

Congratulations and Welcome to the Centennial Orchestra Program! What many people don't understand is that music should not always be looked at as an "exploratory class." Of course in the beginning stages, you and your students are discovering and exploring the wonderful sounds and benefits from the string instruments while also finding out if it has a place in your lives. Additionally, it is **so important** to understand that learning a string instrument is also sequential, intrapersonal, and interpersonal! This is an opportunity to build on musical skills/talents or just love of the instrument that will not only have so many educational benefits but also carry you through many exciting experiences, travel, and friendships.

I am so very pleased to have you as a member of the Centennial Middle School Orchestras. I am excited to continue to build this excellent program with the help of your talent and efforts. In order to help our orchestras become their very best, I have written this handbook so that you may become familiar with the expectations, procedures, and requirements of the program.

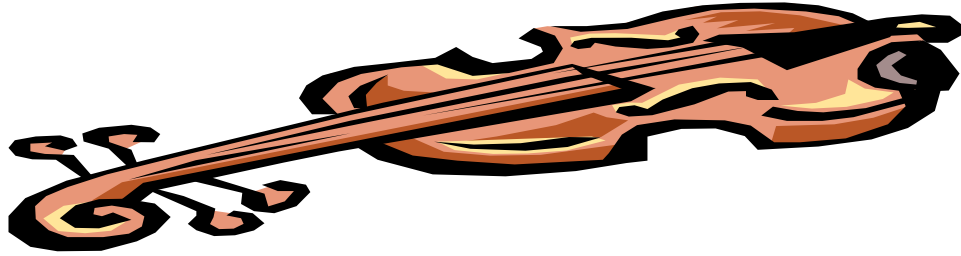
Should you have any questions any time during the school year, please feel free to contact me.

Anne Paulu, Centennial Middle School Orchestra Director
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GOALS

- Provide the opportunity for all class members to participate in an orchestra appropriate to their level of achievement.
- Develop musicianship by teaching technical and interpretive skills.
- Build and sustain a high quality string program in North Boulder of which we can all be proud and from which we can derive high self-esteem.
- Promote the development of good citizenship, respect for others, emotional stability, self control, responsibility, dependability, and cooperation.
- Promote self-confidence, poise, and social ease through class activities and public performances.
- Promote a positive attitude and self-image by providing experiences in which each student can succeed.
- Foster feelings of personal contribution to the musical achievements of the whole group.
- Provide the foundations for the pursuit of music as an avocation or vocation.
- Promote the development of physical coordination, awareness, and stamina.
- Promote critical listening skills.
- Transmit our cultural heritage to succeeding generations.



REHEARSAL GOALS

The purpose of a rehearsal is to improve the existing level of musical knowledge and performance skills of the organization and individual. In order to accomplish this, the orchestra members should:

- Enter the rehearsal room in a quiet and orderly manner. Get your instrument, music, and all necessary equipment; be seated and ready to play. Leave all your cases, books, etc. in an appropriate storage area, beside or under your chair. Rehearsal will normally begin five minutes after the class starts time. At that time, all students should be in their assigned seats with their instruments ready to play. Anyone not in his or her assigned seat, ready to play at that time will be considered tardy. Should the teacher be called away from rehearsal, students should remain in their seats and talk or practice quietly.
- Demonstrate respect for oneself, others and school property. NEVER trade or use someone else's instrument. **Do not touch any instrument in the classroom that does not belong to you! Students should not play the piano, drums, etc. without the permission from the teacher.**

Each student is responsible to help keep the rehearsal room and equipment in a neat and usable condition. Students should take it upon themselves to help pick up trash, straighten chairs or stands, etc. whenever possible.

- Tune your instrument to the best of your ability before rehearsal begins. The tuner will be playing an "A".
- **Students are expected to participate (contribute positive energy) in each rehearsal and to have the proper instrument, music, and supplies, including a pencil.**
- Students will demonstrate daily musical proficiency on their instrument.
- Students should not poke, hit or "sword-fight" with their bows as they can severely damage the bow or cause serious injury to another student. This is a serious offense and will be dealt with accordingly.
- In order to use the restroom or to leave the classroom for any reason, you must ask the teacher's permission and take the appropriate pass. There will only be one person out of the room at a time and for no more than 3 minutes, unless special permission has been given and a special pass written.
- All other general school rules apply in orchestra class.



INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES

Except for the more expensive instruments (cellos and basses) provided by the school, each student is expected to have their own instrument and supplies. No sharing or trading of instruments will be permitted unless approved by the teacher. Accessories are available either through the teacher or at local music stores.

