

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS 2014-15

West Springfield Orchestras

Mrs. Jennifer Herrera, Director of Orchestras

Welcome to a new and exciting year of orchestra. I'm looking forward to reuniting with you and I welcome all new members to the WSHS Orchestra. In addition to learning technical and creative aspects of music, the goal of every class is to work as a TEAM. I can always be reached with any questions or concerns, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

Class Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of each student's responsibility to the group and themselves
- Students will develop instrumental playing skills and techniques and gain an understanding of musical concepts while working for continuous development of proficiency levels.
- To develop advanced technical instruction with emphasis on musical styles and a variety of music literature
- To develop an understanding and appreciation for strings
- Students will perform concerts using the skills learned

PROCEDURES

1. Be on time, in your seat, with music and instruments, ready to perform when the bell rings. Tardiness will not be tolerated and the WSHS tardy policies will be enforced.
2. Food, drinks, candy or gum are not allowed in the class room, storage rooms, or practice rooms at any time. You may have water in rehearsal.
3. When entering the room, check the board and TV screen for setup or rehearsal instructions and prepare the room accordingly. If there are no instructions displayed, students are to sit in their normal sections and await further direction.
4. Do not expect to do work from other classes during orchestra class. Your non-orchestra related materials will be collected and returned at the end of the week.
5. Students must not play any instrument other than their own. Do not play with the string, wind or percussion instruments that are stored in the rehearsal area.

FACILITIES

1. The instrument storage area is to be kept clean and in order. Instruments are to be stored in the designated lockers. If a student fails to keep his or her instrument in the appropriate area, or keep their locker properly secured, that student will lose their storage privileges. School combination locks will be provided for lockers. Students' personal items should not be stored in the class room at any time. Personal items may only be stored in instrument lockers during rehearsals.
2. The classroom will be set up by each class for its own use. The room must be cleared for cleaning at the end of each day. All chairs and stands must be stacked and racked.
3. Students are to use instruments and equipment properly and treat the facilities and music with respect. Any damage resulting from improper use or negligence will become the financial responsibility of the student. School owned instruments checked out for individual use will require a music instrument rental contract and applicable rental fee.

EQUIPMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students must bring pencil, any assigned method books/music planner, and agenda
2. Students need to provide their own instrument except for the basses and cellos.
3. All cello & bass players should own a rock stop and use it each time he/she plays on a non-carpeted surface.
4. It is the responsibility of each student to make sure that their instrument is in proper working order. Method books may be issued for both classroom and at home practice. Books will be assigned by number as a textbook. These method books should be treated as textbooks, and the appropriate care should be taken to keep them in good condition. Replacement of lost or damaged books will be the responsibility of the student.
4. All sheet music issued is not to be defaced in any way. Any notes made should be in pencil and erased before the music is turned in. Lost or damaged music will become the financial responsibility of the student.
5. Each day a student does not have the equipment or materials necessary to participate in class or rehearsal will not receive a participation credit
6. Fundraisers are available for all students of the Orchestra Program to help defray the cost of these fees and any others that may arise (spring trip, etc.).

UNIFORMS

The purpose of the uniform is to create a consistent appearance within the orchestra and ensures that all students are dressed appropriately dressed for all performances. A complete concert uniform, as described below, is required to participate in the performance. We will be ordering the dresses and tuxedos from our vendor after all students are measured or fit for the appropriate outfit.

Returning members need to make sure that their uniform still fits. Do this immediately, so all orders can be placed at once

Replacement uniforms will not be available on the day of the concert

- Female students are required to purchase the black concert dress. The cost of the dress is \$67.00(includes shipping). Ladies will also wear appropriate stockings and black dress shoes for performances.
- Male students are required to purchase a black tuxedo, a white wing-tip tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, and black cummerbund. The gentlemen must provide their own black socks and dress shoes. The cost of the tuxedo "outfit" (all items except shoes and socks) is \$93.00.

There may be some dresses and tuxedos that are available at a reduced price, on a first come, first served basis. Email Mrs. Herrera if you are interested in any available uniforms.

