

# Kenowa Hills Orchestras

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

*Edition 9.3*

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## Important Dates:

Feb. 15: HS Conferences, Please sign up :)

Feb 17: MS Conferences, Please sign up:)

Feb 18: Half day

Feb 21-22: No School

Feb 26: GRIFFINS OPPORTUNITY

Feb. 27: Parent Involvement Meeting (**ZOOM**)

March 2: A Knight in the Classroom **NEW!!**

March 8: KHIMB Meeting @7pm

March 29: HS Florida Departure

## Instrument Care Center

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

## Snapshot

There are a lot of NEW things happening around the program. Please see how you can join us and share your experiences with others.

## Information For Everyone

### NEW ITEMS!!

#### **Knight in the Classroom**

We are about to start a new tradition, and we would love to have all of you be a part of it! A Knight in the Classroom will be a short, 1 hour event on March 2nd, to share experiences with other parents, your student, and me! Parents and students will meet in the MS Orchestra room at 7pm WITH INSTRUMENTS, and parents will be able to LEARN the instrument from Mr. Hosler and their student. This is a great opportunity to witness first hand what it is like to be a beginning orchestra member, and share your experiences with others. Please RSVP to the link in the email so we can get an accurate headcount!

#### **Parent Involvement Meeting**

We are getting ready to start a new recruiting strategy, and would love some parent input. Please join us on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 7pm, for a quick 30 minute meeting to see what lies ahead, and how you can (very quickly) help the program grow substantially! RSVP to the email from this newsletter to get the ZOOM link!

#### **Griffins Opportunity**

One of our parents has a non-profit program that creates gift bags for chemo patients, and is hosting a NIGHT WITH THE GRIFFINS! Tickets are only \$15, and all proceeds go directly to chemo patients. That night is also SENSORY night, and there will be lower lighting, less noise, and a great opportunity for high sensory individuals to join us without frustrations. Please see the flier attached to the email and join us!

## Practice Central

As we get into the dead of winter, students often lose sight of a concert goal. Please help them keep consistent with practicing!

# ABOUT THE GROUPS

## High School Orchestra

The High School Orchestra has just received their new music for Disney and the Spring concert! We have chosen some great selections, and are excited to dive into music making. Students also received their new calendars (outlining EACH class expectation, and all homework assignments), and this is a great way to prepare for class ahead of time. We are on a tight schedule leading up to Disney, and will not have time to fall behind! Please ask them about the calendar and what their expectations are.

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!

Disney will be here before you know it! If you are a chaperone attending, there is a MEETING FOR CHAPERONES TOMORROW, February 10, at 6:30pm in the HS Band Room. Please try to attend if you are going on the trip.

Booster meetings happen on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7pm. Format will be in person for now. If there is something you would like me to bring up, please feel free to email me. I like to provide some other perspectives if you are unable to attend meetings. 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

### Everyone!

We have a lot of items that students can purchase directly from our inventory, and at a savings to you! Books, extra music, mutes, practice materials, tuners and metronomes, shoulder rests, and much more is available. If you are looking for something, please let me know. Usually I can get it quickly, and save you money too!

Scheduling is approaching quickly, and this can cause a lot of stress for students. I am very willing to help students build a schedule that works for them, and also helps the program grow. One item that I want parents to be conscious of is this: If your student thinks orchestra is HARD, or BORING, or FRUSTRATING, they are simply saying they are missing something in the content. Usually it is an easy fix, and I just have not identified it yet. An easy fix can set up students for an exciting HS experience in music! Perseverance is a virtue we live by in class, and we can all do hard things! Reach out to me if you feel your child needs a little more assistance in choosing classes for next year. We also offer the "History of Rock N Roll" Series of classes (I teach them) and they are great for kids who love music and history. Consider joining me there too!

## **Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra**

WHAT AN AWESOME CLASS! I am very impressed with the way they have begun to work together to attain goals, even when I am absent. This group has a very wide range of abilities, and still do a great job working together on a daily basis.

Students need Essential Elements BK2, which is \$10. We have started to use it in class, and will use it daily. 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**

WOW! What a great group of achievers! I am excited to walk into this classroom, and share my high energy with such great minds! I would love to share that with parents too, and would love to see you at our first "Knight in the Classroom" event. We will create some great memories together!

Students are getting ready to receive their first piece for the Spring concert, and to be successful, they need to know the material on the first 30 pages of the book. Ask your child to play some songs for you, and ask them what might be easy or challenging about those songs. If they struggle to articulate this, or would rather not share their successes with you, they might be struggling with something. Now is a great time to make adjustments, that will lead to great success later on!

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, get new music, or explore by ear tunes and play along tracks online. Practice at home solidifies the information we learn in class, and reiteration at home is essential to the learning process.