

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK

*Where our mission is to:
foster mutual respect
inspire a love of music
and promote excellence from all.*



2009-2010

CONTACTS

<http://www.kpsorchestra.org>

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Dear String Students and Parents:

Welcome and congratulations on choosing to be part of the Middle School Orchestra. We are so glad you made this decision. The intention of this handbook is to acquaint you with the program so that together we can make orchestra a very positive and fun experience.

Mr. Klein, Mrs. Ellenwood

BENEFITS

For Your Child Participation enhances problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, self-expression, coordination, memory skills, self-confidence & esteem, concentration, poise, and much more!

For Your Family A child's music study also offers opportunities for shared family experiences, including musical event attendance, family music-making, performing for, and with, family and friends, thus creating a sense of pride and accomplishment for the entire family.

EXPECTATIONS

Practice At Home ALL STUDENTS MUST prepare their music at home so that the classroom time can be spent making music and teaching skills, NOT PRACTICING NOTES!! We are asking that all string students practice 80 minutes a week (20min./4 days). This time will need to be recorded by the students, and signed by a parent weekly. **Practice time sheets will be due the first class day of each week and delinquent at the**

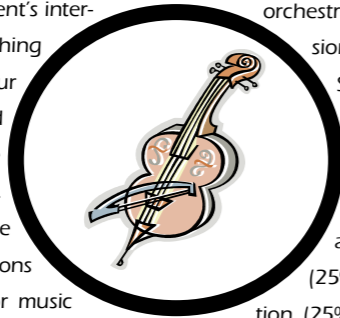
end of that week. Late practice time will be accepted but will be reduced in value.

Proper Equipment All students are encouraged to purchase their own quality instrument. Violin and viola players need to purchase a shoulder-rest to properly hold their instrument. Cello and bass players will need to purchase a rock stop. All students will provide their own rosin. All string players are encouraged to purchase a music stand. Young string players will learn poor playing angles if the only place to hold their music is on their bed or floor. A properly adjusted music stand holds music up so the student can stand/sit up and won't get tired of playing as quickly.

Class Lessons For sixth and seventh grade students, class meets every other day (Horizon on even calendar days and Sunrise on odd calendar days). Eighth grade string students meet every day. If your child forgets his/her instrument the day of string class, three or more times a quarter, the student's grade will be lowered one letter grade and the parents will be notified. REMEMBER THAT WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT AND THAT LEARNING CAN'T TAKE PLACE IF YOUR CHILD DOESN'T HAVE HIS/HER INSTRUMENT THE DAY OF STRING CLASS.

Private lessons Private lessons from local musicians are one of the best ways to promote a student's interest and musicianship. If this is something that interests you, please call or check our website for a list of high school and community professionals who would be interested in giving private lessons.

Local music stores will be able to provide you with additional names. Private lessons can be an investment in the future for music scholarships to many colleges.



Exposure A great way to excite and inspire your young orchestra player is to hear and see a "LIVE" professional or local civic orchestra. The Hastings Symphony and the Kearney Symphony schedules can be found on the activity calendar.

Grading Students are evaluated on effort and attitude (10%), playing fundamentals (25%), written quizzes (15%), concert participation (25%), and home preparation (25%). Printed grade reports will be distributed quarterly.

ACTIVITY TRAVEL

Any child/instrument that travels to an activity by way of transportation provided by Kearney Public Schools **shall return** on school transportation, as part of the group, unless arrangements are made, in writing and in person, with the sponsors..

No child/instrument is to leave the activity site without notifying, in person, the sponsor. If the parents are taking their child/instrument, there needs to be notification by the parent, in person, to the sponsor.

If a child/instrument is to be leaving with an adult other than the parent, prior written permission from the parent is necessary, plus notification to the sponsors, in person, when taken.

Activity Absence Guidelines

If the child is absent from school the day prior to the activity, it is important that the sponsors be notified, by the child or the parent, as to whether or not the child will be participating in the activity.

If the child is unable to attend an activity that attendance is required, sponsor notification, by the parent, will be necessary.

If the activity requires a non-refundable participation fee and is paid by Kearney Public Schools, it will be expected that the child reimburse the district.

These policies are implemented in order that your child and instrument travels safely to and from each activity. Your cooperation, as a parent, is essential. Children do not always remember to notify the sponsor as to what they are going to do. We need to eliminate the "lost child" or "lost instrument" possibilities that plague us as sponsors. Please help us help your child.

IF YOUR CHILD LOSES INTEREST

Don't panic, but discuss the situation with your child to determine why their interest is declining....talk to your child's orchestra teachers to see what might be done to rekindle their enthusiasm....encourage your child to stick with lessons for an agreed to period of time....offer increased enthusiasm and support.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

You are encouraged to check your homeowners insurance to determine if your child's instrument is insured. Every attempt will be made to provide your child with a safe storage facility. However, Kearney Public Schools will not be held liable for any damage that might be incurred during Kearney Public Schools activities. This would also be true for contracted school instruments.

CONCERTS

The following concerts have been scheduled:

Nov 7	Walnut MS, GI	grades 7-8
Dec 3	Archway Monument	grades 5-8
Feb 22	KHS Auditorium	grades 6-8
May 3	KHS Auditorium	grades 5-12

HINTS FOR PRACTICING

Structured practice sessions are the key to productive practicing. Using the five step method will help you make the most of your practice time.

1. *Warm-up* Begin with finger exercises that are scale centered.
2. *Problem solve* Use slow, careful practice to eliminate mistakes.
3. *Personalize* Add dynamics, increase the tempo, go beyond the notes.
4. *Variety* Switch the order. Try something by memory. Keep it interesting.
5. *Fun finish* End with a favorite.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Sept 30	HSO Concert@Chautauqua Pavilion, 3:00
Oct 12	HS, 5th Orchestra Concert@ MPAC, 7:30
Oct 13	KSO Concert @ UNK, 7:30
Oct 25	HSO Concert@Hastings Masonic Center,3:00
Oct 29	KHS Fall Musical
Oct 30	KHS Fall Musical
Nov 1-2	KHS Fall Musical
Nov 7	Middle School Strings Festival (Gr 7-8) @ GI Walnut (all day) Concert @ 4:00
Dec 3	Archway Monument Orchestra Concert (Gr 5-8) 6:30-8:00
Dec 8	KSO Concert @PMAC, 7:30
Dec 13	HSO Concert@Hastings Masonic Center,3:00
Dec 16	KHS Orchestra@KHS, 7:30
Feb 19	6th Grade Orchestra to Omaha for Symphony concert and clinic (all day)
Feb 22	Middle School Orch Concert@KHS, 7:30
Feb 28	HSO Concert@Masonic Center, 3:00
Mar 2	KSO Concert@UNK, 7:30 p.m.

Mar 3	KSO Concert@UNK, 7:30 p.m.
Mar 9	KHS Orchestra Concert@KHS Aud, 7:30
Apr 18	HSO Concert@Masonic Center, 3:00
Apr 27	KSO Concert@UNK, 7:30
Apr 30	HSO Concert@Masonic Center, 7:00
May 3	5-12 Orchestra Concert, KHS Aud., 7:30

Jun 7-18 Summer Orchestra

HSO-Hastings Symphony Orchestra
KSO-Kearney Symphony Orchestra

Detach and Return by August 21

I have read the Middle School Orchestra Handbook and will do my best to fulfill the obligations outlined in the handbook.

(Student Signature)

I/We received and have read the Middle School Orchestra Hand book.

(Parent's Signature)