ACTIVITY FEE:

ALL students in any string class must submit the Orchestra Activity Fee of \$40 per year. Students who are on free and reduced lunch may pay 20.00. This is a course materials fee to help offset the cost of maintaining a successful orchestra program with class T-shirt, music, special music purchases, orchestra accessories, and other operating costs. This fee is payable to **West Springfield High School and is due by 9/26/14**

If you have any questions or concerns about the activity fee please contact Mrs. Herrera at JLHerrera@fcps.edu, 703-913-3908

INSTRUMENTS

The school instruments are designed for those students that have difficulty transporting an instrument to school (e.g. cello & bass) and for those students on free or reduced lunches. If students are using two different instruments they **MUST** be the same size because playing on two different-sized instruments requires constant adjustment and can impede technique. Instruments for cello and basses will be rented to you for a nominal fee (see schedule below). Students will be **REQUIRED**, however, to have an instrument at home for daily practicing.

All students should have an instrument & other required materials by **Monday, September 8th**.

School instrument rental contracts will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. If an instrument is damaged the school cannot guarantee that it will be fixed in a timely fashion. If a student causes damage to the instrument that requires long-term repair, students must provide his/her own instrument for the rest of the year. If Ms. Herrera feels that a student is being abusive to an instrument, the privilege to use it will be revoked. We do not have the funds to replace these instruments once they are destroyed, so please treat them with care. Students will be expected to clean off their instruments after each use as well as loosen the bows before storing them in the case. If a student neglects to do this chronically, the use of that instrument will be suspended.

All contracts and fees should be returned no later than **Friday, September 15th**. **All fees are good for the entire school year**. The figures quoted below were issued from the FCPS music central office on August 29, 2012.

Please make all instrument rental checks payable to WSHS, West Springfield HS

CELLO & BASS - \$46 yearly (in school use only)
VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO & BASS - \$92 yearly (take home)
STUDENTS ON FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH - \$20 Yearly

ENSEMBLES

1. Participation in performances is required. Participation at all concerts and rehearsals outside of school hours is required. Orchestra is a performance class. Each concert is considered a playing exam. If a student fails to participate in a concert, a make-up exam will be assigned at the director's discretion.
2. Music will be distributed for all performing ensembles. When possible you will receive a practice copy. It is the responsibility of each student to keep and care for all original pieces of music. Any writing on original music should be done in pencil, as the instructions may change. Permanent markings must not be made on original music because some of the music used at West Springfield is out of print and cannot be replaced.

PERFORMANCES

Performance is the ultimate goal of the orchestra. Therefore, attendance is **required** at every performance. A student's absence from a performance without a **prior** note will be considered unexcused.

In order for a prearranged absence to be considered excused, a written **note** must be received by Ms.Herrera **three weeks prior to the concert**. If student illness is the reason for the absence, an **e-mail** (JLHerrera@fcps.edu) **note, or phone message (703-913-3908)** must be received by Ms. Herrera the day of the concert.

REHEARSALS

1. As stated above, orchestra is a performance class and students are required to participate in all rehearsals and performances held outside of normal school hours.
2. Proper rehearsal etiquette requires self-discipline and maturity. Students are not to talk during the rehearsal, especially while instruction is being given from the podium.
3. Rehearsals will begin at the scheduled times. Students are to arrive early enough to set up their music and equipment so they are ready to begin at the scheduled time.

SECTION LEADERS

Seating will reflect ability, experience, musical maturity, and progress over time. **Section leaders** will be chosen for their strong playing ability and ability to sight read. A section leader must exhibit the ability to ask questions, receive answers, and communicate these answers fully to his or her section. A section leader must exhibit the ability to help his or her section without undue criticism or rudeness. A section leader must have an impeccable record of attendance and preparation for class. This means always coming to class with all appropriate materials.

GRADING

Grading is done on a total points system. Points will be assigned in the following categories:

Daily Participation	Performance	Nonperformance based Project
Participation		Written Tests
Rehearsal Participation		Homework/Class work
Playing Quizzes		Weekly/Bi-weekly assessments

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will consist of one of the following: a written exam based on music theory, music history, and music literature performed during the school year. The final grade is the average of the four quarter grades and the final exam.

