



**CREEKVIEW
HIGH
SCHOOL
ORCHESTRA**

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ORCHESTRA

HANDBOOK

2021-2022

Canvas Online Classroom

Orchestra office: (972-968-4838)

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CHS ORCHESTRA MISSION STATEMENT

Provide an achievable inclusive environment where everyone can be successful in improving on your instrument, balancing your work load, and building meaningful relationships with your fellow classmates.

CREEKVIEW ORCHESTRA DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide opportunities for each student to fulfill their musical potential and instill a life-long appreciation for music. In this pursuit, we will instill the core values of leadership, character and self-worth.

PROGRAM GOALS: Students will develop the following skills and concepts:

1. A high degree of music reading encompassing: correct rhythm, tempo, bowing and left hand techniques, dynamics, precision, tone and the ability to be versatile and adjust to any given musical circumstance.
2. The ability to work cooperatively with others toward the performance of music in and with the ensemble.
3. The knowledge of a wide variety of orchestral literature.
4. Self-discipline; self-confidence; responsible and dependable behavior.
5. Respect for others, loyalty to the ensemble, and pride in the organization.
6. Respect for and proper use of equipment.
7. The ability to comprehend and foster higher-level thinking skills.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Orchestra I (9th grade), II (10th grade), III (11th grade) and IV (12th grade) shall include the following guidelines and students will be expected to master the objectives in each of the identified areas:

1. Care and handling of instruments
2. Posture and playing position
3. Instrumental technique
 - a) Develop tone and intonation
 - b) Develop right- and left-hand techniques
 - c) Develop rhythmic skills
 - d) Develop ability to phrase musically
4. Music reading skills
 - a) Develop eye-hand coordination
 - b) Interpret in actual sound musical symbols and terms from the printed page
5. Musical sensitivity through performance and listening
6. Evaluation of musical performance quality
 - a) Evaluate progress toward self-established musical goals
 - b) Evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performances
 - c) Recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics and articulation
7. Creative self-expression
 - a) Express oneself in every performance experience
 - b) Explore careers
8. Cognitive skills (to come to know and to develop better judgment in learning more about the elements of perception)

GRADES

Formative Assignments

Every Monday going forward videos of ourselves and private lesson teachers will be posted demonstrating best practice techniques using passages of All Region and/or class music in a tutorial format. The student's job will be to record a video completing demonstrated concepts.

Every Tuesday directors will record a reaction video of the student's playing in which the student will be required to submit thorough comments based on concepts discussed in the reaction video. These comments will be graded based on string vocabulary and concepts described in the online rubrics. 3-5 Sentences is expected, however a student may write more.

Students will also participate in discussion with other member's videos and leave comments in discussion boards through Canvas. No more than 3 parent comments on 1 video and all comments must be respectful, helpful, and use good string vocabulary and encouragement. This criteria laid out in the discussion rubrics will be the basis of your discussion grade.

Orchestra is a supportive environment where we all work together. Shaming will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

All Formative assignments for the week are due on Fridays.

Summative Assessments

*****3 summative grades per 9 weeks*****

1. Your formative video assignments will be used in a 9 week project as a virtual orchestra online video. If you're turning in all of your work this will take care of itself.
2. Your average quality of video discussion will receive a summative grade. To receive a top grade, students must demonstrate respect for others' work, use thoughtful vocabulary in constructive criticism, complete discussion by the deadline weekly, and support a positive learning environment for all classmates.
3. A 1 on 1 conference with your director will be scheduled discussing concepts and practices you've learned from video assignments and your goals for the upcoming 9 weeks. All work will be reviewed by the director prior to your conference. This will last approximately 10 minutes each. A sign up sheet will be produced 2 weeks prior to conferences and you will be responsible for signing up. Changes to your conference time can be made no less than 3 days prior to your conference and are subject to availability.

*****Pre-UIL is a mandatory performance for ALL students, regardless of eligibility. It is considered an extension of the classroom. If you do not attend the Pre-UIL contest, you will not be allowed to participate in the UIL contest. If you do not participate in the UIL contest, an alternate assignment will be given to you to complete for that grade.****

ATTENDANCE/ ABSENCES

Excused Absences: Students must fill out an **Excused Absence Form** ONE WEEK BEFORE the event unless the absence is due to an emergency situation. Excused absences include death in the family, medical emergency or personal illness, religious holiday, school activities (**with prior discussion and approval**).

Unexcused Absences: family trips, personal business or entertainment, and “I forgot.”

