



# W.T.Woodson High School Orchestra Boosters

## *A Note from the President:*

Welcome to the 2014-2015 W.T. Woodson High School Orchestra. You and your family are now a part of a long-standing tradition of musical excellence in a very successful program. We are very excited to have Kathy Thompson as our new Director. Many of the students will remember her from their time at Frost Middle School - and with them the Boosters are very excited about her plans for the upcoming year.

The Boosters support the program mainly through volunteer time to assist the orchestra and director prepare for and perform at concerts and competitions in the local area, and by raising funds for special needs and events, including contributing toward the cost of the annual trip. Membership consists of all the parents/guardians of students in the orchestra. Volunteers are always needed to assist at concerts, on trips, and help with organizing and staffing events (such as the car-wash fund raiser).

This year we are implementing Charms, a web-based tool that will better connect families to the orchestra, greatly improving communication and information flow. Through Charms you will be able to receive better updates on concert information, trip planning and details, etc. Mrs. Thompson will share more information on Charms when we are ready to "go live".

Again, on behalf of the Boosters, welcome! We look forward to working with you to make this year a rousing success!

Sincerely,

*Kathy Harris*

To volunteer please feel free to contact any of the members of the executive committee:

Kathy Harris      President      Kathy.Harris@fcc.gov

John Ruby      Treasurer      jlruby1@gmail.com

Eileen Gott      eileengott240@gmail.com

Amy Oleinick      littoamy1967@gmail.com

# *W.J. Woodson Orchestra Syllabus 2014-2015*

Kathy Thompson, Director

[KLThompson@fcps.edu](mailto:KLThompson@fcps.edu)

Office: E156C

Phone: 703.503.4725

## **ORCHESTRA CONCERTS (mandatory for all)**

12/18	Orchestra Winter Concert 7:00pm
3/12	Orchestra Pre-Assessment Concert 7:00pm
3/20-3/21	District Orchestra Assessment @ Centreville H.S. TBD
6/10	Orchestra Spring Concert 7:00pm

Mark your calendars now! A more comprehensive calendar with additional mandatory events and after-school rehearsals will be provided separately.

## **CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

1. Students must be in the classroom WHEN THE TARDY BELL SOUNDS. Each student is to set up his/her instrument, be seated, warmed-up, and ready to play by 3 minutes after the tardy bell.
2. Always speak to and treat your peers and the director with respect.
3. Woodson Orchestra is a safe place! Mrs. Thompson has a *zero tolerance* policy for bullying, discrimination and/or harassment based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.
4. No food, gum, or drinks are permitted in the classroom. Only water is allowed.
5. Students are to play only their own instruments! Do not "try out" other students' instruments. If you break it, you buy it.
6. Cell phones and other devices are off and put away during class or after-school rehearsals, except for authorized purposes (tuner/metronome).
7. Students are expected to keep their fingernails short. NO EXCEPTIONS! Long fingernails interfere with curving the fingers correctly to produce a quality sound.

## **GRADING POLICY**

### **Co-curricular Attendance**

The FCPS course description includes the following statement: *Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course.*

All orchestra students are expected to participate in after-school rehearsals and performances. We depend on every member of the group for our success. The mandatory rehearsals provide additional instructional time in preparation for performances, and often include sectional time to focus on instrument-specific concerns. After-school rehearsals are scheduled only when necessary, and a detailed calendar that notates the rehearsal schedule is released well in advance of the rehearsal.

**Excused** absences are accepted for the following reasons only:

1. Student illness
2. Family emergency
3. Pre-arranged absence at the discretion of the director

In order to earn a grade for an excused *rehearsal*, student must rehearse in the orchestra room within 1 week of his/her return to school. An additional assignment may be given.

Performances are one-time events and cannot be “made-up”. However, a student will have one week upon returning to school to earn a grade for an excused performance. The student must perform his/her concert music for the director (in person or video recording); it will be reviewed and graded at the discretion of the instructor. An additional assignment will be given.

**It is the responsibility of the student to make-up the grade. The instructor *will not* "hunt you down".** After 1 week, the grade becomes a zero. An unexcused concert absence will result in ineligibility for the orchestra spring trip.

Please schedule medical appointments for times other than after-school rehearsals or performances. Homework, sports practice, employment, or lack of transportation will not be excused absences. Teachers, coaches, and supervisors understand that orchestra is a class and these events are part of your academic requirements. They will work with you to ensure your success, IF you give them adequate notification. If you encounter problems, I will be happy to contact the appropriate individual in advance. Do not wait until the last minute.

### **Quarter grade computation**

**Participation (50%):** Daily grade, preparedness, rehearsal etiquette, after school rehearsals  
You are expected to participate in class every day without exception. This means you must bring your instrument, music, pencil, and a willing attitude to class every day. You are awarded 10 points every class. Grades are based on participation and for following the criteria below.

The daily grade (10 points) will be based on the following categories:

- Prepared with instrument and equipment, music, and pencil every class.
- Punctuality and readiness to play when the bells rings.
- Understanding of the concept that music, to be properly performed, evaluated or rehearsed, must be rendered in an atmosphere of silence.
- Attention to the conductor and an attitude of cooperation.
- Alertness and readiness for the downbeat, including proper posture and hand position for the instrument.
- Full participation in class.

Points will be deducted for:

- Tardiness - 3 points
  - Talking / Chewing Gum / Disruptive Behavior – 2+ points
  - Lack of attention and/or poor posture - 2 points
  - No instrument - 8 points
  - No music - 4 points
  - No pencil and/or proper equipment - 3 points
  - Using someone else’s instrument without permission – 10 points and disciplinary action
- Unexcused absences cannot be made up, and will result in a zero for the day missed.

