2015-2016 High School Orchestra Handbook

Please read each section carefully and return the bottom sheet, complete with signatures and dates, to Ms. Chojnacki. All students and parents are responsible for knowing the information in the handbook.

If you have any questions, please contact me at chojnaka@sd25.us

**PHC Orchestra Mission Statement**

Bringing us together and making us one.

The mission of the PHC Orchestra is to create a positive and nurturing environment, relying upon individual skills and abilities that contribute to the whole of the ensemble. Through our practice, performance, and commitment to one another, we strive for excellence at the highest level of music making to inspire the next generation of musicians.

**Website: phcorchestra.weebly.com**

**Calendar of Events**

Friday, October 9 All-State Auditions Due

**Wednesday, October 21 Fall Concert @ PHS**

**Tuesday, December 15 Holiday Concert @ HHS**

Saturday, January 9 Honors Orchestra @ ISU

**Monday, February 8 Classical Concert @ PHS**

February 11-13 All-State @ ISU

March (TBA) Solo/Ensemble (TBA)

**Thursday, March 17 Large Group Festival @ CHS**

March 31-April 2 Orchestra Trip

Fri.-Sat., May 6-7 State Solo in Boise

**Wednesday, May 18 Spring concert @ CHS**

**Attendance Policy**

It is expected that you will be present and perform at every concert (in bold) on the calendar. If there is any conflict with a date, let me know as soon as possible. I understand that unexpected emergencies do happen. HOWEVER, it is your responsibility to yourself and your ensemble to make concerts a priority. Concerts are not optional events! They are included as a school activity, and a large part of your grade.

**Expectations**

1. Be respectful.
2. Arrive to class on time and prepared. You will have two minutes from when the bell rings to make sure you have your instrument, music, and any other materials you need ready for class.
3. Be responsible for your instrument and other instruments in the classroom. Do not misuse equipment.
4. Consistent practice outside of class. The effort you put into practicing your instrument will show! An orchestra is only as good as its weakest player.
5. Have a positive attitude and come prepared to learn.
6. Communicate through music!

**Grading**

Rehearsal Skills (20%)

Participating in class includes arriving to class with materials, playing in class, using work and practice time appropriately, and being respectful to others and the instruments.

Concept Articles/Practice Logs (25%/5%)

The format for this will be online. One article a week, with accompanying questions, will be assigned every Monday. These articles provide in-depth exploration of various topics pertaining to orchestra and musicianship. Answers will be submitted the following week through email. Please see assignment guidelines for specifics.

Practice logs will coincide with this assignment.

Playing Tests (20%)

Playing tests will cover scales, rhythms, exercises, and excerpts from pieces being played in class.

Performances (20%)

Performances are a mandatory part of being in an ensemble. Every student contributes to the success of the orchestra.

Trimester Final (10%)

**Rehearsals/Miscellaneous**

In addition to the classroom expectations, it is expected that rehearsal time is treated as that: rehearsal. Individual practice is done on your own time. When the baton is up, instruments and eyes are up.

ALWAYS have a pencil to mark bowings and fingerings.

Take care of your instruments. Wipe your instruments after rehearsal, loosen bows, cases stored properly, etc. Instruments should not stay at school over the weekend!

Music is YOUR responsibility. Keep it in a secure, clean area, where it will not be lost. A $5 fee will be added for each piece of music lost.

**Concert Attire**

Women: Concert black. Either a black dress (below knee) or black top and black dress pants. Nude or black nylons with black ballet flats/low high heels.

Men: Black dress pants with a black dress shirt. BLACK SOCKS and black dress shoes. We will discuss tie color before each concert.

Please cut and return the bottom portion to Ms. Chojnacki.

We have read and understand all the material in the Orchestra Handbook for 2015-2016. I, (print student name), promise to abide by the rules and expectations set forth, and understand the consequences that will occur if they are not followed.

 (student signature) (date)

 (parent signature) (date)