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

1. At all times, respect others and school and personal property.
2. Follow directions the first time they are given.
3. Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself.
4. Talk only at appropriate times.
5. No eating, drinking or chewing gum in any rehearsal hall.
6. Keep fingernails trimmed.
7. Bring all materials to class.
8. No electronic devices. Students are expected to silence and put away all electronic devices unless instructed to use them by a director for educational purposes.

CONSEQUENCES OF MISCONDUCT

1. Warning/conference with director
2. Detention
3. Telephone call to parent
4. Referral to appropriate principal
5. Removal from class in one or more of the following ways:
 - a) A class change to a lower-level orchestra
 - b) Removal from orchestra at end of semester if so determined by the director and the appropriate administrator
 - c) Removal from class and assignment to DMC (Discipline Management Class) for the remainder of the semester

CLASSROOM MATERIALS NEEDED

(The following items may be purchased from the directors through Creekview Orchestra Supplies.)

IF PAYING BY CHECK, PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO **MUSIC AND ARTS**.

1. Each student must have these at every rehearsal:
 - a) Rosin
 - b) Cleaning cloth
 - c) Violin/viola students: You are required to have a shoulder pad that is approved by a director. “Super Kun” is the most commonly used by students. It provides the best flexibility and lasts longer than most.
 - d) Cello/Double Bass students: You are required to have a rock stop or end pin strap
 - e) 3-Ring Black Binder for Orchestra ONLY.
2. All students: **You are required to have a mute.** Mutes may be purchased from Creekview Orchestra Supplies very inexpensively.
3. PENCIL!!! (Keep one in your case or folder at all times.)

**** Any financial transaction throughout the school year may be completed by a check or cash.****

CLASSROOM POLICIES/EXPECTATIONS

1. You will be considered tardy if you are not in your seat with your instrument and music when the tardy bell begins to sound. Be ready to tune within one minute after the tardy bell sounds. Tardies will result in escalated discipline, according to the CHS Tardy Policy.
2. It is YOUR responsibility to keep up with and maintain your music binder.
3. It is YOUR responsibility to see that YOUR instrument (whether you own it or it is a loan-out to you from the school) is kept cleaned and well maintained; i.e., no rosin dust, quality strings, well-haired bow, clean case, cleaning cloth. If you are using a school-owned instrument you will be asked to pay for necessary repairs and replace broken strings that are in excess of “normal usage.” The directors retain the right to make that determination.
4. To play your instrument well, one must have short fingernails; therefore, it is expected that fingernails be trimmed short and neat. This is applicable to EVERYONE in the Orchestra. Due to an inability to play a string instrument effectively with long fingernails, the grade of a student who chooses not to keep their nails trimmed will be affected. If you have long fingernails during class, you will be asked to cut them at that time. If you are getting acrylic nails for a special occasion (prom, Quinceanera, wedding) you may only have them for one class period, and MUST have prior approval.
5. Adhere to the school dress codes at all times.

UNIFORMS

Each student will be issued a uniform if we have UIL during this year. It is YOUR responsibility to care for it and maintain it throughout the year. **Uniforms will be collected immediately following the Spring Concert.**

Any student who does not return the dress or tux by an announced date at the end of the year will have an “unclear record” and he/she will be unable to receive grades or register for the next semester until this obligation is met.

Care of uniforms is as follows:

DRESS - Female students will be issued a black dress. After each performance, it should be taken to the cleaners and dry-cleaned. **PLEASE DO NOT WASH AND/OR TUMBLE-DRY THE DRESS. DO NOT IRON THE DRESS.**

TUXEDO - Male students will be issued a complete tuxedo which will include coat, pants and cummerbund. After each performance, it should be taken to the cleaners and dry-cleaned

ITEMS TO BE RETURNED AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR:

GIRLS: 1. Dress

BOYS: 1. Coat
 2. Pants
 3. Cummerbund
 4. Bow Tie

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE

GIRLS - A pair of plain, simple, black dress shoes (flats or heels). They need to be closed-toe shoes. The only acceptable accessories are stud earrings and/or black hair ornaments. No bracelets, necklaces or watches during performances, please.

BOYS -A pair of simple plain, ALL-black dress shoes. **BLACK SOCKS** are a must and no substitutes will be accepted. In addition, a formal, long-sleeved white tuxedo shirt with a wing-tip collar is required. The directors can order these two items and make them available at school discount prices. Again, no bracelets, necklaces or watches during performances.

