

The Northwood Orchestra Program

Symphony String Orchestra

The Symphony String Orchestra will be comprised of all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade orchestra students. Conflicts with other school sponsored events will be handled on a case by case basis. They will utilize a special curriculum that will further develop their musical skills and sharpen their sight reading and technical abilities. The Symphony String Orchestra will be the principle performing orchestra at the Winter and Spring concerts, All City Festival, Planting Day Festival, and Commencement. ALL REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY. GRADES WILL BE AFFECTED IF THESE REHEARSALS ARE MISSED.

Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Orchestra is the same personnel of Symphony String Orchestra plus the addition of auditioned wind and percussion players. It will meet at specific days and times as identified by Mr. Rohwer. ALL REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY. GRADES WILL BE REDUCED IF THESE REHEARSALS ARE MISSED.

Chamber Strings

Membership in Chamber Strings is through audition only. It will consist of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students that are members of Symphony String Orchestra and exhibit dedication and commitment to the orchestra program as well as excellence to their instrument. They will have more performances and special engagements than Symphony String Orchestra. There may be extra rehearsals at different times throughout the year. ALL REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY. MEMBERS OF CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WILL BE DISMISSED IF THESE REHEARSALS ARE MISSED. EXCESSIVE ABSENCES IN SYMPHONY STRING ORCHESTRA WILL ALSO RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM CHAMBER STRINGS.

Northwood Orchestra
2004 -2005 Orchestra Dates
(all dates subject to change)

- T-W, Sept. 7-8 Auditions for lesson groups, Chamber Strings, and seating assignment.
- Mon., Sept. 10 Northwood String Orchestra rehearsals begin - 2:50 p.m. REQUIRED.
- Wed., Oct. 13 IMEA auditions, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m., Chippewa Middle School, Des Plaines. Depending on the number of students who audition, we will either caravan or take a bus to the audition. Students must register with Mr. Rohwer in advance and return a parent permission form. There is a \$3.00 charge to audition and students must be prepared on the audition music. Mr. Rohwer will be available for extra help. You must be at the rehearsal/ audition for the entire time. *Optional.*
- Sat., Nov. 6 IMEA District VII Junior Honors Festival, Lake Zurich High School Last year we were there from about 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. I would expect the same for this year. You must be able to attend the entire time or you will not be allowed to perform.
- Tues., Dec. 7 Winter Orchestra & Choir Concert - Concert Orchestra, Chamber Strings, and Symphony String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Choir will perform. Students must arrive at 6:30 p.m. and the concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. **REQUIRED.**
- Mon., Jan. 10 High School Orchestra Day - 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. You will get to know the high school orchestra program inside and out when we get together with Elm Place, Edgewood, and HPHS orchestra students for a day of orchestra music making fun and games! **REQUIRED.**
- Sat., Feb. 26 IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest (Illinois Grade School Music Assoc.) Orchestra students in grades 5-8 are invited to participate in this event by preparing a solo, duet, trio, or quartet piece to perform for a judge. Students are awarded a first, second, or third place ranking. . *Optional.*
- Wed., March 23 All-City Orchestra and Band Concert - 5:00 p.m. at Highland Park High School -- students from Northwood, Elm Place, Edgewood, and HPHS combine for this concert. **REQUIRED.**
- Fri., April 29 Planting Day Festival - 7:00 p.m. - A multicultural celebration of diversity in our community.
- Wed., May 25 Spring Orchestra Concert - The Beginning Strings, Husky Strings and Northwood String Orchestra will perform. Students must arrive at 6:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:00 p.m. **REQUIRED.**
- TBA Commencement Time - TBA Highland Park High School **REQUIRED.**

Grading

Orchestra is a fully graded class that consists of two parts: lessons and rehearsal. Students are pulled out of scheduled classes on a rotating basis for lessons. Rehearsals meet outside of the scheduled school day.

6TH & 7th GRADE		8TH GRADE	
Grading will be divided as follows:		Grading will be divided as follows:	
Graded Assignments	10%	Graded Assignments	15%
Practice Cards	10%	Lessons	10%
Lessons	10%	Rehearsals	25%
Rehearsals	20%	Performances	<u>50%</u>
Performances	<u>50%</u>		100%
	100%		

Graded Assignments (10% - 15%) : Mr. Rohwer may hear students perform any music at anytime. Written assignments will also be graded. Materials that are sent home for signature and return may also be included as graded assignments.

