

NOTICE 010219002

**BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW HEIGHTS  
HIGH SCHOOL  
ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK**



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[www.bbhcsc.org/high/orchestra](http://www.bbhcsc.org/high/orchestra)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

**CONCERT ORCHESTRA** - This class is designed to train the beginning to intermediate string player in proper performance and rehearsal techniques and to nurture their potential through the rehearsal and performance of quality string orchestra literature appropriate to the level of their development. It is also designed to prepare the musician for performance at a more advanced level. Musical, historical and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied appropriately to every piece of music. There will be at least three annual performance opportunities, depending upon skill level.

**STRING ORCHESTRA** - This class is designed to develop the potential of the instrumental musician through rehearsal and performance of quality string and symphony orchestra literature appropriate to the level of that development. It is also designed to prepare the musician for performance at their highest level. Musical, historical and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied appropriately to every piece of music. There will be a minimum of three annual performances. Musicians in this class are expected to audition for the All-State Orchestra, North East Regional Orchestra, and to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival. This ensemble will perform at the Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) Large Group Adjudication in February/March.

**CHAMBER ORCHESTRA – Audition Only** - This ensemble is designed to develop the potential of the instrumental musician through rehearsal and performance of quality chamber orchestra literature appropriate to the level of that development. Musical, historical and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied appropriately to every piece of music. Musicians in this ensemble are by **audition only**. Musicians in this class are expected to audition for the All-State Orchestra, North East Regional Orchestra, OMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival, and other concerts when appropriate. This ensemble will perform at the Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) Large Group Adjudication in February/March.

## SEATING POLICY

There will be auditions at the beginning of each semester to determine seating placement. At the discretion of the directors, there may be opportunities for seating changes at other times during the year. If students are not satisfied with their seat, there is a challenge procedure to earn higher chairs. **There will be no changes to seats two weeks prior to any performance.**

## SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

The BBHHS Orchestra has Cellos and Basses for school use for all students. There are only a handful of Violins and Violas. If you wish to use a school instrument, **there is a rental fee of \$25.00 for the entire year.**

## CHALLENGE SYSTEM

In order to provide a way for students to practice and improve their seating position, the following challenge system will be used.

1. Students may challenge the person sitting directly next to them.
2. The Challenger must notify that person and submit a challenger form to the Director.
3. The Director of the Orchestra will judge the challenge.
4. Challenges will be set up at a mutually convenient time
5. If you refuse to accept a challenge, or have an unexcused absence for a challenge, you automatically forfeit your seat.
6. Challenges can consist of scales, orchestra music (the music the person you are challenging plays), and sight-reading.
7. **There will be no challenges beginning 2 weeks prior to a performance.**
8. The Director holds the right to disallow challenges for any reason.

## ORCHESTRA COURSE OBJECTIVES *(based upon National Standards)*

1. Vocalize instrumental part using accurate pitch.
2. Demonstrate ability to tune an instrument to a given pitch.
3. Perform alone and in small and large ensembles with good posture, good playing position, good bow control and appropriate articulation. Students should be exposed to and have experience playing literature representing music written by the great Western composers and diverse world cultures.
4. Demonstrate by performance a basic understanding of phrase structure.
5. Improvise simple rhythmic variations and simple melodic embellishments on familiar melodies.
6. Create an original, simple melody.
7. Identify key signatures and apply to music being performed. Read at sight, simple melodies in appropriate clef, individually and in large ensembles. Play major scales of 8 key signatures.
8. Read whole, half, quarter, eighth and dotted notes and rests in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 and meter signatures at various tempi involving tempo changes. Identify notes by letter name and fingering or position and by playing.
9. Discriminate between melody and harmony. Discriminate between duple and triple time signature, major and minor tonalities. Discuss how elements of music affect emotions conveyed by a specific piece of music.
10. Express critical judgments about your own performance of music being studied. Demonstrate a positive attitude toward music, self-development and group cooperation.
11. Identify ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with those of music.
12. Describe distinguishing characteristics of representative music genres and styles from a variety of cultures.

## TECHNIQUE GOALS

1. Periodic scale tests: Students will be expected to play scales periodically, beginning with C major, and work their way up through and including 7 sharps and 7 flats. Concert orchestra: 1 to 2 octaves; String orchestra 2 - 3 octaves; Chamber orchestra 3 octaves. Minor scales will be included as well.
2. Periodic music tests: Students will perform selected passages of music, (some will be taped), from concert selections for a grade.
3. Technique expansion: Students will expand their articulation "repertoire" to include the following bowing styles: staccato , spiccato , legato , martele , loure
4. Students will work on bow placement, tone production and dynamic contrast in relation to the phrasing and musicality demands of the piece.
5. Students will be vigilant in their pursuit of proper playing position in both the left and right hands and in proper posture.

## OTHER GOALS

1. Cultivate an understanding of music theory through the implementation of theory worksheets, problems and quizzes at certain points during each quarter.
2. Cultivate a general understanding of musical form and periodic styles through identification of form in the concert music we study, and through listening to professional recordings or live performances of certain pieces in and out of the classroom.
3. Cultivate a true belief that music is a language without words that is the expression of our emotions, many of which are too complicated to explain. It is our goal to put a piece of our heart into each performance and rehearsal, so that we might be able to express the beauty in ourselves through the music, in order that we might share that beauty with everyone around us.

# EXPECTATIONS

## EVERY STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO:

1. **Attend all classes.** Recognize that while you may be practicing your part at home, orchestra is a group process whose success calls for the interaction between the members of the organization. Those crucial interactions cannot be duplicated outside the orchestral setting.
2. **Arrive to class ON TIME.** Be in your seat, tuned and ready for rehearsal when the class is scheduled to begin. DO NOT get up from your seat during the period to leave and reenter the room. DO NOT routinely expect to go to the bathroom during the rehearsal.
3. **Come to class prepared to work.** Bring your instrument, your folder and a pencil to every class. Assume that you are to notate all directions in your music. Please notate those directions in a precise and musical way and in pencil.
4. **Come to class PREPARED.** You are expected to prepare all assignments and come to class prepared to play them either in a solo or ensemble situation. A minimum of 20 minutes of practice time 5 days a week is expected for this class. Some assignments may take more or less time to complete.
5. **Do NOT borrow an instrument or folder.** If you have forgotten your instrument or folder, do NOT assume that you may borrow another student's instrument or folder. There may be "spare" instruments and practice folders that may be available.
6. **Keep the Orchestra room CLEAN and SAFE.** There will be a great number of instruments, some very expensive, stored in the instrument room. Please keep your music and instrument stored neatly on a shelf.
7. **Keep take care of all equipment.** Respecting your own instruments and the schools equipment (instruments, stands, rock stops, chairs, etc.) is important and should be observed.
8. **Do NOT bring food or drink into class.** Do not eat foods or drink liquids from containers concealed in your pockets, book bags, or purses.
9. **Use proper language in the classroom.** Refrain from using street slang, and swearing no matter what the level of frustration. Often, the level of frustration can be lowered or eliminated completely through practice!
10. **Polite phrases are appreciated.** "Excuse me", "please", and "thank you" are always appropriate and appreciated. Please try to use them.
11. **Proper positions are essential.** Chairs are for sitting: feet remain on the floor. Proper playing position is essential to a good rehearsal and ultimately a good performance.
12. **Represent yourselves in a positive manner.** Not only do you represent yourselves, but you represent the BBHHS Orchestra program, and the school itself. Be a great example at all times.

## ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

1. Study with a private teacher who specialized in your instrument. We can help place you with a teacher, if you need assistance.
2. Participate in the Youth Orchestras and/or other performing ensembles/
3. Attend concerts and performances of all kinds (Cleveland Orchestra, CSU, BBHHS, BBHMS, etc.) and other cultural centers in our area.
4. Participate in as many musical experiences as you can while in High School. There are many performance opportunities outside of the daily classroom that you can get involved with: COYO, CYO, BW, Symphonic Orchestra, Fiddle Group, and OMEA Solo and Ensemble are just some.