SOME ENCOURAGEMENTS: the following information can be found on blackboard

All students are encouraged to:

- Study with a private teacher who specializes in teaching your instrument. Ms.Herrera can help with your search
- Participate in a youth symphony orchestra. (American Youth Philharmonic, Levine School Orchestra, McLean Youth Orchestra, Youth Orchestras of Fairfax, and Youth Orchestras of Prince William, etc.) See Ms.Herrera for more information.
- Audition for the Senior Regional Orchestra (SRO) - grades 9-12 and (**new this year!**) the Senior District Orchestra (SDO) - grades 9-12. You may audition for SRO in October. If you are not accepted, then you may audition for SDO in November. If you are accepted into the SRO then you may not audition for the SDO. Information about these auditions in late spring and then again in September. Please remember that you will be eligible to audition for All Virginia Orchestra only if you have been selected for and performed with the SRO (not SDO).
- Perform in the District Solo and Ensemble Performance Assessment in April. Information about this event will be giving in early January.

CLASS INFO: All materials (music, study guides and assignments) and all documents for ALL orchestra classes can be found and printed off from the FCPS Blackboard Site

BOOSTER INFO: Communication from boosters will come from our VP, Wendy [REDACTED] and you can also get updates from our website: www.wshsorchestrs.org

CONTACT: Please feel free to contact Mrs. Herrera with any questions or concerns throughout the school year.

Email: J LHerrera@fcps.edu
Office phone: 703-913-3908

NOTE: Ms. Herrera will be available to help students after school. The days are yet to be determined. Students are also permitted to practice in the orchestra room during Spartan Time as long as proper procedures are followed.

WEST SPRINGFIELD ORCHESTRA DEPARTMENT EVENTS CALENDAR 2014-15

This does not include after school rehearsals. Those can be found on blackboard. You can also find info and news on our website: www.wshsorchestras.org

Concert attendance is a requirement of the class and part of the FCPS curriculum

September

13	SRO Prep Day	Mclean HS	
29	SRO auditions	Mclean HS	3-5pm

October

15	Fall Concert	WSHS	7pm
----	--------------	------	-----

November

13-15	SRO event	Herndon HS	
24	District Orchestra Auditions	Irving MS	3-5pm

December

16	Winter Concert	WSHS	7pm
----	----------------	------	-----

January

16-17	All District Orchestra Event	George Mason University	
22	All State Orchestra Auditions	JMU	

February

4	Orchestra Pyramid Concert	WSHS	7pm
28	All- State Auditions	JMU	

March

3-4	Pre-Assessment Concerts		
20-21	Orchestra Assessment Festival	Centreville HS	
	Do not schedule anything on these days		

April

9-11	All Virginia Orchestra Event	Christopher Newport	
15-19	Disney Spring trip	TBA	
24	District X Solo Ensemble		

May

1-3	School Musical	TBA	
-----	----------------	-----	--

June

2	Spring Concert	WSHS	7pm
7	Full Orchestra Concert	WSHS	TBA

ORCHESTRA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Please sign and return this entire form for a grade.

I have read and understand the expectations and grading policies which govern membership in the West Springfield Orchestra Program, and I am confident that I have the ability and sense of responsibility to carry out what is required in order to become a fine musician and a contributing member of the group.

I understand that all policies, announcements, and calendar events are accessible on blackboard.

Student Signature Date

Parent Commitment

We have read and understand the expectations and grading policies that govern membership in the West Springfield Orchestra Program. We are aware of the importance of the responsibility required as a member of the WSHS Orchestra Program and we will help our student to meet his/her obligations to the group. We will also communicate any problems or circumstances that may arise that would in some way hinder our student and their success in the orchestra program.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

“I have read and understand this information.”

