

C. Milton Wright  
High School

Orchestra Department

2016-2017 Student Handbook



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## Orchestra Grades 9-12

### Course Description

This course enhances instrumental skills and knowledge of music fundamentals by rehearsing and performing a wide variety of music. The student gains proficiency in techniques of ensemble and solo performance. This is a performing organization requiring out-of-school time including evenings and possible weekends. Students may take this course more than one time.

### Orchestra/Music Outcomes

In all orchestra classes students will:

1. Use listening skills to adjust blend and balance.
2. Demonstrate the ability to play in tune with appropriate tone quality.
3. Interpret music according to the historical style of culture of the composition.
4. Demonstrate ability to read musical notation accurately.
5. Demonstrate proper instrument technique.
6. Demonstrate proper rehearsal and performance expectations.
7. Perform in a variety of settings.
8. Demonstrate the ability to critique with understanding.

### Assessment

The following forms of assessment will be used during the course of the school year:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Daily Classwork/Homework Grades (Summative)           | <b>5 points</b>     |
| 2. Quiz Grades (Summative)                               | <b>15-25 points</b> |
| 3. Performance Grades (Formative)                        | <b>100 points</b>   |
| 4. Critique/Reflection/Vocabulary Activities (Summative) | <b>15-25 points</b> |
| 5. Playing and Written Final Exam (Formative)            | <b>100 points</b>   |

### Grading Outline

The student's grade will be derived from the following areas:

1. **Rehearsal Preparation/Participation** – Students are expected to exhibit the following work habits:
  - a. Active participation and preparation for class (regular at home practice is necessary, instrument, music, pencil, etc.)
  - b. Cooperation, punctuality, and attendance
2. **Progress/Achievement/Performances** – A student's developing technical facility will be assessed by regular playing tests and quizzes. Most tests will be performance based but some will be written. Students will demonstrate their achievement of musical objectives in a live performance setting (see performance dates).
3. **Homework** – Students will often have forms that require a parent signature.

### Textbooks

All warm-up books and music are provided by the school.

1. Chorales
2. Expressive Techniques for Orchestra
3. A variety of concert and performance music

### Required Supplies

1. Instrument (in working condition)
2. Shoulder Rest (**not foam**)
3. Rosin, rock stop, mutes, and **tuner!**
4. Your Own Folder/Music
5. PENCIL EVERY CLASS!!!

## Introduction

I am glad that you are a part of the C. Milton Wright Music Department and I look forward to a successful and rewarding year. Being a member of a musical organization is a wonderful experience, one that you will remember the rest of your life. The C. Milton Wright Music department has the potential to achieve musical excellence if all the members of each performing group are committed towards this unified goal. As we begin the year, it is appropriate to review the responsibilities of membership in our various ensembles. Please read the following and keep it to know what is expected of you and all members of our groups.

## Attendance Policy

Orchestra is a performance oriented class. Participation in performances is an essential part of the learning process. It is a primary way in which the director can evaluate students. Orchestra students represent C. Milton Wright High School in a meaningful and visible way during performances. The absence of any student from a performance will have an impact on the reputation of the school and on the success of the entire program.

### **The following procedures and policies apply to the participation of orchestra students in performances:**

1. At the beginning of school, the director will distribute a list of performances for the upcoming school year at which attendance of all students is required.
2. Students are expected to attend all scheduled performances and rehearsals.
3. If a student misses a rehearsal or performance without a valid excuse, as determined by the director, the student will receive a zero for that performance, as they will be unable to meet the objectives of that particular performance.
4. If a student misses a performance, no penalty will be imposed and a make-up assignment will be given if the reason of the absence meets one of the following criteria:
  - a. The student is ill
  - b. Family emergency
5. The following are examples of reasons for absence from a performance for which the grade penalty will be imposed and a make-up assignment NOT assigned:
  - a. Work
  - b. Sporting events/other concerts
  - c. School work – The rotating schedule provides you with ample time to complete your homework.
6. Early notification of a conflict and potential absence from a performance is essential. The student and parent should notify the director of a potential absence and the reason for the absence as soon as it is known, this notification should be in writing with a parent signature or in an email and should be sent BEFORE the concert.
7. When a student's absence results from an unexpected event (such as sudden illness or family emergency), every effort should be made to contact the director before the performance. The director recognizes that on rare occasions this will not be possible.
8. When a student notifies the director that he/she will be absent from a performance, the director will decide if a penalty will be imposed and will share this decision with the student.

