

Westfield High School Orchestras

2014 - 2015

Director: Mr. Greg Rupert 703-488-6434, garupert@fcps.edu

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Interest in and commitment to the program
- Acceptance of all program-related responsibilities, including
 - Preparation of assigned parts for all musical selections in the repertoire
 - Completion of all playing or written assignments as directed
 - Knowledge of scales, rudiments and exercises as assigned
 - Leadership responsibilities where appropriate
- Consistent effort to fulfill all requirements as listed in the grade guidelines
- Attendance at rehearsals and sectionals
- **Perfect attendance at all performances**
- Proper behavior in rehearsal and public settings at all times
- Appreciation and consideration for all music groups at public events
- Respect and consideration for all students, directors and parents associated with the Westfield High School Music Department
- Adherence to all School and County policies regarding behavior and conduct

ATTENDANCE

The emphasis on attendance and punctuality in performance organizations is a reflection of the corporate learning nature of such classes. Additionally, students demonstrate respect for their peers as well as the activity through their punctuality and reliability.

- Students are expected to attend all class rehearsals punctually. Any absences must be excused according to school procedures. Unexcused absences and tardies will result in a lowered quarter grade.
- Students will be given ample advanced notice for any after-school sectionals or rehearsals. Such rehearsals are considered a part of course requirements, and attendance is required.
- **Attendance at all performances is required.** An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a lowered quarter grade and may result in loss of membership in the performance organization.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Westfield High School Orchestras will present four concerts annually (see attached schedule.) All Orchestras will participate in the District XI Orchestra Assessment in March. Additional performances may be required of Chamber Orchestra members.
- All students are strongly encouraged to pursue private instruction on their instrument.
- All students are encouraged to audition for Senior District Orchestra Auditions, Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions and of course the corresponding event should you be accepted, and/or Solo and Ensemble Festival. Chamber Orchestra members are **REQUIRED** to participate in at least one of these events.
- Orchestras with adequate instrumentation will have the opportunity to participate in Spring travel and/or competitive events.

Westfield High School Orchestras

Grade Guidelines

Many factors contribute to the success of a superior orchestra program. The director of the Westfield Orchestras considers individual performance and group relationships to be the most important criteria for student evaluation.

Students' playing experience, musical background, opportunity for private lessons and good equipment vary too widely to allow performing ability to be the main factor in determining a grade. Working in daily rehearsals, preparation at home, working effectively with other group members, and observing good rehearsal procedures are qualities that every member can achieve in order to insure a high grade. Students will be evaluated on their individual progress based on the relationship of their ability to their performance, their ability to work effectively and cooperatively in group settings, and their observance of proper rehearsal procedures. Students are not graded solely on how well they play or on how high they sit in their section. Periodic evaluation of individual performance and other written material may be required. Students are expected to be thoroughly prepared for class at all times. Students will receive a letter grade for classroom work on a regular basis.

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS TO BE EVALUATED

I. QUALITY OF WORK IN DAILY REHEARSALS

- Individual performances of all parts including:
notes rhythms articulations dynamics tone quality
- Ensemble performance of parts including:
balance blend intonation musicality ensemble skills

II. QUALITY OF HOME PRACTICE EVIDENT IN DAILY REHEARSALS

It is recommended that students spend a minimum of 30 minutes a day practicing at home, or the amount of time necessary to accomplish the performance requirements of their particular ensemble. This home practice must be evident in daily rehearsals. Students are encouraged to study privately to maximize individual potential.

III. RELATIONSHIP OF ABILITY TO PERFORMANCE

- Students are expected to work to the best of their ability in each daily rehearsal.
- Students are encouraged to ask for extra help from an instructor or section leader when needed.
- Help is always available and students should take advantage of this opportunity.

IV. GROUP RELATIONSHIP

Students are expected to work effectively with the director and with classmates. This includes:

- Individual responsibility to the ensemble and the total program
- **Perfect performance attendance; punctuality to class and performance.**
- **Perfect class attendance unless legally excused; perfect attendance at all extra rehearsals.**
- 3 UNEXCUSED TARDIES = 1 UNEXCUSED ABSENCE
 - Note: **Unexcused absence** from a **performance** = grade being lowered by one letter grade.
 - Excuses must be in writing and **approved prior to the performance.**

V. REHEARSAL PROCEDURE

- Students are expected to be attentive and cooperative in daily rehearsals. Students should have the correct music and have equipment in proper playing condition at all times.
- Proper posture and playing position should be strictly observed. Concentration level should be extremely high while playing and talking should occur only at the appropriate times.
- Musical instructions should be clearly understood and implemented immediately. Students are expected to mark parts when necessary and treat all music and equipment with respect.