Practice record (10%) : Each 6th and 7th grade student is required to turn in a practice card every week as a record of their homework. Document the time practiced daily and have a parent or guardian sign it and turn it in at your lesson. **Students are expected to practice 75 minutes per week - an average of 15 minutes per day, 5 days a week.** More frequent practice sessions for shorter periods produce better results than a single, long session. **Although 8th grade students are not required to turn in practice cards, they are expected to practice 75 minutes a week.**

Attendance: Unlike other classes, it is impossible to make up the full content and intensity of lessons, rehearsals, and performances. By participating in a performing group, rehearsals are necessary for any kind of success.

Lessons (10%): Each student will receive a grade for each lesson based on attitude and preparation. NOT HAVING MUSIC, PENCIL, AND INSTRUMENT WILL AFFECT GRADES. If your child takes private lessons and would like to opt out of in school lessons, this part of the grade will be split between rehearsal and performances. I do not suggest this course. In lessons we often focus on chamber music which is an experience that students cannot get in private lessons or in large ensembles.

Rehearsals (20 - 25%) : Each student will be graded for each rehearsal based on attitude and preparation.

Performances (50%): Performances are the equivalent of a final exam. They are required.

MAKE UP POLICY: Students who miss lessons or rehearsals have 1 week to make up their missed time, to be arranged with Mr. Rohwer. Performances cannot be made up.

SUPPLIES

Each student will be responsible for the following items:

- Pencil – This piece of equipment is vital! PENCILS ARE NOT OPTIONAL.
Make sure you have one.
- Music passed-out in lessons and rehearsal.
- Three ring orchestra binder
- Rosin
- Strings (Except for school basses)
- Shoulder Rest. Required for all violins and violas.
- Cellos and basses will need to provide their own rock stops.
- Metronome (STRONGLY recommended)
- Tuner (Section leaders and 8th graders)

ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL PROTOCOLS

(Protocol: A code prescribing strict adherence to correct etiquette and precedence.)

Arriving at rehearsal

- ✓ Arrive at least ten minutes before rehearsal starts.
- ✓ Have your instrument, your music, AND A PENCIL.
- ✓ Take your seat and get your instrument out.
- ✓ Look at the board. If there is a list of music on the board, get your music ready on the stand.
- ✓ Adjust your stand. The top of your stand should be just low enough to see Mr. Rohwer conduct.
- ✓ Tune as best as you know how. Strings that are in tune should sound like the first four notes of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” (except basses).
- ✓ If there is still time left, warm up with long tones and scales.

In Rehearsal

- ✓ Have your folder, instrument, and pencil ready at the beginning of every rehearsal. You will need to be in your chair, with your instrument out ready to tune by the time class starts.
- ✓ You are responsible for your music at all times.
- ✓ When ANYONE steps on the podium, stop playing and talking immediately. Do not play until the director tells you to do so.
- ✓ Be quiet and attentive when you are not playing. NO TALKING.
- ✓ Be an active participant in the rehearsal and stay engaged. When the conductor is working with other musicians, silently practice your part and see how it fits together.
- ✓ Remain in your seat at all times.
- ✓ Pick up after yourself.
- ✓ Act like ladies and gentlemen ALWAYS. Represent yourself with pride. Be professional.

PARENT AND STUDENT CONTRACT
(Fill out and Return)

We have read and are familiar with the NJHS Orchestra Guidelines. We will abide by the rules understand the consequences. Specifically, we understand grading and concert dates.

In addition, we will ensure that our child will practice the required average per week, and a parent will sign and return a practice card weekly (6th & 7th grade only).

Please sign and return to director by Friday, August 27, 2004.

PRINT NEATLY:

Student's Name _____

Student Signature _____

Student's e-mail _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____

Parent's E-mail _____

I would like to be an "Orchestra Parent" in the activities of this school year.

I would like to:

- _____ Help chaperone/usher concerts
- _____ Help provide refreshments following concerts for the orchestra
- _____ Help to photograph, video tape, and/or record orchestra performances
- _____ Help chaperone bus trips
- _____ Help with solo and ensemble festival
- _____ Help with special orchestra activities throughout the year