## Additional Opportunities

Throughout the course of the school year, you will have the opportunity to improve your musical skills and ability by participating in a variety of voluntary musical activities and ensembles. I highly suggest that you attempt to take part in as many of these activities as possible.

1. All County/State Orchestra
2. Solo and Ensemble
3. Music Competition Trips
4. After School Chamber Orchestra
5. Senior Solo Night
6. Variety Show
7. Tri-M (Grades 10-12)
8. Harford Youth Orchestra (HYO)
9. Summer String Camps
10. Color Guard

## Class Responsibilities and Procedures

1. Rehearsal time is limited and important. Everyone needs to be present, on time, and prepared to work. Attendance and active participation are a part of the student's grade.
2. Gum chewing is not allowed in the music rooms. As you enter the room you discard any gum that you may be chewing into the appropriate trash receptacle. Food and drinks, other than water are not permitted in any of the music rooms. Please help keep our rooms clean and organized.
3. Have your music and all equipment needed for the rehearsal with you as you take your seat.
4. When the director steps in front of the classroom on the podium, all playing and talking should stop immediately so we may proceed with rehearsal as posted on the chalkboard. Rehearsal etiquette includes stopping when the director stops conducting or cuts of the group. Listen for directions, comments, or corrections. Always mark out music with a pencil. When the director's hands are raised you should be ready to begin.
5. Take good care of all equipment, whether it is yours or the schools. Please do not lean on the music stands as this bends and loosens them. Misuse or damage of school instruments or percussion equipment will result in an appropriate replacement fee and referral to the main office.
6. YOU are responsible for caring for your music. A copy of all music will be distributed to each student in the class. In most cases, music will be placed in your folder slot for each day. Lost or damaged music will be replaced by the student for a price ranging from \$1.00 to \$5.00, depending on the publishing company. It is your responsibility to take care of your music.
7. Each student must put their name, address, telephone number and school on a tag outside of their case for identification purposes. If this tag is lost or destroyed at any time, you must see the director about a replacement tag.

**Individual and home practice:** Practicing at home is your homework for music class. You need to practice your assigned music enough to be able to perform it well. Aim to perform it perfectly. I suggest at least 30 minutes of individual practice at home every two days. Practice time should be geared toward improvement in tone, intonation, rhythm, technique, and musicality. You will have frequent opportunities to show your improvement and musical growth through playing your music individually, in sectionals, or in class.

## Fundraisers

The CMW Orchestra and CMW Music Department will be holding multiple fundraisers throughout the year. A percentage of certain fundraisers will be credited into a student account. Student accounts are individual and will vary based on the amount each student sells in the fundraiser. Anticipated fundraisers this year are:

1. Joe Corbi's Pizza
2. Yankee Candle
3. Jelly Belly
4. Various Spirit Nights

## Formal Concert Attire/Dress

### **Concert Attire (Grades 9-12)**

Students are expected to wear professional concert attire for all concert season performances.

**Girls:** Concert black and black dress shoes. This includes:

- Floor length black dress
- Black shirt or blouse,  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve or longer
- Floor length black skirt
- Loose fitting black dress pants (not jeans)

Flip-flops, Sandals, Jeans, Corduroys, Leggings, Yoga Pants, and Long Finger Nails are **NOT** Permitted!

