

Whiteaker Middle School Orchestra Handbook

2016-2017

Mac Mayer - Director

Welcome to the Whiteaker Orchestra! It is a great honor and privilege to be teaching music to your students. I am here because I love music and because I am dedicated to providing the finest performance training and opportunities possible so that each student can enjoy music throughout their lives. Music classes can develop lifelong skills such as goal setting, discipline, organization and teamwork. **Students must put in the time and dedication outside of class time in order to develop their talents and abilities.** Just like any sport or academic class, they must practice daily the things that we explore and learn in class.

Students and parents should be familiar with all items in the handbook.

Goals for Whiteaker Orchestras:

My goal is to develop students' total understanding of music in such a way that they may continue to grow in ability and skill through middle school and into high school. At the same time, students will enjoy, learn, and perform music independently. Students' experiences in the Whiteaker Orchestra program will prepare them to enjoy music throughout their lives, either as performers, creators, or consumers of music.

1. Building a strong foundation of fundamentals: Notes and Rhythms and proper playing position and styles.
2. Development of ensemble skills: Listening to yourself, your section, and across the orchestra. **TEAMWORK!!**
3. Expression: The ability to convey the meaning of the music to the audience, and to convey several different emotions through music.

GRADING POLICY

I expect students to take their commitment to the orchestra seriously. The grades they receive in orchestra carry as much weight as every other class. Being successful in music requires dedication, consistency and lots of repetition. I expect every student to be on time and prepared for class. I expect each student to show a level of dedication to their instrument, their peers and the ensemble.

Playing and Written Assessments = 70% of total grade
Concert Participation = 20% of total grade
Homework/Paperwork = 10% of total grade

DAILY PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to arrive on time with all of their materials (music, books, pencil and homework) for every class. Do not expect someone else to loan you a book or music. Tardies, behavior disruptions, late assignment or lack of materials will result in communication with parents. Repeated offenses may lead to the student being asked to discontinue the class.

HOMEWORK and PAPERWORK

Written homework assignments will cover music theory, string technique, or other topics being studied and may also including practice logs. There will be several permission slips and informational handouts throughout the year. Please return these items promptly, within the stated time period.

PLAYING ASSESSMENTS and WRITTEN ASSESSMENTS

In keeping with the Salem-Keizer School District's vision, this is a performance based class. The bulk of student grades will be based on playing assessments. Assessments will take place in class on pre-designated dates. Playing assessments will cover any technical studies or music being performed at the time of the test. Written assessments include demonstrating the ability to correctly write notes and rhythms in a variety of settings as well as vocabulary and musical terminology.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

All students are expected to attend all orchestra performances in their orchestra uniform. In addition to performing, students are required **to remain for the length of the performance**. If a student must miss a concert, Mr. Mayer must be notified in writing by a parent at least 2 weeks in advance. Emergencies will be handled on an individual basis. *Students who miss a performance must perform the music in its entirety for Mr. Mayer to make up the missed points.*

SECTIONALS

Each class will have a designated day set aside for sectional rehearsals, after school from 2:40-3:30. Attendance at sectionals is mandatory and is part of each student's grade. Sectionals will allow for in depth teaching and refinement of skills and techniques unique to each part of the ensemble. A sectional schedule will be published to allow students to make schedule adjustments as needed. Though the number of sectionals in a grading period will fluctuate, it should not exceed more than 8 meetings in a grading period.

PRACTICE

Whiteaker Orchestra students should be practicing at least 100 minutes per week. Short daily practice sessions are more beneficial than occasional lengthy practice sessions. All students will have a daily assignment sheet that should contain that day's scales, exercises and measures

for practice. Failure to practice regularly or follow rehearsal guidelines may result in a student being asked to re-evaluate their choice to continue with the class. ***Parents- please insist on regular practice at home. Parents are the best example in attitude, commitment and follow through!***

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR DAILY CLASSES

- I. **Instrument**
 - 1. Quality instrument in good working condition
 - 2. Quality bow in good working condition
 - 3. Shoulder rest for violins and violas (Everest and Kun are recommended)
 - 4. Music Stand
 - 5. Rosin
 - 6. Cleaning cloth
 - 7. Extra strings (Dominant, Zyex and Helicore are recommended)
- II. **Concert music, text and worksheets.**
 - 1. Second Year- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 *and* 2
 - 2. Intermediate- Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 *and* 3
 - 3. Advanced- Essential Elements 2000 Book 3
- III. Pencil
- IV. Recommended Items- not required.
 - 1. Smart Music computer program and microphone (smartmusic.com)
 - 2. Electric tuner (inside Smart Music or on a smart phone)
 - 3. Metronome (inside Smart Music or on a smart phone)
 - 4. Private Lessons (local music stores)

CONCERT DRESS

Whiteaker's standard concert dress for orchestra is black pants or long skirt, black socks & dress shoes, and black dress shirt. Shirts must be tucked in or neatly secured. Undershirts should not be visible at the waist. Sneakers, fuzzy boots, tank tops/camis, t-shirts and black denim jeans are not acceptable. Please make sure your outfit is clean, unwrinkled, free of holes, and will allow you to play uninhibited. Look professional, sound professional!

