

# Edmond Memorial High School Orchestra Handbook

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## Individual and Group Objectives

The greatest single factor determining success of an individual or organization is **attitude**. This positive attitude toward yourself, each other, and the orchestra as a unit will make the difference between a fine musical group and a mediocre group. Within this attitude, you must have **self-control** and acknowledgement of the **discipline** it takes to be a fine performer. **Respect** of adults, fellow students, and the instruments you hold and play is a beginning key to being a **mature** musician and a true **team player**.

By nature, instrumental music students are often on display and must constantly **focus** on the importance of good behavior and the **goals** of the orchestra. Students must always remember that they **represent** their organization, school, and community while in the public eye. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may well undo the good works of hundreds of loyal students. Act professionally, and you will be respected as a **professional**.

## Musical Objectives

1. Expand tone production
2. Further develop an ear to sense and make pitch adjustment
3. Increase left and right hand technical ability
4. Increase musical language and sight-reading ability
5. Develop habitual practice discipline
6. Further develop performance ability and self-esteem
7. Explore increasingly difficult music as ability allows

*"Excellence, therefore, must be heard in the obvious, but possibly more important, in the barely perceptible. . . countless unseen details are often the only difference between mediocre and magnificent"*  
Peter Boonshaft

## Disciplinary Measures

Because there is much to accomplish during our orchestra rehearsals, there will be little time spent on discipline as we will all be growing together and feeling the success of becoming fine musicians and performers. However, should the need arise, the director's decisions regarding discipline will be **firm, fast, and fair**. If continuously disruptive, the student will receive:

1. a verbal warning and loss of participation points.
2. a director and/or student phone call to a parent to explain the situation.
3. a conference with the teacher, student, and parent(s).
4. a referral to the disciplining principal.

## Required Classroom Materials

If your instrument is supplied by the Edmond Public Schools Instrumental Department, the instrument will be issued after the items below have been purchased and half or the entire \$100 usage and maintenance fee has been paid. In addition to having an operable instrument and the issued music, all students must have these materials every day. Absence of a needed supply could result in a lowered participation grade.

♪ **Violins and Violas:** Shoulder rest, sponge, or pad

♪ **Violins and Violas** must use **Dominant or Helicore** brand strings unless your private teacher suggests otherwise.

♪ **Cellos and Basses:** Rock stop

- ♪ Rosin—purchase rosin for your instrument
- ♪ Pencil that always has a sharp point and good eraser
- ♪ A soft cloth for cleaning your instrument



### Grading Procedure

Points are earned, not given, for the following categories. The total points earned will then fit into the 100-point scale adopted by the school (i.e. 90-100=A, etc.). Approximate grade percentages are given below.

**Class Participation (40%):** Weekly points will be earned by attendance (virtually or in person), punctuality, respectful behavior, a positive attitude, preparation of parts, and having all needed materials with you, including music or the replacement of lost music and having an operable instrument. Grades will also be given for tasks as simple as turning in signed materials on time and maintaining music.

**Extra Rehearsals (10%):** You will receive an extra rehearsal schedule with plenty of prior notice when the need arises. Such rehearsals will begin at per the schedule provided to the student ahead of time. The director will give ample warning as to the date and location of each rehearsal so that arrangements can be made to attend. Excuses will be accepted for missing an extra rehearsal only if notification is received *prior* to the rehearsal. For more attendance information, consult the performance policies.

**Playing, Rhythm, and Written Tests (40%):** All playing tests will be announced at least one week before the test is given and will be taken from classroom literature. The graded factors will include correct pitches, rhythm, tempo, articulations, bowings, tone quality, musicality or expression, and posture. Playing tests may be conducted during class in front of the teacher or recorded and submitted using CANVAS to allow for virtual submissions.

**Performance (10%):** Because orchestra is a performance art as well as a musical art, a part of what we work on in class culminates with performances (virtual or in person). It is extremely important that you make arrangements in your schedule to be present for all performances

**Bonus Points:** The student can receive bonus points by attending any symphony orchestra or symphonic band concert as an audience member. Such concerts, many which are free, are given right here in the metro by our numerous local universities, high schools, and of course, the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. The student must present a program from the performance, signed by the parent to receive the credit. Each event is worth ten points, with a maximum of fifty accepted per semester.

### Uniform (TBD due to Covid 19)

**Gentlemen** will receive a blazer that is to be returned dry-cleaned (with proof) at the end of the school year. The rest of the uniform will be black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, a white dress shirt (**tux shirt is best**) and black bowtie.

**Ladies that do not already have a Memorial Orchestra dress will be fitted for a new dress and will be required to buy one that will serve as their orchestra uniform throughout high school. The cost is \$65 and payable to Edmond Memorial High School.**