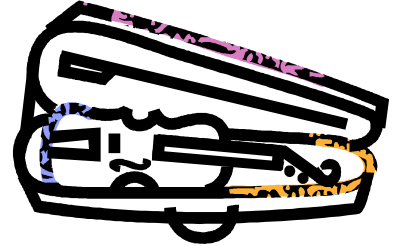
- Each student should have their name **PROMINENTLY** displayed on the outside of their case.
- Instrument storage facilities are provided in the rehearsal room however, neither the teacher nor the school will be responsible for damage or loss of the instrument.
- From time to time, repairs to an instrument may be necessary. The teacher is to be notified **BEFORE** the instrument is taken to the repair shop. Many times the teacher can perform minor repairs at little or no cost.
- Students are always encouraged to buy a better quality instrument. The better the instrument, the easier it is to play and produce a better sound and the more the student enjoys playing. Please feel free to consult me when purchasing a quality instrument.
- **Extra materials in every case should include a pencil, a cleaning rag, rosin, and a shoulder pad for violin and viola players. Cello and bass players need to own their own end-pin stop.**
- *Students using school owned instruments should pay the instrument rental fee at the beginning of the year at the following rates: \$75 for a student using an instrument alone, \$35 for a student sharing an instrument. Make checks payable to Centennial Middle School*

MUSIC

The school will provide the music used by the students. Students in Sixth Grade Orchestra may also continue working in the method book used in fifth grade. Method and Technique Books will be checked out to your student. It will need to be returned at the end of the year, or replaced, depending on its condition.

Folders for music and a pencil will be issued to each student. Students are responsible for the music in their folder and may be required to pay for any missing parts.

Many times students will be asked to make corrections or changes in the music. These corrections or changes **MUST BE MADE IN PENCIL ONLY**.



PRACTICE!!!!!!!

Regular practice on the part of the student is one of the most important ingredients of a quality orchestra program and individual accomplishment. Rehearsal time is primarily for working out problems with the group – not for each player to learn their part. Each student is therefore expected to practice sufficiently to be able to play the music covered in class. Regular practice will lead to high scores in “Daily Musical Proficiency”

Remember: Consistent nightly practice is more beneficial than a lengthy session every two or three nights but any practice is better than no practice at all.



PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Throughout the year students will be involved in public performances (concerts, contests, festivals, etc.) These are the culminating events of our work in class and are very important to students, parents, and the orchestra teacher. **Attendance at these performances is REQUIRED.** Our concert schedule is on the front page of this handbook. If any changes are necessary, you will be notified two weeks in advance. It is recognized that occasionally absences from these performances cannot be avoided. In such cases, the parent should notify the teacher as soon as possible prior to the performance. If the teacher is not notified before the performance the student will be considered to have an unexcused absence from the performance and will receive a lowered grade and/or make-up work. In the event of illness the student will be allowed to excuse the absence after the concert.

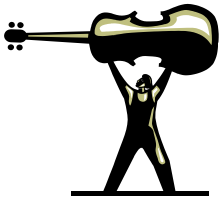
TESTS

In correlation with the **Boulder Valley Music Content Standards**, students will periodically be given worksheets, quizzes and tests on music theory, musical terms, and musical composition as well as playing, skill, and technique tests.

Playing tests may result in stress for students, misunderstandings and hurt feelings. In order to avoid those feelings as much as possible, here are the purposes for playing tests:

- To motivate us to practice and learn our parts through friendly competition.
- To help us learn from our mistakes through positive feedback from each other and the teacher.
- To allow for direct evaluation to determine grades.
- To help me, as your teacher, find ways to improve your playing and help your playing become easier and more fun.

Tests will usually be played in class for the teacher and other orchestra members. In keeping with the middle school philosophy and a collaborative spirit, a seating placement will be assigned which produces the best social environment for music making (minimal talking) and the best musical balance. Your seat in orchestra does not necessarily reflect the strength of your playing skills!



GRADES

Standards Based Education: Our district and this school are working to improve student learning by focusing our work on content standards. These standards, also known as proficiencies, define what students should be able to do in each subject area. These standards are used to plan lessons and assignments or in the case of orchestra, music for concerts and additional worksheets. This particular grading system defines ways for students to know how well they have learned materials. On the attached pages you will find a list of all the music standards. You will also find which assignments will be placed in each category of Summative Assessments, Formative Assessments, and Preparation/Practice, along with percentages given to each.

Our orchestra program at Centennial Middle School has the potential to become better every year through the combined efforts of students, parents, and teachers. I look forward to a great year of making great music at Centennial.

Anne Paulu,
Orchestra Teacher



I, _____ and my parent _____ have
(Student)

Thoroughly read the Centennial Orchestra Handbook and are informed of the concerts, expectations, procedures and requirements of this program.

Signed:

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

(This portion is required to be signed and returned by Sept. 11. It will be reflected on your grade)

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL



ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK