

# Kenowa Hills Orchestras

[KHOrchestra.weebly.com](http://KHOrchestra.weebly.com)

*Edition 9.1*

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## Important Dates:

Sept. 14: 7pm Booster Meeting (@HS)

Sept. 22 HS SENIOR banner photos (during class)

Oct. 2: 1:30-3:00 **HS** Pumpkin Bash Performance

Oct. 11: No School (All)

Oct. 20:5-7pm Pumpkin Carving Night (@HS)

**Oct 21: 7pm District Halloween Concert (date change)**

## Instrument Care Center

Please take special care of your instruments as the weather gets colder. Do not leave it outside, in a vehicle, or up north! The weather will cause the instruments to crack, which is terminal!

## Snapshot

Welcome to an exciting year of ORCHESTRA! I am so excited to be here this year, ready to dive into music with IN PERSON INSTRUCTION for all! If you are returning, thank you for making this program a part of your life, you are incredibly valuable to the future of the program. If you are new, welcome, and we hope to get to know you, and you mean the world to us!

## Information For Everyone



The Halloween Concert Date was wrong on the initial syllabus, and I am really sorry. The Halloween concert is a MUST SEE (and hear) event, and will be held

on **Oct. 21 at 7pm** in the HS Performing Arts Center. Students should arrive at 6:30pm.

Everyone should have gotten a syllabus with all the information for this year. We will use this newsletter to help inform everyone of those dates and reminders. Please read through the newsletters when they come out, they will only be sent a few times each year.

We have an Instrumental Music Booster meeting on Tuesday, September 14, at 7pm. It will be located in the Band room at the HS. Please come say hi and get some information about the year. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

## Practice Central

Please work with your child to create a steady practice schedule. With the block schedule this year, students could be without class for several days, or even a week, at a time. There will be weekly assignments to help guide students toward success, but consistent and steady practice at home is essential to solidifying material that was learned at school. See your group's section below for an idea of what practice should look like.

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## ABOUT THE GROUPS

### High School Orchestra

The High School Orchestra is working hard to create a flow that works with the new block schedule. Students HAVE to be dedicated to practice at home with days off in between classes. No orchestra on Gold days equals DO PRACTICE at home!

SENIOR PARENTS: We are initiating an ORCHESTRA BANNER for kids wishing to have a banner for graduation. We will display them during the year at school, and following the Alumni concert, students can take them home! Cost is \$50 per banner, and the photographer will be at school on September 22, during class to take photos. Students will need money and their CONCERT uniform for class that day, IF they wish to get photos taken. I will send an email reminder as well.

We are working on some great music this Fall, and are looking forward to sharing it with you. Some of the music is in preparation for our Disney World Trip in late March. If you need details, [CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the orchestra website, or email me for more information. Other music is preparing us to perform for a board meeting to institute at ROCK Orchestra, dedicated to rock tunes, travelling, electric instruments, and upper level thinking.

Booster meetings happen on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7pm. Format will be in person for now. If you feel virtual would be a better option, let me know, and I will relay that information to the booster group. The boosters send out emails reminding parents, and your participation is very helpful to the health of the program.

Practice at the HS is hard to demonstrate, since everyone has a different schedule. Practice can be done quicker, if intentional, or be more of a playing session if there is no dedication to learning. I suggest students pinpoint goals for each practice session, and narrow their focus to places that NEED attention. This should be about 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week, but could be an hour or more, depending on what each student needs to be successful.

### Middle School Orchestras

#### Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra

The 2nd and 3rd year students are combined again this year, and I am excited to share how confident I am with their abilities! They are great performers, and great students, and we are going to make magic this year!

Students need 2 new books this year, if they did not get them last year. First, a music theory book, which is \$5, and second is the Essential Elements BK2, which is \$10. Students can purchase them through me, if they bring funds in. I have copies already, and the booster group helps keep costs low by offering this resale option. We will start using them next week, so try to get them as soon as possible. If you have any issues with this, please email me directly. Thank you!

Practice at this level should be dedicated to about 30 minutes of practice, 4 times a week. This should focus on the materials we have done in class, and the calendar of what we have done is on Canvas, and also on the website. Students will need to be able to perform the music for the concert INDIVIDUALLY with all the technical items under control to receive credit for the material.

We build the concepts in class, but practice at home solidifies that information. Reiteration at home is essential to the learning process.

## **Beginning Orchestra**

WELCOME NEW PARENTS AND STUDENTS! We are excited to have everyone join our family, and hope to get instruments into the hands of students next week. If you have not started renting an instrument, please check your email for detailed instructions on how to do so. If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Students are doing great already, and I am impressed with their advancements. We will be working out of Essential Elements book 1 very soon, and students should start making some interesting sounds at home while practicing. Encouragement during the first year is critical to their success, even if it isn't what you think it should sound like!

Practicing as a beginner should be dedicated to about 15 minutes of practice, 5 times a week. More is always appreciated, and students who are passionate might play an hour or more. This practice should focus on the materials we have done in class, and if students want more to play, they can look ahead in the book (once we start it) or ask me what music might be a good fit for their level. Student practice is all about desire and enjoyment at the beginning level. If students are not practicing, please help them make a consistent schedule. If they do not initiate practice, they will soon fall behind, and by Christmas break, we will see a vast array of ability levels in class. Practice at home solidifies the information we learn in class, and reiteration at home is essential to the learning process.