

Elizabeth Middle School

Band & Orchestra Handbook 2017-2018

Director: Mr. David Goldscheid
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Welcome to the Elizabeth Middle School Band and Orchestra Program! I am delighted to have you as a student in the orchestra, and look forward to learning with you, having fun, and making some phenomenal music together!

This handbook is designed to give both you and your parents/guardians an awareness and understanding of the policies, organizational structure, and general functioning of the orchestra program. Please read this handbook in its entirety and keep a copy for your records. Also, please be sure to mark our orchestra events in your master calendar to avoid conflicts.

If you have a change in your home that may impact your student in their ensemble, please send me notification as soon as possible. I would like to resolve any conflicts with items such as concert dates, communication problems, instruments or schedules as soon as they arise. The best way to reach me is via email, since I am teaching throughout the day. You can call at any time to leave a message and I will return your call as soon as I am able to.

Thank you in advance for your support of your student and their education. Elizabeth Middle Schools music ensembles rely on a strong community and I know that through our collaborative efforts we can continue to make these ensembles a safe, fun, and educational place for your student to grow and learn.

Yours Truly,

David Goldscheid
Director of Instrumental Ensembles
Elizabeth Middle School

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Classroom expectations:

Students will be expected to come to class every day with the following items:

1. Instrument and all instrument accessories (reeds, slide oil, rosin, ect...)
2. Music
3. Pencil
4. An attitude ready to learn

Students should come to class every day with the following thoughts in mind:

I am ready

- a. On time and in my assigned seat with my instrument out by the time the bell rings
- b. Ready to actively participate
 - i. Preparing music ahead of time
 - ii. Demonstrate proper rehearsal decorum when Mr. Goldscheid is on the podium
- c. Remembering my instrument and supplies every day

I am respectful

- a. Polite to other students and adults
 - i. Language that may hurt or disrespect any person will not be tolerated
- b. Treating facilities and property with care
 - i. In order to maintain a clean environment, food/beverages/gum are not allowed in the band/orchestra room or in the auditorium
- c. An active listener who waits my turn to respond
- d. Consistently showing appreciation for what other do for me

I am responsible

- a. Giving my best effort (during times of success and failure)
- b. Taking ownership and learning from my mistakes
- c. Making choices that help create a safe community
- d. Observing school and district rules
- e. Communicate to the instructor if you need help learning repertoire, understanding concepts, etc.
 - i. Check bulletin boards regularly: read announcements, check for seating/part assignments, find out information on assignments, etc.
- f. Not doing homework from other classes while in rehearsal

In accordance with school policies, cell phones must remain off and put away during class time

Consequences for behavior and/or infractions:

1st tardy or infraction: Warning and Doc on Participation Points

2nd tardy or infraction: Note Home and Doc on Participation Points

3rd tardy or infraction: Lunch Detention, Phone Call Home and a Doc on Participation Points

Subsequent Infractions: Referral to Principal and Meeting with Parents

Subsequent Tardies: Referral to Principal and after school detention

Attendance:

Students are expected to be consistent in their classroom attendance and to attend and participate in all rehearsals and required performances. Seeing as performances are a substantial portion of the grading periods, it is in students best interests to make sure that they make arrangements prior to each performance. If there is a conflict for a performance, please let Mr. Goldscheid know as quickly as possible to set up alternate accommodations. The make-up assignment for missing a concert is covered in this syllabus.

Practice at home:

Students are expected to practice regularly outside of class time. Although the quality of practice session is most important, students are encouraged to aim for 100 -150 minutes of practice per week. This time should be used to practice music for the class, technical exercises, and other music to improve skills needed for ensemble participation. Please note that school rehearsals and performances do not count towards individual weekly practice minutes. Private lessons are encouraged, but not required. Private lesson times do not count toward individual weekly practice minutes. For private teacher recommendations please speak with Mr. Goldscheid.