## FORMAL CONCERT DRESS ATTIRE

Concert Dress for the orchestra is pre designated. Uniforms will be purchased by students and must be cared for and worn as intended for all performances unless stated otherwise by the directors. Jewelry and glitz should be at a minimum for a more unified look. Hair should be clean and combed.

## ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- **FIDDLE GROUP**
  - Extra curricular / meets weekly with Mrs. O'Neal
  - group performs on BBHHS Orchestra concerts and other events
- **STRING QUARTET**
  - Extra curricular / selected from seating in Chamber Strings
  - Other Chamber groups may be organized from both orchestras through the year.
- Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Events (Chamber Orchestra members are required to participate)
- Northeast Regional Orchestra
- Spring Musical Pit Orchestra

## ORCHESTRA SUPPLIES

<b>VIOLIN/VIOLA</b>	<b>CELLO/BASS</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shoulder rest. Kun preferred. Kadenza brand is also good.</li> <li>2. Set of emergency strings (as well as an extra top string).</li> <li>3. Rosin</li> <li>4. Cleaning cloth</li> <li>5. Pencil</li> <li>6. New cassette tape</li> <li>7. Nail clippers for nice short nails!</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instrument at home to practice upon.</li> <li>2. Rock stop/old leather belt</li> <li>3. Set of emergency strings</li> <li>4. Rosin</li> <li>5. Cleaning cloth</li> <li>6. Pencil</li> <li>7. New cassette tape</li> <li>8. Music stand for at-home practice.</li> </ol>

## EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The grade for each nine week period is based upon the student's musical achievement. Each student will earn points for participation, self-discipline and responsibility. The grading scale is based on the BBHCSD grading system:

0-639=**F**, 640-729=**D**, 730-829=**C**, 830-919=**B**, 920-higher = **A**

**I. Participation by Presence - 150 points** *This part of your grade is based upon the written work that will be done during class time. Listening Logs, Music Theory, Music History, and other information that will be covers during the quarter.*

**II. Participation by Attitude / Effort - 200 points** *This part of your grade is based on: \*Leadership by example, \*A positive spirit of cooperation, \*A fairly consistent energy and a willingness to give, \*Willingness to contribute, participate and share, \*Responsibility and commitment; to the group.*

**III. Participation by Rehearsal Technique - 200 points** *Large Group playing assessments.*

**IV. Concert / Dress Rehearsals - 250 points.** *If you miss this performance, you will need to schedule a performance outside of the school day within the community to receive credit.*

**V. Music Checks Tapes/CD's - 200 points.** *This portion will be graded by individual playing assessments.*

**Participation, self-discipline and responsibility points - The following points are added or subtracted from the musicianship grade at the end of each grading period. There are no carry-overs from one grading period to another.**

### ADDITIONAL POINTS

- Participating in Solo and Ensemble Festival **50 points per entry**
- Participating in Northeast Regional Orchestra auditions **100 points**
- Member of Northeast Regional Orchestra **250 points**
- Member of Youth/Church Orchestra **50 points**
- Participating in extra musical activities **25 points**
- Recital Attendance **50 points**

### DEDUCTED POINTS

- Absence from a performance (unexcused: **250 points**, excused: **125 points**)
- Late for a performance **75 points**
- Absence from a rehearsal or sectional (unexcused: **50 points**, excused: **25points**)
- Late for class, rehearsal or sectional **10 points**
- Disruptive behavior (constant talking, etc.) **10 points**

## ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

All concert absences, excused or unexcused, will require a make-up assignment to be determined by the director. Concerts may have an additional out of school dress rehearsal. Please plan ahead by checking the concert calendar to check for any dates that may conflict with your schedule. A list of additional rehearsals will be handed out well in advance.

