

James W. Robinson High School Orchestras

Directors:

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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 and participation 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 Robinson High School Music Department
- Adherence to all School and County policies regarding behavior and conduct
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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

- Robinson High School Orchestras will present six concerts annually (see attached schedule.) Philharmonic, Concert Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Sinfonia will participate in the District XI Orchestra Assessment in March. Additional performances may be required of Philharmonic and Concert Orchestra members.
- All students are **strongly** encouraged to pursue private instruction on their instrument.
- All students are encouraged to audition for Senior Regional Orchestra (audition in late September/early October) or Senior District Orchestra (audition in November) and of course attend the corresponding event should you be accepted, and/or perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival (in April.) Philharmonic and Concert Orchestra members are **EXPECTED** 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.

Robinson Orchestras Grade Guidelines

Many factors contribute to the success of a superior orchestra program. The directors of the Robinson Orchestras consider 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 two letter grades.
 - 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.

Grading

Daily Participation Grade: will be comprised of 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, homework or phones 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 2 minutes after the bell rings?
 - Are you prepared with instrument, bow, shoulder rest, music and PENCIL?

Assessments: Individual and Group assessments, both formative and summative will be given often 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.

Robinson High School Orchestra Grading Percentages

1st Quarter:

Participation	45%
Assessments	30%
Fall Concert	25%

2nd Quarter:

Participation	45%
Assessments	30%
Winter Concert	25%

3rd Quarter:

Participation	30%
Assessments	30%
Pre-Assessment Concert	20%
Assessment Performance	20%

4th Quarter:

Participation	45%
Assessments	30%
Spring Concert	25%

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

A	3.8-4.0	93-100
A-	3.4-3.7	90-92
B+	3.1-3.3	87-89
B	2.8-3.0	83-86
B-	2.4-2.7	80-82
C+	2.1-2.3	77-79
C	1.8-2.0	73-76
C-	1.4-1.7	70-72
D+	1.1-1.3	67-69
D	0.8-1.0	64-66
F	0.0-0.7	Below 64

RECOMMENDED ORCHESTRA EQUIPMENT:

- **A name label or luggage tag for the instrument case (you will be given one)**
- **A small metronome/tuner**
- **A folding music stand for home practice**
- **Violinists/violists: a Kun shoulder rest**
- **Cellists/bassists: a rock stop**
- **Rosin**
- **One set of extra strings for your instrument**

INSTRUMENT RENTAL:

Cellos and basses are available for rent through the school. The annual fees vary depending on the instrument and the circumstances for the rental. Contracts will be issued through the directors during the first weeks of school.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE:

Orchestra lockers are available to students to store their instruments during the day and at night when not taken home. Students must keep lockers locked at all times when not in the Orchestra room.

Students are responsible for having their instrument cases clearly labeled with their name, placed in the correct locker/location, and case completely closed and latched. It is the student's responsibility to respect not only their own instrument but also other's instruments.

Program Fee:

A **\$50.00** program fee covers the cost of workbooks, orchestra T-shirts, uniform rental/cleaning/maintenance and other items that directly support student learning (considered "consumable" fees) in the orchestra program. Appropriate fees will be assessed for any lost or damaged uniform parts.

Please deliver the payment to Mrs. Rupert, with student's name on check written to **Robinson Secondary School**. This fee does NOT cover instrument rental.

UNIFORMS:

All orchestra students wear RBOPO-provided uniforms during performances. Uniforms will be fitted and distributed prior to our first performance, and kept at home for the duration of the school year. Care and cleaning guidelines will be provided in the uniform bag. Students are responsible for providing their own black socks/stockings and black dress shoes.

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION:

Please be aware that all students are enrolled in a course for orchestra on the Blackboard 24-7 site. Consult this course for concert dates and information, as well as class assignments and assessment information. It is also recommended that you visit and bookmark www.charmsoffice.com and the Robinson Orchestra web-page at www.robinsonorchestra.org, for more information.

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Francesca Fitzgerald, assistant director: ffitzgerald@fcps.edu, 703.426-2188

Welcome Back to Orchestra! We are excited to start a new musical year with you!

Basic Expectations and Guidelines:

1. Perfect attendance at all rehearsals and performances
2. Appropriate behavior towards self and others, including students, teachers, parents, and visitors, at all times.
3. Preparation and completion of music and all assignments.

Supplies needed: All students need to have an instrument in good working condition at home to practice each day. Violinists and violists should own or rent an instrument. Some students rent a 2nd instrument to leave at school, others carry the one instrument back and forth daily to class. You will also need rosin, a few extra strings, and a shoulder rest (KUN brand is best- not a foam sponge). Cellos and basses will rent an instrument at school for rehearsals. You are expected to also have an instrument for home practice. Cellos and basses will also need to purchase rosin and a rock stop.