Grading policy:

Students will be graded in 4 main categories:

1. Performances
2. Daily participation
3. Playing tests
4. Theory work

The Grading Scale is as follows:

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	0 – 59

Grades may be determined based on achievement in the following categories:

1. **Rehearsal Etiquette** (5 points per day/25 points per week)
 As the main component to orchestra/band class, having productive rehearsals is extremely important to the success of the orchestra/band program. Students' rehearsal etiquette grades will be determined by their level of adherence to the aforementioned rehearsal etiquette rules. At the beginning of each week, all students receive the full 25 points for participation. Points are deducted, at the discretion of the teacher, based on the following actions:
 - Tardiness (-1)
 - No instrument or music (-5)
 - Disruptive behavior, i.e. talking or playing when not supposed to (-1 to 5)
 - Not adhering to any of the aforementioned rehearsal expectations (-1 to 5)
 - Unexcused absence (-5)
2. **Playing Quizzes** (5-50 points)
 The teacher may elect to have a playing quiz on repertoire as needed. Students will be expected to play alone, by stand, or by section, and will receive a grade based on the attached performance rubric.
3. **Playing Tests** (100 points)
 Students will have a playing test at least once per quarter. Students are expected to perform excerpts from repertoire alone, and will be graded based on the performance rubric (see attached). Students are expected to practice individually in order to learn their repertoire. If you do not see and hear your student practicing, they probably will not perform well on playing tests and quizzes. Similarly, if you never saw them doing math homework, they probably would not do well on their math tests and quizzes. Also, cramming the day prior doesn't work as well as practicing daily. Playing tests make up a considerable portion of a student's grade, and they should be taken seriously.
4. **Written Quizzes** (5-50 points)
 Students will have periodic written quizzes, assessing their knowledge of music theory, history, technique, and other musical elements.
5. **Concert Reflection Papers** (50 points)

Students are expected to fill out a reflection on our performances in order to assess the following: acknowledgement of personal successes and struggles, ensemble success, discussion of musical growth, and achievement of goals and to present any problems privately to the director.

6. Rehearsal and Concert Attendance (100 points)

Your attendance is expected at all required orchestra/band events.

Missing a concert will result in a 20% reduction of the quarter grade. Missing a required rehearsal will result in a 20-point deduction from your rehearsal etiquette score.

The only exceptions will be in the case of severe illness or family emergency, or by having notified the director of a prior conflict on the attached acknowledgement form. In the case of an emergency, notify the director as soon as possible (preferably before the rehearsal or concert) via phone or email, and provide a parent/guardian note detailing the reason for the student's absence. **Please take time to mark the concert dates in your calendar in order to avoid scheduling vacations on the night of a concert.** Examples of inexcusable absence include: shopping, babysitting, orthodontist appointments, transportation conflicts (please contact director if something arises so that he can help make arrangements) etc. An **ABSENCE FORM** must be filled out and turned in no later than 2 days past an event for a student to be considered excused.

Makeup policy:

Each student plays a crucial role in the ensemble. Two weeks written notice and a legitimate reason is required for a missed performance, with the exception being medical and family emergencies. Legitimate reasons include participation in another school sanctioned event or family religious engagements. In the case of a medical or family emergency, information should be brought into the school when the student returns to class. Providing a notice two weeks in advanced of a conflict allows us the opportunity to make adjustments so that the impact of a missing student is minimized. In the event of a makeup being a necessity, the student is to write a report on a composer that the class is currently playing a piece of. The report needs to be a minimum of (typed) 3 pages double spaced, 12 pt. font or (written) 2 pages single spaced and cover information on the composer including but not limited to history, composed pieces, how the piece we are performing compares to other works of the artist or artists of their time, etc. Students will be held to the standards of academic integrity as stated in the Elizabeth Middle School Student handbook; works should be cited from sources of intellectual validity (Wikipedia is not a valid source).

Concert Dress:

Women: Black skirt (longer than knee-length) or black pants. White blouse or polo (no t-shirts). Black shoes. Jeans and gym shoes are not acceptable.

Men: Black pants, white polo or button-down shirt (no t-shirts). Black shoes. Jeans and gym shoes are not acceptable.

After reading this handbook, detach, complete, and return this page by:

Friday, August 25, 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Initial

_____ We have read the Class Expectations for Band/Orchestra and understand the goals and student expectations. We understand that failure to attend a required concert will reduce the orchestra grade by 20%. We understand that the semester grade will be determined by the quarter grades and the semester exam, and that quarter grades are determined by student participation, performance in playing tests and quizzes, written tests and quizzes, and written assignments.

_____ We have read the Behavior Expectations and understand that every student is expected to be on time, prepared, and cooperative. We understand the consequences when these expectations are not met. We have read and understand these consequences.

_____ We understand that the student **must** be in attendance at every required event, and that students will only be excused from an event if the conflict is listed below or if there is an emergency (severe illness or death of a family member), which requires a letter and phone call from a parent in order to be excused. We understand the academic consequences of missing a required event. Additionally, we understand the required attire for performances and will take responsibility that the appropriate clothing is obtained.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date