### PROCEDURES REGARDING ABSENCES FOR PERFORMANCE/ REHEARSALS

1. Student must submit an ABESENT REQUEST FORM (Located in the back of the handbook and also on-line) for each absence to the Director of the organization.
2. All advance absence requests require the note to be turned in to the Director **TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE**.
3. A student misses a rehearsal or performance due to an emergency, the student should turn in a note of explanation immediately upon his/her return

### EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PERFORMANCES/ REHEARSALS

1. Personal illness - advance notice appreciated.
2. Death in family.
3. Vacations WITH PARENTS.

### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PERFORMANCES/ REHEARSALS

1. Any excuse not listed above. This includes miscellaneous excuses that have not been approved by the Director.

*\*WORK IS NOT CONSIDERED AN EXCUSED ABSENCE - your first obligation is to your school and its activities. Employers should be notified well in advance of your school event schedule. Provide them with a copy of your schedule to assist them in scheduling your hours.*

- a. *Observation* of other school activities or other performance groups (COYO) is not considered an excused absence.
- b. Any excuses listed above for which the student has not given 2 weeks advance notice (written notification).

## BBHHS ORCHESTRA BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

The Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School Orchestra Booster Organization was established to provide assistance to the orchestra in any way they can. Some ways the Boosters provide assistance are chaperoning events, help in securing funds for the instrument/ equipment replacement, repair, and purchasing, and providing venues to award and group accomplishments. **WITHOUT PARENT SUPPORT, THERE CAN NOT BE AN EFFECTIVE MUSICAL PROGRAM.**

## AWARDS AND LETTERING

Besides the rewards of musical achievement; The BBHHS Orchestra will also specially acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the individual members through certificates, trophies, and other awards set up by the Booster Organization, the Orchestra Council, and the director. Letters for freshmen and first year players are being considered for this school year. You must be a member of the orchestra for the *entire school year, and not have any unexcused absences from a concert.*

## STUDENT OFFICERS

The orchestra officers will meet as needed and help with administrative tasks, record keeping, attendance, social events, collecting money, Orchestra Banquet and representing the orchestras in other school meetings, as necessary. The orchestra officers that are applied for include:

**President.** The president shall preside at all officers meetings, shall guide the conduct of the affairs of the ensemble, and shall perform such other duties as the director may specify. The President shall act for the ensemble in all matters concerning the Orchestra program at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. . The President is also responsible with assisting the booster organization with the Spring Banquet for the Orchestra. Only juniors and seniors are Eligible for this office.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** The 1<sup>st</sup> vice president shall, in the absence or incapacity of the president, perform the duties of the president, and shall perform such other duties as the director may specify. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President acts as Liaison for the Ensemble with All of the Performing Arts Organizations, and other student organizations. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is responsible for attending the BBHHS Booster meetings, to serve as the student's voice for their ensemble. The other main responsibility of the VP is to keep the administration informed of all functions.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** The 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president shall be responsible for the BBHHS Orchestra SIBS Program. They are in charge of arranging the pairing of big and little sibs, arranging all social activities such as the sib picnic and breakfasts, and will oversee all communications for the sibs. The 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president shall, in the absence or incapacity of the 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, perform the duties of the 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, and shall perform such other duties as the director may specify.

**Secretary.** The Secretary is responsible for creating musical programs, flyers, and other on campus information to promote the Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School Orchestra. The secretary, along with the Publicity Chair is in charge of the upkeep of the bulletin board

**Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall act with the Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School Booster Secretary to keep an accurate and up to date account for the student's individual accounts, and will warrant receipts for collected monies.

**Historian.** The Historian chair shall be in charge of maintaining a scrapbook for the school year. Items for this scrap can include photos of the ensemble throughout the year, copies of programs, and other approved items that showcase the year of the ensemble

**Publicity Chair.** The Publicity chair shall be in charge of maintaining the orchestra bulletin board on a regular basis. The Pub Chair shall also write articles for submission to all of the local media formats to help promote concerts, fundraising, and other events of the BBHHS orchestra.

