument tuned and ready to play. Tardiness will result in a lower grade.
 - Students are required to stay for the entire concert. Please be advised that anyone leaving the concert early, for any reason, other than an emergency, will have their grade lowered.
 - Proper concert etiquette must be observed by students when sitting in the audience.

- **Commitment for the entire school year** Orchestra is a full year course. Once registered, students will not be allowed to drop or quit.

GRADING POLICY

All grades and progress reports will be posted regularly on the Infinite Campus Portal. Students are responsible for keeping track of their personal progress.

- Rehearsals including home practice for rehearsals- 50%
- Lessons/Assessments – 25% (50% if no performances are scheduled within the Quarter)
- Performances – 25%

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- **\$25 participation fee** Orchestra students are asked to pay a \$25 participation fee. This includes instrument rental, music folder, music, and needed method books. You may pay with CASH or CHECK (made payable to City Honors School).
- **Instrument, rosin, and cleaning cloth** A cleaning cloth is just a square of soft, lightweight cloth. (An old T-Shirt works!)
- **Shoulder rest/ endpin stop.** Violinists and Violists need a shoulder rest and Cellists and Bassists need an endpin stop. A sponge-style shoulder rest is acceptable. Playing violin or viola without one can result in sore muscles and possible injuries or strains. It is really bad for your back and neck! Performances and rehearsals go much better when lower string players do not have to chase their instruments as they slip away because they do not have an endpin stop.
- **Pencils** Please keep a pencil or two or five in your music folder.
- **Sheet Music and/or Method Books** will be distributed to students during rehearsals and lessons. Students are responsible for their music. Unlimited copies will not be provided.
- **Concert Dress** is expected at all performances. All concert dress and clothing must be appropriate school dress and within the guidelines of City Honors School Dress Code.
 - Please wear black dress shoes. No flip flops, sandals, boots or sneakers.
 - No distracting jewelry, hair styles, or perfume.
 - Clothes should be clean, neat and ironed.
 - **Ladies** – All black top, all black bottom, black socks or stockings, and black shoes. If you wear a skirt, the skirt must cover the knees when sitting.
 - **Gentleman**- All black, collared shirt, black pants, black shoes, and black socks. If you wear a belt, the belt should be black.
 - ***If you are not dressed in proper concert attire, or if your clothing selections are deemed inappropriate, you will be asked to change or sit out of the performance. This will result in a reduced or failing grade.***
- **Short Fingernails** are required for success. Long nails make it physically impossible to play a string instrument. Orchestra students must keep fingernails short. If long nails are important to you, please consider joining a different ensemble. Nail polish on short nails is fine (but please keep it conservative for formal performances).

Amendments to the syllabus may be made during the school year. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced.

**City Honors Orchestral Department Handbook/Syllabus
Student & Parent Acknowledgment Form 2019/2020
To Be Returned by Wednesday, September 18th**

***** Please make sure you have read the syllabus thoroughly *****

I, _____, have read the City Honors *Orchestral Department Syllabus & Handbook* and agree to fulfill my obligations as a member of City Honors High School Orchestra. **I understand the policies and procedures established and will follow them. I agree to abide by all requirements, including those concerning performing, attendance, and being to rehearsal on time.**

Student Signature

Date

As the parent/guardian of the above student, I have read the City Honors *Orchestral Department Handbook/Syllabus* and **understand the policies, obligations, and commitments that my son/daughter will be held to as a member. I will support my child in adhering to the policies in this syllabus and will ensure s/he is able to get to school on time for rehearsals.**

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Email

Parent phone number