**Performance (40%):** Playing quizzes, tests and performances

- Scales
- Assigned exercises
- Rehearsal preparedness
- Seating auditions
- Sight-reading
- Playing quizzes & tests
- Concerts

**Class / Homework (10%):** Written exercises, assignments, practice logs, etc.

- Homework assignments
- Class worksheets
- Music theory papers
- Practice logs, if assigned

The FCPS Grading Scale will be used.

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	64-66
B-	80-82	F	Below 64
C+	77-79		

**Example of Quarter Grade Calculation:**

	Possible Points (A)	Points Earned(B)	Average (B)/(A)	Weighting	Average x Weighting
Participation	300	250	.83	50%	.415
Performance	200	180	.90	40%	.36
Class/Homework	50	50	1.00	10%	.10
<b>Total Of</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>X Weight</b>	<b>Column</b>		<b>.875</b>

Quarter Grade .875 = 87.5% = B+

**Example of Final Grade Calculation:**

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr (20%): 89 = B+      2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr (20%): 93 = A      Midterm (10%): 100 = A

3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr (20%): 95 = A      4<sup>th</sup> Qtr (20%): 96 = A      Final (10%): 95 = A

**Total % for the year: 17.8 + 18.6 + 10 + 19 + 19.2 + 9.5 = 94.1% A**

**LEARNING SEMINARS / CAV TIME (3<sup>rd</sup> Period)**

**Learning Seminars (9:05 – 9:46)** are intended to provide opportunities for clarification, intervention and review. Teachers will not be presenting new material at this time.

**Cav Time (9:51 – 10:32)** is intended for students to study, complete homework and or receive additional support from teachers. Students may obtain flip flop passes in advance to meet with a different teacher; however, students may not flip into PE.

*Orchestra learning seminars* will include a variety of music activities to review/enrich students' orchestra experience: individual practice, sectionals, group ensemble work, review performances, or makeup quizzes/tests.

**HONOR CODE AND HONOR COUNCIL**

Woodson High School strives to produce students who act, at all times, in a manner that demonstrates honor and integrity. Any suspected incidents of cheating, plagiarism, or fraud will be referred to the Honor Council. Students found in violation will be subject to the consequences as outlined in the Honor Code. For more information, please refer to the Honor Code and Honor Council Procedures

at: [http://www.fcps.edu/woodsonhs/academics/ai\\_honorcode.html](http://www.fcps.edu/woodsonhs/academics/ai_honorcode.html)

**After-School Assistance – Wednesdays, 2:15-3:30**

Feel free to make arrangements with Mrs. Thompson if you need extra assistance.

**Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!**

**W.T. Woodson Orchestra**  
**Concert Uniform & Activity fee**  
**2014-15**

DUE NLT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2014

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Orchestra Period \_\_\_\_\_

	Rental or Purchase	Item		Order?	Size	Unit Price	Total
Men	Rental only	Tuxedo Pants	Black	Y/N		28.00	
Men	Purchase	Tuxedo Shirt	White	Y/N		20.00	
Men	Purchase	Cummerbund	Black	Y/N		8.00	
Men	Purchase	Bow Tie	Black	Y/N		4.00	
Women	Purchase	Palazzo Pants	Black	Y/N		30.00	
Women	Purchase	Glitter Blouse	Black	Y/N		36.00	
						Subtotal	
(Consumable Items— pd. each year)						MUSIC ACTIVITY FEE	<b>30.00</b>
						<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, SIGN AND RETURN TO THE ORCHESTRA DEPARTMENT **NLT OCTOBER 3, 2014** WITH A CHECK MADE OUT TO "WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL". ALL students return this form.

1. No student will be permitted to perform without the proper assigned uniform. Concerts are graded performances.
2. Each student is responsible to provide their own black socks/hose and plain black shoes. No sandals or tennis shoes are allowed.
3. All rental uniforms (tux pants) must be professionally dry cleaned at the end of the year and returned to the Orchestra Department. Proof of dry cleaning must be attached to the pants with your student's name.
4. You will be responsible for replacement of the uniform if lost or damaged.
5. All students are required to wear a pair of Khaki pants (not capris) for any casual concert or event. They will be worn with polo shirts.

I have read and understand the guidelines regarding orchestra uniforms. The Orchestra Department is authorized to purchase the items listed above; check payment is attached.

Parent Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# W.T. WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

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Phone 703-503-4725  
E-mail address: [KLThompson@fcps.edu](mailto:KLThompson@fcps.edu)

Kathy Thompson, Director  
9525 Main St., Fairfax, VA 22031

September 2, 2014

Dear Woodson **Cello & Bass** students & families:

We are fortunate here at Woodson HS that we have cellos & basses available for use during class – you are not required to bring your instrument to school for class!

This rental fee covers FCPS maintenance and repairs due to normal use. Please understand that you must take proper care of the instrument throughout the year. Any repair cost for damages resulting from student misuse or carelessness will be the student's responsibility.

Please complete and sign the Instrument Rental contract and submit it with a check made out to "**Woodson High School**" for the amount specified **NLT Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. Students will be assigned an instrument when the form and check have been turned in.

The annual fee for rental of a shared instrument is **\$46**. For students on **free/reduced lunch** the fee is **\$20**. Please refer to the excerpt from FCPS notice 5922 below. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at [KLThompson@fcps.edu](mailto:KLThompson@fcps.edu) or 703.503.4725.

Thank you,

Kathy Thompson  
Orchestra Director  
W.T. Woodson HS

FCPS Notice 5922, FINANCE  
Student Fees

### III. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT FEES

#### Category A

All instruments belonging to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and not included elsewhere in this notice.

High and Middle School: \$46 per semester

Shared Instrument: half price

#### Category D Free/reduced lunch

A fee of \$20 will be charged for instruments assigned to students. This fee is charged for both full- and partial-year rentals.