**Equipment Manager.** The Equipment Manager is responsible for all of the equipment of the ensemble to be at all concerts, field trips, and other function that the ensemble participates in. The Equipment Manager may form a crew to help with the loading and unloading of equipment, the striking and set up of stands and chairs, and any other duty that is their responsibility.

The orchestra officers that are voted on are Class Representatives (2 per ensemble) and Librarian (1 per ensemble).

# Student/Parent Information Record

(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Students' e-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Private Teacher's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Name Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's e-mail address Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Name Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's e-mail address Cell Phone

Your signature below simply means you have read the BBHHS Orchestra Guidelines and Information Packet. Please sign, date, and return by Friday September 5, 2009. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature Date

## ORCHESTRA DATES FOR 2009-10

Date	Event	Times	Location
8/23/09	Sibs Picnic	TBA	Metro Park
8/26/09	<i>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</i>		
<b>9/04/09</b>	<b><i>Audition Tapes Due</i></b>	<b>2:20</b>	
9/10/09	Welcome Back Dinner	6:30	BBHHS Cafeteria
<b>9/26/09</b>	<b><i>NE Regional Auditions</i></b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b><i>Cleveland State University</i></b>
<b>10/8/09</b>	<b>SPOOKTACULAR IV</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>BBHHS Auditorium</b>
10/25/09	<i>NE Regional Rehearsal</i>	TBA	<i>Cleveland State University</i>
11/7/08	<i>NE Regional Rehearsal</i>	TBA	<i>Cleveland State University</i>
11/8/09	<i>NE Regional CONCERT</i>	TBA	<i>Cleveland State University Waejtin Auditorium</i>
11/19/09	COYO Concert	7:00	BBHHS Auditorium
<b>12/3/09</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>BBHHS Auditorium</b>
12/18/09	Winter Assembly	8:00 am	BBHHS Auditorium
1/28-1/30	OMEA All State	All Day	Cincinnati, OH
2/6/10	OMEA S & E Event	all day	TBA
2/5/10	Ticket to Broadway (Quartet)	TBA	BBHHS Auditorium
<b>2/19/10</b>	<b>OMEA STATE ADJUDICATION</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>BBHHS Auditorium</b>
<b>3/11/10</b>	<b>HS/MS Concert</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>BBHHS Auditorium</b>
4/30 & 5/1	SPRING MUSICAL		BBHHS Auditorium
<b>5/20/10</b>	<b>May Concert: Fairytals &amp; Fantasy</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>BBHHS Auditorium</b>
5/25/10	Orchestra Banquet	6:30	Michaels Woodside
5/26/10	8th grade orientation	7:00	BBHHS Music Room
6/05/10	Commencement (Quartet)	2:00	State Theatre

To be scheduled:

Symphonic Orchestra rehearsal dates

## Minimum Time, Maximum Achievement **A Guide to Good Practice Habits**

### **Place**

- Musicians need a place to practice that is quiet and minimizes interruptions.
- Musicians need a music stand, a metronome, and a straight back chair.

### **Duration**

- It is better to practice often for short periods of time than seldom for long periods. This is for skill and muscle development that needs frequency for best results.
- Twenty minutes to a half an hour each day is perfect for students who are working on lessons and orchestra music.
- Students taking private lessons and/or working toward an audition should practice half an hour to an hour a day.

### **Method**

- Start with a warm-up for about 5 minutes
- Review scales.
- 5-10 minutes of lesson material where musicians should be working out difficult passages, slowly and with a lot of repetition.
- 5-10 minutes of orchestra music where musicians should be working out difficult passages, slowly and with a lot of repetition.
- End with something fun...Just play through a favorite selection.

### **Suggestions for Parents**

- For most students and adults practice is not fun. Playing your instrument is fun but practice is tedious work and is difficult. Most students will not practice without encouragement.
- Occasionally, take time to sit and listen to your child in the same room.
- Set up a convenient time each day for practice.
- Never use music as a punishment.
- Intervene if you do not hear the type of practice session outlined in this paper.

### **Useful practice websites**

[www.metronomeonline.com](http://www.metronomeonline.com)