ALL STUDENTS - NO CURRENT “TRENDY” SHOES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. **If you are unsure, then ASK a director.** Wearing unacceptable attire of any kind to a concert could result in your being denied the opportunity to perform, which would then affect your grade.

MUSIC AND INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES

Music and Arts can supply students with any instrument needs, including strings, rosin, etc.

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

School-owned instruments are repaired by Music and Arts. As a convenience, we are capable of sending a personal instrument to them for necessary repairs

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Every student must have an instrument available at home to practice in playing condition, whether rented or purchased. At-home practice is imperative to the success of your student and to the success of the Creekview Orchestra. Creekview High School has a limited number of instruments that are available for students to use.

Because these school instruments are highly valuable, we require parents to sign an “Instrument Loan Agreement” and accept responsibility for maintaining, repairing or replacing the instrument during the current school year. This “Instrument Loan Agreement” strongly urges you to maintain insurance on the school instrument. It is your choice whether or not to do so; however, if an instrument is stolen, lost, or damaged, you are responsible for replacing or repairing that instrument. The directors can provide information on an insurance company, or you may investigate options through your home-owner’s or renter’s insurance.

If a financial hardship is preventing you from being able to rent an instrument, please contact a director, and we will assist you.

BEING PUNCTUAL

It is vital that we begin AND end rehearsals on time. The students are expected to arrive at all orchestra performances and rehearsals 15 minutes before the announced time. For example, if a rehearsal begins at 10:00am, as a musician, you cannot just “show up” exactly at 10:00. You need time to uncase, sit down, get your music out and in order, tune, and warm-up. The rehearsal STARTS at 10:00am. You need to be there at 9:45am.

Remember: If you’re early, you’re on time; if you’re on time, you’re late!

SPRING TRIP

ALL students of the Creekview Orchestra have the opportunity to go on our spring trip. Our trip is centered around a student performance or other musical educational element and features many fun activities.

The opportunity to go on our trip is a distinct privilege. It is intended to be a reward for a successful year and therefore it is assumed that a 100% effort and a positive attitude are displayed at all times. **If you are not eligible, then you are not permitted to attend the Spring Trip.** We want you to pass your classes at all times, not just when something voluntary is at stake. Similarly, we want the Creekview Orchestra to be portrayed positively at all times. The directors also have a right to deny any student the opportunity to go on trip who has a history of discipline issues and poor behavior. For us to be able to continue the successes we have enjoyed in the past several years, it is our expectation that all students who are members of Symphonic Orchestra go on trip.

As details of our trip become more available, students and parents will be updated.

HOW ORCHESTRA STUDENTS MAY ADVANCE TO HIGHER ORCHESTRAS

Below are listed *some* of the criteria necessary for you to be considered for selection into Symphonic, Philharmonic, or Camerata Orchestra:

1. A POSITIVE attitude toward the orchestra program and a willingness to COOPERATE with the directors and students involved in the program. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT and is considered to be the No. 1 priority.
2. An ability to listen to and follow detailed and intricate instructions and to comprehend and foster HIGHER-LEVEL THINKING SKILLS.
3. An audition is required and technical and musical ability on your instrument is judged by the directors to be competent for the level of music which will be performed by the orchestra for which you are auditioning. IN ORDER TO MOVE UP, IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU TAKE PRIVATE LESSONS ON YOUR INSTRUMENT TO MOVE UP INTO PHILHARMONIC OR SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA.
4. An amount of personal practice judged by the directors to be sufficient to warrant moving you into either orchestra.
5. Students will re-audition at the end of each school year.
6. The director's decision is FINAL regarding your orchestra placement.
7. Keep up your grades. An individual who fails classes and becomes ineligible because of "NO-PASS-NO-PLAY" is subject to the following:
 - a) remaining in the same orchestra;
 - b) being moved to a different orchestra class.

REMEMBER: If you want to advance and are not chosen the first time, **DON'T GIVE UP!** Also, we cannot cover in this document every single contingency. There MAY be some other criteria that would be examined in the future that might be in your favor or not. **JUST WORK HARD. IT WILL BE NOTICED AND EVENTUALLY PAY OFF!!!**

*******Special Note*******

If for any reason you decide to drop out of orchestra and then want to return in the future, please know that our policy on that is as follows: Upon your return, you will NOT be placed in the orchestra you were previously in, but will need to re-audition. Preference will be given to students who were previously in the program. Also—please be aware that schedule conflicts may prevent you from enrolling the orchestra you were placed in after auditions.

LETTERING IN ORCHESTRA

CHS Orchestra students have the opportunity to receive a CHS letter for orchestra. To do this, students must understand and follow the procedures and guidelines outlined below:

1. Letters are earned by accumulating a total of no less than 40 points from service and performance. ***A list of activities and their point values follows this page.***
2. To receive points, a student should fill out a “VARSITY LETTER FORM” with all pertinent information. “VARSITY LETTER FORMS” are filled out online. The link may be found on the Creekview Orchestra website.
3. ***Due dates for “VARSITY LETTER FORMS” will be announced periodically throughout the school year.*** Forms received on a due date will be for a specified time period ONLY. For instance, if the first due date is October 1, forms for events from August through October 1 will be accepted. If the next due date is November 15, forms will be accepted for events from October 1 through November 15 ONLY. Anything before October 1 is no longer eligible for points assignment.
4. The directors will assign due dates as they deem fit.
5. A running tally of points will be kept throughout the year. Students can log in to CHARMS to see how many points they have earned.
6. To letter, a student must:
 - a. have accumulated 40 points according the “POINT AWARD GUIDELINES,”
 - b. be in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, and
 - c. must have been eligible for UIL Contest each time while they have been in orchestra
7. CHS Orchestra does NOT provide letter JACKETS for awarded students, only the letter.
8. A student may letter in orchestra only once.
9. Points belong to the student who earned them and ONLY that person. Points may not be traded, sold, or given away!
10. Any attempt to fabricate points or forms will result in a total termination of all accumulated points for the student in question.
11. The directors reserve the right to award and subtract points as they deem necessary.

Orchestra Letter Program
POINT AWARD GUIDELINES

Required to earn letter: 40 POINTS

- 1) WORK POINTS: 4 hours = 1 POINT
- 2) PERFORMANCE POINTS:
- | | <u>Points</u> |
|---|---------------|
| Fall Concert | 2.0 |
| Winter Concert | 2.0 |
| Cluster Concert | 2.0 |
| Musical Pit Orchestra | 8.0 |
| Pre-UIL Concert | 2.0 |
| Spring Concert | 2.0 |
| UIL Competition – Orchestra: | up to 5.0 |
| Sub non-varsity – 1.0, non-varsity – 2.0, | |
| Varsity – 3.0 | |
| Rating : Good 0.5 pts, Excellent 1.0 pts, Superior 1.5 pts, Sweepstakes 2.0 pts | |
| UIL Solo and Ensemble: | |
| a) Rating I | 5.0 |
| b) Rating II | 3.0 |
| c) Rating III | 2.0 |
| All-Region Orchestra: | |
| a) Selected and performed | 5.0 |
| b) Auditioned but not selected | 1.5 |
| All-State Orchestra: | |
| a) All-Area Orchestra | 3.0 |
| b) Selected for All-State | 7.0 |
| Trip Orchestra: | |
| a) Participation | 1.0 |
- 3) OTHER ACTIVITIES
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| All-State Camp (1-2 days) | 1.0 |
| Summer Music Camp | 2.0 |
| Serving as an orchestra officer | 2.0/year |
| Private lessons | 1.0/semester |

Points are determined by the Directors.



CREEKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

EXPLANATION OF FEES (If we go back to school, orchestra fees will be discussed in further detail)

1. Orchestra Fee: Each student will pay an orchestra fee which is used for a variety of expenditures benefiting ALL members of the CHS Orchestra. For example: the Orchestra T-shirt, food at social events, room decorations and supplies, and some expenses for the Awards and Recognition Banquet.
2. & 3. Tuxedo Shirt and Bow Tie: Each boy must own a **wing-tip** tuxedo shirt and a black bow-tie to be worn with the orchestra uniform.
4. Uniform Bags: This is a one-time purchase of a uniform bag that will be used for the length of the time the student remains in the orchestra program at Creekview. We have uniform bags that are printed with “Creekview Orchestra” on them. Please take care of them while they are in your possession. You do not have to turn in your uniform bag at the end of the year.
5. JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB! This organization makes so many things possible for your child and all children in the orchestra program. They help fund private lessons, banquet needs and awards, trip necessities, fees for contests, etc. You may join at any of the three levels. We’d be so happy to have your family involved!

If paying by check or money order, please make payable to: **CHS ORCHESTRA BOOSTER CLUB**

All payments need to be returned to the directors along with the fees page of this document, which requires a parent and student signature indicating that you understand the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook. If you have any questions regarding anything you have read in this handbook or on this expenditure sheet, please feel free to contact us at our offices at (972) 968-4838 during working hours.