Instrument Rental: At this point, all instruments have been assigned. We are waiting on a small number of contracts and checks to be returned (\$46 for cellists/bass players who own their own instrument or \$92 for bass players who are using a school bass at home.)

Instrument Lockers: Have been assigned. All students are expected to lock their instruments at all times in the classroom/storage room when not being used. We are not responsible for lost/damaged instruments.

CHARMS: Please go to www.charmsoffice.com to update your information in CHARMS with the Robinson Band and Orchestra Parent Organization (RBOPO). Enter at student portal, school code =rsshband, password=1st letter first name, 1st letter last name, last 4 digits FCPS ID#: i.e. Robbie Ram 1234567 = RR4567. The CHARMS system will be used for communication and grading this year again.

Program Fee: All students are assessed a \$50 program fee to cover consumable fees associated with the Robinson Orchestra program to include T shirt, incidentals, theory book and uniform expenses and more. Please return this fee to Mrs. Rupert immediately with a check written to Robinson Secondary School. (The fee is past due at this point.)

Private Lessons: All students are encouraged to take private lessons on his/her instrument. There just isn't a better way to advance than having a professional specialist on that instrument whose only focus is on your child for that period of time. I can be helpful in referring teachers to you when you decide to do this!

Grading: Factors that will be considered when calculating your grade will be: Participation/Daily Class Grade (Do you have your equipment? Are you on time? Have you prepared the necessary assignments? Are you using proper rehearsal etiquette?), Assessments – individual and group, Evening Rehearsals (Philharmonic Orchestra only) and **Concert Participation** (see schedule on reverse.)

<u>1st Quarter:</u>	45% Daily Grade, 30% Assessments, 25% Concert
<u>2nd Quarter:</u>	45% Daily Grade, 30% Assessments, 25% Concert
<u>3rd Quarter:</u>	30% Daily Grade, 30% Assessments, 20% Pre-assessment Concert, 20% District Orchestra Assessment Performance
<u>4th Quarter:</u>	45% Daily Grade, 30% Assessments, 25% Concert

Spring Trip: We will travel to TBA for a competitive performance this year in mid-April. It is my hope that all students will participate in this trip. We will provide them with fundraising opportunities in the very near future – profits from these fundraisers will help to defray the initial cost of the trip. We are a team, working each day towards becoming a more cohesive ensemble. This trip is one of our high points in the year.

Robinson High School Orchestra Calendar 2014-2015

September 29, 2014 (Monday)	Senior Regional Orchestra auditions @McLeanHS
October 7,14,21,28 & 11/4 (Tuesdays)	Major Works rehearsals (collaboration w/ choir, select members of Philharmonic only)
October 1, 2014 (Wednesday)	Philharmonic Wind/Brass/Percussion auditions @ Robinson
October 21, 2014 (Tuesday)	HS Orchestra Fall Concert (all HS)
November 5, 2014 (Wednesday)	First Philharmonic rehearsal (see separate calendar for RPO)
November 13-15, 2014 (Thurs-Sat)	Senior Regional Orchestra Event @ Herndon HS
November 24, 2014 (Monday)	Senior District Orchestra auditions @ Irving MS
December 10, 2014 (Wednesday)	Gold day classes Winter Concert
December 11, 2014 (Thursday)	Blue Day classes Winter Concert
January 16-17, 2015 (Fri-Sat)	Senior District Orchestra Event @ GMU
February 28, 2015	All Virginia Orchestra auditions @ JMU
March 10, 2015 (Tuesday)	HS Pre-Assessment performance (all HS)
March 19-21, 2015 (Thurs-Sat)	District XI Orchestra Assessment Performances (specific ensemble times TBA)@ Centreville HS (all)
April 9-11, 2015 (Thurs-Sat)	All Virginia Orchestra Event @CNU
April 15-19, 2015 (Wed-Sun)	Orchestra Spring Trip – location TBA
April 17, 2015 (Friday)	Solo and Ensemble Festival @ Frost MS
May 20, 2015 (Wednesday)	High School Orchestra Spring Concert (all HS)
June 3, 2015 (Wednesday)	High School Orchestra Banquet

***calendar items in bold are required performances for the designated ensembles:**
Blue Day = MS String Ensemble, Sinfonia, Chamber Orchestra, HS Concert Orchestra
Gold Day = Primo Orchestra, MS Concert Orchestra, MS Sinfonietta, Philharmonic

*Robinson is on the District Rotation to host MS Orchestra Assessment on March 13-14 this year. Lots of parent volunteers will be needed to run this event. Please be on the lookout for the list of specific duties available for sign-up in CHARMS. Thank you in advance for volunteering!