**Boys:** Concert black. Black dress pants, socks, shoes, tie, jacket (11/12 only) and white a dress shirt.

## Important Dates/Performances

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Points</u>
9/16/2016	T-Shirt Forms are Due	N/A	CMW	Optional
10/17/2016	Burger King Fundraiser	5:00-8:00 PM	Burger King 200 S Fountain Green Rd	Optional
<b>TBA 10/2016</b>	<b>Orchestra Tour</b>	<b>During School Day</b>	<b>Hickory Elementary</b>	<b>100 Points</b>
11/9/2016	All County Auditions	TBA	Bel Air H.S.	Optional
11/17/2016- 11/19/2016	Musical	TBA	CMW Auditorium	Optional
12/7/2016	Southampton Concert	7:00 PM	CMW Auditorium	Section Leaders
12/13/2016	Dress Rehearsal for Concert	During School B3	CMW Auditorium	50 Points
<b>12/19/2016</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CMW Auditorium</b>	<b>100 Points</b>
1/28/2017	All County Orchestra Concert	12:30 PM	Bel Air H.S.	Optional
1/30/2017	Dress Rehearsal for Orchestra Day	During School B2	CMW Auditorium	50 Points
1/30/2017	Solo and Ensemble Form Due	2:00 PM	CMW	Optional
<b>1/31/2017</b>	<b>String Day</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CMW Auditorium</b>	<b>100 Points</b>
2/1/2017	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation	7:00 PM	CMW Music Wing	Extra Credit
2/2/2017	Snow Date String Day	7:00 PM	CMW Auditorium	N/A
2/24/2017	Variety Show	TBA	CMW Auditorium	Optional
<b>3/10/2017</b>	<b>County Assessments</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>100 Points 11/12 Only</b>
3/4/2016	Solo and Ensemble	TBA	Southampton Middle School	Optional
4/10/2017	Senior Solo Night Auditions	2:15 PM	CMW Choir Room	Seniors Only
4/28/2017	Senior Solo Night	7:00 PM	CMW Auditorium	Seniors Only
5/2/2017	<u>Mandatory</u> String Trip Rehearsal and Meeting	5:00 PM	CMW	Only for those going on the trip
5/5/2017-5/6/2017	String Trip: Busch Gardens	TBA	Bush Gardens	Optional
5/15/2017	Dress Rehearsal for Concert	During School B3	CMW Auditorium	50 Points
<b>5/17/2017</b>	<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CMW Auditorium</b>	<b>100 Points</b>
5/22/2017	Southampton Concert	7:00 PM	CMW Auditorium	Section Leaders

## High School Upgrades

High School Orchestra Students must have the proper materials to be successful. There will be a materials check (which is graded) to make sure each student has what is required to be successful. Contact Mr. Ferenz if there are questions or issues with obtaining the necessary materials.

### **Shoulder Rest:** (Violin and Vilola)

Foam does not do the job anymore! Shoulder rests allow for proper posture and advanced technique. The KUN Shoulder Rest is a common and affordable brand. Prices range between \$12.00 and \$30.00 for the basic model. Music and Arts and Musicland carry these at low prices as well as online retailers such as [www.musiciansfriend.com](http://www.musiciansfriend.com)



### **Tuner:** (All)

Tuners help match pitch with precision. It is possible to buy one or to download one on a smart phone. Everyone student needs to have one in class every day.

### **Metronome:** (All)

Metronomes assist in tempo and keeping time. It is possible to buy one or download it. These are used frequently in class and should be used while practicing.

### **Extra Strings:** (Violin, Viola, Cello)

It is crucial to have an extra set of strings. CMW does not provide replacement strings for students. If a string is broken, it must be replaced immediately. More than two consecutive classes without a string will result in a grade deduction.



# Orchestra Contract 2016-2017

Please complete the following form and return to Mr. Ferez by \_\_\_\_\_ for a 75 point homework grade.

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Student E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I accept the rules and regulations presented in this handbook. I understand that taking part in an orchestra class will require mandatory after school and evening performances that directly impact my grade.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are aware of possible schedule conflicts, please complete the bottom portion. Mr. Ferez will contact you to discuss these conflicts.

Date	Reason