

Kenowa Hills Orchestras

KHOrchestra.weebly.com

Edition 9.2

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Important Dates:

Dec 2: 5:30-7pm Walker WinterFest

Dec 7: 7pm Booster Meeting (@HS)

Dec 9: **7:30pm** HS Orchestra Holiday Concert

Dec 14: 6pm Beginning Orchestra Concert

Dec 14: 7pm Int/Adv Band/Orchestra
Concert

Dec 15-17 CLASS GIFT EXCHANGE

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

I am thrilled to continue to see your child each week, and fill their minds with positivity and laughter (and music as well!) As we approach the Holiday concerts, there have been some slight changes to schedules due to rising COVID numbers. Please check the Important Dates to be sure you have them in your calendars correctly!

Information For Everyone



The Holiday Concerts are one of the best times to come together. Unfortunately, this year is still proving to be challenging for that. Please try to limit your

physical attendance numbers for the upcoming concerts, and feel free to share the livestream link once it is available.

One tradition we have in class during this time of year is a gift exchange. Each member of class brings in a NEW and WRAPPED \$5 gift to share with the class. We put them all under a tree and play a game. Each student then takes a gift home at the end of the day! Please start thinking about getting a gift, and if you need help, other parents and I sponsor any child who can not afford to get one. Please let me know if you need one, every child gets to be a part of the magic!

We have an Instrumental Music Booster meeting on Tuesday, December 7, at 7pm. It will be located in the Band room at the HS. Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, unless concerts get in the way!

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.

ABOUT THE GROUPS

High School Orchestra

The High School Orchestra is working hard to create a feeling of cheer this holiday season. We will be performing on Thursday at Winterfest (at Walker Ice and Fitness). This is a mandatory performance, and students that do not attend will have a make-up assignment. Our community is what grows the program, and they deserve our praise. Students should have signed up for a time slot, and are encouraged to stay the whole time, if possible!

Practicing is essential to growth, and it was clear that many students did not practice over the past break. We need consistency in life to be productive, and students need that in their studies as well. I want to reinforce that students have homework each day they have class, and when they have no orchestra on Gold days, they are still expected TO PRACTICE at home!

As we get closer to the Disney trip, I want to ensure that parents are aware that we have final numbers established. If someone needs to drop the trip for any reason, please let me know, BUT also get a hold of Bennett Travel. They handle everything. We will be deciding final music for Disney in the upcoming weeks, and students who do not attend the trip will perform the music at the Spring concert.

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! As we get further into the school year, their leadership skills continue to impress me. I often leave the day feeling relieved that the future of society is in good hands!

Students need Essential Elements BK2, which is \$10 after the holiday break. Students can purchase them through me, if they bring funds in. I have books already, and the booster group helps keep costs low by offering this resale option. If you have any issues with this, please email me directly. Thank you!

One major concern at this level of performance is being perfect with the music. There are 3 main performances (grades) that kids do each concert cycle, and those build skills to set goals, evaluate, and recognize the learning process. Each of these are FULL CREDIT items, and if students do them, they will receive 100% for the trimester. Unfortunately some students are

frustrated with not knowing material, and do not turn them in. These assignments are not about being right, but being at the right time in the learning process to get valuable feedback. Please help students turn in their videos on time, so they can progress through this process. Ultimately, they will learn more by making mistakes and seeing them, than just waiting for the concert to arrive.

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! I have had such a great time with your students for the past couple of months, and I am really excited to share what they have learned at the concert! They have been doing such a great job of working together, and there are some leaders in the class that have made Covid Catch-up very easy for members. As we get further into the year, we start to see students who can not keep up with just playing in class, and NEED to dedicate time to practice at home.

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.

As we get into January, students will start seeing this divide in knowledge, and some might get frustrated. This leads to unhappy performers, and can have a drastic effect on class numbers. Each student matters immensely to me, the class, and the future of music at KH. If they start getting frustrated, please reach out to me, and if you need some advice on how to help them practice at home, I am here for you!

If you have any suggestions on how I can help you, your child, or the district grow, please reach out to me. You are the newest parents in a family that supports everyone, and I do not have all the answers! I love learning about new people, new experiences, and new future endeavors, and am willing to listen to your ideas. Great students have great parents, and those parents are also great leaders. I would love to learn more about you, how you see the program in the future, and what I can do to help your child succeed!