STUDENT NAME (PRINTED)

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE



WEST
SPRINGFIELD
ORCHESTRAS

- Go to www.wshsorchesteras.org and fill out or update student/parent contact located under Forms. DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 11
- Make sure you can access Blackboard: West Springfield HS Orchestras 2014-15(Concert, Chamber, and Symphonic) or 1st and 8th period classes.
- Make sure that parents/students add orchestra email to contacts. Otherwise all communication from boosters goes to SPAM: orchestra.wshs@gmail.com
- Tag Day is on September 13. I expect all students to volunteer and help. Turn in permission slips before the day of the event. Money raised from this event goes towards our spring trip



WEST
SPRINGFIELD
ORCHESTRAS

- Go to www.wshsorchesteras.org and fill out or update student/parent contact located under Forms. DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 11
- Make sure you can access Blackboard: West Springfield HS Orchestras 2014-15(Concert, Chamber, and Symphonic) or 1st and 8th period classes.
- Make sure that parents/students add orchestra email to contacts. Otherwise all communication from boosters goes to SPAM: orchestra.wshs@gmail.com
- Tag Day is on September 13. I expect all students to volunteer and help. Turn in permission slips before the day of the event. Money raised from this event goes towards our spring trip

WSHS Orchestra Trip 2015

Disney April 15-19

Questions? Contact Ms. Herrera at JLHerrera@fcps.edu

ALL ORCHESTRA STUDENTS MUST RETURN THIS FORM AND DEPOSIT NO LATER THAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

The Spring Trip allows the orchestra to participate in day workshop for orchestra. This year's workshop is being held in Orlando, Florida. Students will miss one day of the 4th quarter. However, be aware that the start of the 4th quarter begins that week. Students **MUST** have all work completed **BEFORE** the trip. Teachers must not be asked to accept late work after you return.

This year's Spring Trip will include the following activities in addition a Disney workshop: Transportation, two nights lodging at Marriot Spring Hill Suite, 2 deluxe continental breakfasts, late night pizza snack on Friday, 50.00 meal plan ticket for the park, 3 day park hopper, T-shirt, and entrance fee to Disney

The final itinerary will be confirmed after the performance details of the music festival are known. The trip will depart the evening of Wednesday, April 15th and return by late afternoon on Sunday, April 19th. It will be a rewarding, fun and educational trip for everyone! Last year we had a great trip and I predict the same for this year.

The per-student cost will be approximately \$670 for the package plus spending/meal money. The cost is connected to the number of students and parents going on the trip. **This is not a mandatory trip.** Funds raised during Tag Days and other fundraisers will help to defer the cost for the group not individual students.

Please return the commitment form, stating whether or not your son/daughter will be participating, to **Mrs. Herrera's mailbox slot no later than Friday, October 17, 2014. If your student will be participating, include a check for the first deposit (\$100) made payable to West Springfield High School. Be sure to include "Spring Trip Deposit" and your child's name on the memo line. The deposit is non-refundable due to the contract with the tour company.** Optional trip insurance information will be distributed and will be due with the second payment.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: 2nd payment Nov. 20 – \$200/person 3rd deposit Jan. 20 – \$200/person
Final payment due Mar. 1st – Balance Due

Chaperones: Please indicate your interest in being *considered* for a chaperone spot on the form below. Previous participation in band activities will be considered. Chaperones will be contacted in late-January. The approximate cost per chaperone will be \$389.000 per double occupancy. **CHAPERONES DO NOT SEND MONEY TO SCHOOL.** This trip can't happen without your help and please note that all chaperones must ride the bus down and back with the group and you can not room with your child. There is an extra cost if you want a room to yourself.

Feb. 26 we will have a mandatory trip student/parent meeting in the cafeteria at 7pm

COMMITMENT FORM: WSHS Orchestra Spring Trip 2015

Please sign and return this commitment form no later Friday, October 17, 2014. If your son/daughter will be participating in the Spring Trip, be sure to include a check in the amount of \$100 for the deposit.

My son/daughter, _____ will participate in the WSHS Orchestra Spring Trip 2015.

T-Shirt Size: SM MED LG XL XXL

Parent Signature : _____

I would like to be *considered* for a chaperone spot on the WSHS Band/Orchestra Spring Trip 2013.
Parent Name(s) (Be sure to list both names if both parents would like to chaperone)

T-Shirt Size: SM MED LG XL XXL