ORCHESTRA EXPECTATIONS 2019-2020

Paul Baird, Director of Orchestras

MATERIALS: **These items must be obtained by Monday, Sept 9.** Students need an instrument and accessories including rosin, fingernail clippers, and pencil. Fingernails must stay trimmed in order to play with the correct finger positions and movements for all string players.

All students are required to have a name tag attached to the handle of the instrument case with student’s name, school, and phone number on it.

Other items that are extremely helpful (but not required) are: shoulder rest (Kun) for violinists and violists; metronome and tuner (phone app will work) to use at home. All violinists and violists should have Dominant Strings on their instruments (or similar soft-core strings).

CLASS METHOD BOOKS:

**All students** will need *Essentials for Strings,* published by Kjos Music Co.

6th Grade Orchestra students will also need *Essential Elements, Book 2*, published by Hal Leonard Music Co.

7th and 8th Grade Orchestra students will also need *All for Strings, Book 3*, published by Kjos Music Co.

These books can be purchased at Music and Arts or on-line from Shar Music Products at [www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com). These books need to be obtained by Sept. 16.

Students may be required to get an additional orchestra method book during the school year in order to continue their musical development as a member of the orchestra class. Fees may be assessed for damaged or lost music. Students are responsible for the maintenance of their instrument and bow in order to keep them in proper playing condition. If the instrument or bow needs repair the teacher will send home a form that states what repair is needed. Music and instrument inspections will occur throughout the school year.

Parents are reminded that all student papers, tests, etc. are the property of Edward E. Brickell Academy for Advanced Academics and Arts at Old Donation School and the instructor. These items may be sent home at the teacher's discretion. Any parent wishing to view any materials shall contact the teacher.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES: Students will enter the rehearsal room after getting their instrument from the storage area and using the rest room. Students should be seated in their chair with their instrument in rest position no later than 5 minutes after the time of class change. Books, belongings, and instrument cases are to be kept in the designated places. The teacher will allow ample time to put away class materials and depart for their next class on time. Students should adhere to the school system’s Code of Student Conduct. In addition, students are to handle only their personal-owned instrument, or school-owned instrument assigned to them. When class is dismissed the student must put their instrument in their assigned place in the storage area. Students must log in and out on the restroom log clip-board if the rest room becomes necessary.

EVALUATION/GRADING: Because Orchestra is a performance-based course, students will be graded on their daily performance, including individual and group performance; written and performed tests; out of class rehearsal; and public performance. Topics included in the units of study will include music history and theory, major and minor scales, technique etudes, sight-reading, and concert orchestra repertoire. Using Total Points, the nine-week grade will be the result of the grades from four different categories: Daily Class Performance, Tests, Rehearsals, and Public Performances. The standard Virginia Beach City Public Schools’ grading scale will be followed. See the student handbook for a copy of that scale. Use the parent portal to monitor grades.

Students will be required to participate in public performances which may occur during the school day, and in the evenings and Saturday, outside of the school day.

Students will be required to attend scheduled rehearsals.

DAILY CLASS PERFORMANCE: Graded on a scale of 10 points, they are earned daily for having music, instrument in good condition with the required accessories, pencil, proper posture, playing/speaking at the appropriate times, attentiveness, and effort. Daily class performance grades will count once.

TESTS: Written and performed tests are graded on a scale of 100 points. Tests will count once.

REHEARSALS: Rehearsals are graded on a scale of 100 points. Grading for rehearsals is the same as daily class performance with one additional criterion: The rehearsal must be attended in its entirety. A percentage of the grade will be deducted for the percentage of time missed. Rehearsal grades count 2x.

PERFORMANCES: Performances are graded on a scale of 100 points. Grading for performances is the same as for rehearsals and daily class performance with two additional criteria:

1. Proper dress is required for the performance: All black pants (girls may wear all-black floor-length full skirt); all black socks and shoes (girls may wear black hose); all black belt; all-white, button-down, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt.

Exception: All 7th and 8th grade students will wear the orchestra shirts and bow tie provided by the school.

2. Proper etiquette is followed.

Performance grades count 3x.

The best way to reach me is through e-mail: Paul.Baird@vbschools.com. I will communicate to you through e-mail and Orchestra Notes! (hand-out).

KEEP THE TOP HALF OF THE FOLLOWING PAGE AND RETURN THE BOTTOM HALF.

KEEP THE INFO BELOW AND ADD TO YOUR HOME CALENDAR!

IMPORTANT DATES THAT SHOULD BE ADDED TO YOUR CALENDAR:

OCTOBER 19: DISTRICT ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS 7th/8th Grade

DECEMBER 11: HOLIDAY CONCERT Required for All

JANUARY 10/11: DISTRICT ORCHESTRA EVENT 7th/8th Grade

FEBRUARY 26: PRE-ASSESSMENT CONCERT Required for 8th Grade

MARCH 5, 6, 7: ORCHESTRA ASSESSMENT Required for 8th Grade

MARCH, DATE TBA 6th/7th Gr. WINTER CONCERT Required for 6th & 7th Grade

March 26, 27, 28: ALL-CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

APRIL 24: TATTOO at the Scope Arena, Norfolk

MAY 5: SPRING CONCERT Required for All

REHEARSALS WILL OCCUR AS DEEMED NECESSARY AND WILL OCCUR DURING TUESDAY’S ACTIVITY BELL. THE TEACHER WILL GIVE THE STUDENT AT LEAST 2 WEEKS NOTICE BEFORE THE REQUIRED SCHEDULED REHEARSAL.

CUT ALONG THE LINE. RETURN THIS SIGNATURE SECTION.

I have read and I understand the requirements for Orchestra as stated in the Class Expectations Sheet and the Grading System Sheet. I also have detached and saved the Important Dates section of this page.

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STUDENT'S NAME, PRINTED INSTRUMENT/GRADE LEVEL

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STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE

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PARENT’S SIGNATURE PARENT’S E-MAIL ADDRESS, **PRINTED**