

KHMS 6th GRADE ORCHESTRAS

2014/2015

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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Expectations in Orchestra Class

Students are expected to come to class ready to dive into the world of music. Practice records, concerts, tests, and daily assignments will lead us down the string world path to success. Students will be expected to ask questions, listen attentively, create healthy goals, and strive to create a positive learning atmosphere. Most of all, Students should HAVE FUN, and think of ways to make their orchestra experience more rewarding. REMEMBER PENCILS!!!!

Concerts

Oct. 23rd 7pm -Fall District Orchestra Concert at PAC

Dec. 11th 7:00pm - Winter MS Concert at PAC

Dec. 18th 7:30pm –Winter HS Concert at PAC

March 19th - 21st 7:30pm (tentative)- HS Musical

May 7th 7pm - Spring District Orchestra Concert at PAC

Uniform

All students will perform in the same uniform. Students will wear black dress pants, socks, and shoes, with a MENS dress shirt, WITH COLLAR. The school has an ordering system for all items except socks, but it may be in your best interest to look for shoes and pants on your own. There is a website where parents can post gently used uniform items, and it could save parents some money as students grow. Please check out the website for more information. <http://kenawahillsorchestras.yolasite.com/>

Grading Policy

30% Performance Attendance – All students are required to attend each performance. Special circumstances are understood –ex. Illness. Please mark your calendars with the concerts listed above. Reminders will be kept to a minimum during the year.

20% Practice Checklists – Each student is required to practice each week. Depending on the time needed to accurately practice the tasks at hand, that could mean 5 minutes a day, or 20. Each day of the week is essential to student growth, and weekends are helpful as extra practice. Students should be prepared to practice each week day, and weekends should be available for extra help. Practice Checklists will be digital, through Google Docs, and students will have access to them weekly, and they will change each week. Students will be responsible for turning them in digitally by class on Mondays, in order to receive full credit. This is not designed to scare students into practicing, rather to build responsibility and timeliness skills. Students who need more music for practice should ask, and will be directed to great resources.

30% Playing Tests - There will also be playing tests that students will take during the course of the year. Many will be done through Youtube, but there may be some done through SmartMusic. Students can obtain this software online at Smartmusic.com for \$36 per year, or use the subscriptions we have at school for free. Some of these tests will be seating auditions, and some will just be to enhance the playability of certain passages. Students will soon hear about Belts, and those are playing tests that students can do at any time. Passing these belts will happen all year long, and students can move ahead of the class if they would like.

20% Daily Participation – Students must be on time, prepared to follow the class rules and procedures in order to receive the daily participation points. In addition, students will learn how to tune later in the year, and that will become a part of their participation grade as well.

MORE INFORMATION

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be awarded in many forms this year. Students who are involved in the orchestra program will have numerous opportunities to improve their grade. Participation in the Fiddle Club, Teaching and Taking Private Lessons, and other opportunities will be available for this reason.

Private Lessons

Feel free to contact Mr. Hosler if you would like more information about tutoring/private lessons.

Below are the class rules and procedures you and your student should know

Class Rules

1) Follow Procedures

2) Do not talk or play out of turn

3) Respect instruments, others, and their property

4) No foul language

5) No gum

Orchestra Class

Procedures

☺ SMILE!!! ☺

Have music, journal, instrument,
and pencil AT YOUR SEAT and ready.

Tune in Two (minutes)

Respect others' opinions

Give your all during
EVERY class

Put materials away, and
LOOSEN YOUR BOWS

☺ SMILE!!! ☺

SO YOU ARE AWARE:

During class, I will be striving to create a high level of learning for each student. Orchestra is music, but music is not just orchestra. I hope to mold subjects such as art work, architecture, historical events, famous lands, and others into the musical world. If you or your student has any thoughts on how to create more in the orchestra, please feel free to voice your opinion, it is always appreciated.

Finally, students will be asked to design the concerts according to what they feel it should represent. As their guide, I will be focused on professionalism, but never steering from exciting. Parents should get involved in this process as well, so please bring ideas to the table, I really enjoy talking to parents.

FOR THE PARENTS:

Since your student is now in middle school, there are opportunities to help the orchestra family grow. The Instrumental Music Booster meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, at 7pm, in the HS Band Room. This organization has blossomed over past few years, and we are now a full blown Instrumental group. Please come and help guide the orchestra into a world where we can bond with the band students and parents as one family, as it should be.

As your student thinks about attending the New York Trip when they reach high school, they should probably be thinking about fundraising as well. Our new and improved website has all the information regarding what events students, and parents, can attend/ work at to raise funds for this trip. As events come up, students will be aware of them, but there are a lot of events across the area that parents can work at to raise funds to go into their student's account. During the year, the booster meetings are a great source of information, and if you are computer savvy, and want to learn more right away, please check out the website. While you are there, please take a minute to fill out the parent survey, which will provide us with adequate information to contact you regarding everything the orchestra and band is doing, and it will make communication from myself to you much smoother. If you have any more questions, feel free to contact me directly.

Booster Website
khimb.org

Please Sign and Return the Following Page Thank You!!

This year the class will have a ***weekly newsletter*** page via email. Student information, concerts, and general information about how the class is doing will be included in this newsletter. I encourage you to provide the best email for you and your family, and if you do not have one, consider opening an account. The best contact information will help teachers and parent volunteers when contact is of essence. I am excited to meet all of you, and hope you will be willing to assist in your child's musical experience!

Please sign and return to verify you have read and understood this material.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Best Email Contact _____

Best Phone Contact _____

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK (feel free to use the back as well)

Thank You for Your Support!!
Weston Hosler, Kenowa Hills Orchestras