DELINEATED GRADING SCALE

A

- Demonstrates superior work in daily rehearsals
 - Shows evidence in class of regular, thorough home practice
 - Works always to the best ability in daily rehearsals
 - Is able to work effectively with teacher and classmates – can function as a leader if needed
 - Has correct music, equipment at all times – is always on time and attentive
-

B

- Demonstrates above average work in daily rehearsals
 - Shows evidence in class of regular home practice
 - Works to the best of ability in most daily rehearsals
 - Is able to work effectively with teacher and classmates – can work in dependently
 - Has correct music, equipment regularly – is on time and attentive
-

C

- Demonstrates average work in daily rehearsals
 - Shows evidence in class of adequate, but irregular home practice
 - Works below ability during many daily rehearsals
 - Experiences a little difficulty working with teacher or classmates
 - Is without proper equipment or music at times – is occasionally late or inattentive
-

D

- Demonstrates below average work in daily rehearsals
 - Shows little evidence in class of home practice
 - Works below ability in most daily rehearsals
 - Experiences much difficulty working with teacher or classmates – needs supervision often
 - Is frequently without proper equipment or music – is frequently late or inattentive
-

F

- Demonstrates poor work in daily rehearsals
 - Shows no evidence in class of home practice
 - Works below ability – shows no effort
 - Is unable to work with teacher or classmates – is unable to work independently – constantly requires close supervision
 - Is regularly without proper equipment or music – is regularly late, inattentive or disruptive
-

Averaging for weekly, nine-week, semester, or final grades will follow the guidelines below:

A (93-100) = 4.0

A- (90-92) = 3.7

B+ (87-89) = 3.3

B (83-86) = 3.0

B- (80-82) = 2.7

C+ (77-79) = 2.3

C (73-76) = 2.0

C- (70-72) = 1.7

D+ (67-69) = 1.3

D (64-66) = 1.0

F (below 64) = 0.0

Grading

Daily Grade: will be comprised of 5 points in each of the following categories:

1. **QUALITY OF WORK IN DAILY REHEARSALS:**
 - Are you contributing musically to your ensemble by playing the correct notes, rhythms, articulations (bowings), and dynamics with good tone, balance, blend, intonation and musicality?
2. **QUALITY OF HOME PRACTICE EVIDENT IN DAILY REHEARSALS:**
 - Is it obvious that you have practiced at home to prepare your school part?
 - If necessary, practice records will be employed to insure that you are doing the necessary work in this area.
3. **EFFORT:**
 - Are you working to the very best of your ability at all times, every day?
4. **REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE:**
 - Are you quiet and attentive in class? (Including NO talking or homework in class unless it is appropriate.)
 - Do you cease playing when the conductor stops?
 - Do you make necessary marks in music as directed by conductor or section leader?
5. **PUNCTUALITY/PREPAREDNESS:**
 - Are you ON TIME to class and in your seat ready to play 3 minutes after the bell rings?
 - Are you prepared with instrument, bow, music and PENCIL?

Assessments: Individual and Group assessments will be given on a weekly or bi-weekly basis as the calendar allows, and will measure students' progress in the various units of study.

Performances: Attendance at performances is MANDATORY for all students. Concerts will serve as the culminating activity for all of the units of study in the orchestra classes.

Westfield High School Orchestra Grading Percentages

1st Quarter:

Daily Grade	50%
Assessments	25%
Fall Concert	25%

3rd Quarter:

Daily Grade	50%
Assessments	20%
Pre-Festival Concert	15%
Festival Performance	15%

2nd Quarter:

Daily Grade	50%
Assessments	25%
Winter Concert	25%

4th Quarter:

Daily Grade	50%
Assessments	15%
Spring Concert	20%
Final Exam	15%

Honor Code Policy

Members of the Westfield High School community are committed to demonstrating Personal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Ethics (PRIDE) in all activities and programs. As a teacher, I am committed to supporting honest, individual student achievement; therefore, I will uphold and enforce the policies and procedures outlined in the Westfield Honor Code. I expect students and parents/guardians to be familiar with the code and to adhere to its guidelines at all times.

*Please take a moment to review the Westfield Honor Code at **Honor Code Policy***

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Please take a moment to review the Westfield Honor Code at

http://www.fcps.edu/WestfieldHS/about_whs/honorcode.pdf

Student's Name: _____

Class (Beginning, Freshman, Concert, or Chamber Orchestra) _____

Total Amount Due \$ 65.00

REQUIRED FEES

Totals

I. Orchestra Uniform Rental Fee (required)

\$ 60.00

Includes dress for women and tux jacket, pants, and bowtie for men.

NOTE: All white tuxedo shirts as shown in this picture are REQUIRED. They should be purchased individually from any local formalwear shop NO LATER THAN October 1.

Please place an X next to the appropriate response:

_____ I will purchase this shirt by the October 1 deadline.

_____ I already own an all-white tuxedo shirt like the one pictured.



II. Orchestra Activity Fee (required)

\$ 5.00

III. Orchestra Polo Shirt (required if you do NOT already have one)

These shirts are 100% cotton pique collared shirts, light gray, full cut with an extended tail, and the school crest and orchestra designation embroidered on the front. ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR AN ORCHESTRA SHIRT TO PARTICIPATE IN TAG DAY and other orchestra events as determined by the director.

Students and Adults (All shirts are adult sizes)

Please indicate (with a numerical value) how many of each size:

S	
M	
L	
XL	
XXL	

Total # S, M, L, XL Shirts	0 X \$32 =	\$ -
Total # XXL Shirts	0 X \$35 =	\$ -

\$