School dress code is in effect for all orchestra performances!

If you arrive for a concert out of uniform, you will NOT be allowed to play.

2016-17 Calendar Dates

<p><u>September</u></p> <p>21 Whiteaker Orchestra Fundraiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butter Braids! 	<p><u>March</u></p> <p>11 Solo and Ensemble</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional <p>20 Whiteaker Orchestra Concert*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Year, Intermediate, and Advanced • Day Spring Church • 7:00pm
<p><u>October</u></p> <p>25 Whiteaker Orchestra Concert*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate and Advanced • McNary HS Auditorium • 7pm 	<p><u>April</u></p> <p>20 District Orchestra Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Orchestra <u>ONLY*</u> • 7:30pm (approx.)
<p><u>December</u></p> <p>5 Whiteaker Orchestra Concert*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Year, Intermediate, and Advanced • Day Spring Church • 7:00pm 	<p><u>May</u></p> <p>25 McNary Area Festival*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Year, Intermediate, and Advanced • McNary HS Auditorium • 7pm
<p><u>February</u></p> <p>4 All City Honor Orchestra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Audition Only 	<p><u>June</u></p> <p>6 Whiteaker Orchestra Concert*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Year, Intermediate, and Advanced • Day Spring Church • 7:00pm

* - Mandatory Attendance Required

Subscribe to the Whiteaker Orchestra Calendar by scanning the QR Code with your mobile device!



Objective	Second Year	Intermediate Orchestra	Advanced Orchestra
Scales	Major: D, G, C, A, F, B-flat Some 2 Octave Minor: D, G, E	Major: D, G, C, A, E, F, B-flat, E-Flat Most 2 Octave Minor: D, G, E, A, B	Major: D, G, C, A, E, F, B-flat, E-Flat aLL 2 Octave Minor: D, G, E, A, B Shifting into 3 rd and 5 th positions
Bowings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detache • Legato • Marcato • Hooked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detache • Legato • Marcato • Hooked • Staccatto • Martele 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detache • Legato • Marcato • Hooked • Staccatto • Martele • 8 Note Slurs • Spicatto • Louree
Ensemble Skills	Listen and respond to one's own sound in a section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen and respond to one's own sound in a section • Listen and respond to each section across the orchestra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen and respond to one's own sound in a section • Listen and respond to each section across the orchestra • Make appropriate responses based on musical styles being played
Notes and Rhythms	Quarter, Half, Whole, Eighth note rhythms All notes in first positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter, Half, Whole, Eighth note rhythms • Syncopated, dotted quarter-eighth and dotted eighth-sixteenth • Triplet and 6/8 time Extensions and 3 rd position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter, Half, Whole, Eighth note rhythms • Syncopated, dotted quarter-eighth and dotted eighth-sixteenth • Triplet and 6/8 time Extensions and 3 rd and 5 th position

PRACTICE PLAN

Whiteaker Orchestra

WARM-UP 5-8 MINUTES

Tune using a tuning app

Long tones on each open string, use a metronome app at 85 beats per minute:

- Whole Note 4 beats
 - Half Note 2 beats
 - Two Quarter Notes 1 beat
 - Four Eighth Notes
 - Eight Sixteenth Notes (7&8 grade)
-

SCALES 5-20 MINUTES

Play as many scales as you know, as many octaves as you can!

Second Year- D, G, C

Intermediate- A, D, G, C, F, B-flat

Advanced- A, D, G, C, F, B-flat, E-flat

Two bows per note

One bow per note

Add slurs if possible

MUSIC 10-20 MINUTES

Start with class assignments and difficult passages. Focus on small bits first, one measure at a time, linking measures together to smooth out the music. Start at the end and work backwards.

Book exercises from class. Start a list of favorite songs that are always part of your practice session.

Private lesson assignments or other personal songs.

APPS AND GAMES 5+ MINUTES

There are many great note reading, rhythm reading and music challenge apps available for iPads. These games are a great supplement to practice, but are NOT A SUBSTITUTE for instrument practice. Here are a few that we have used in class:

Band Blast

Music Tutor

My Note Games

Note Reading by Belugabloo

Rhythm Training

Musicians Kit

Panotuner

TOTAL 20-50 MINUTES

Practice every day! Morning sessions are great on busy days. After school, before evening activities is good too. Consistency is key.

Even if you can't practice for 20 minutes, play something! 5 minutes is better than 0!

Use a music stand.

Keep your instrument out of the case if it is in a safe area.

Practice in the same location each time.

Record yourself and listen back. Send a recording to a grandparent or friend!

Give a mini concert for family, friends, pets or stuffed animals!

If you get frustrated, take a break and come back later.

Have fun!

PRACTICE IS YOUR HOMEWORK FOR THIS CLASS!!!!

PLEASE SIGN, DETACH, AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THIS PAGE TO MR. MAYER BY FRIDAY, September 16th, 2016

**I, _____ (Student- Please Print)
have read and understand all policies contained within the 2016-2017
Whiteaker Orchestra Handbook. Further, I plan to participate in all required
events already scheduled on the attached calendar.**

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date