

BHS ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK 2016



Introduction

Welcome to the Berthoud High School Orchestra Handbook! Inside you will find useful information regarding this class, and specifically tailored to the instrument that you play! The purpose of this handbook is to be a constant reference guide for you, and to help answer any questions that may arise during the year. It is a **REQUIREMENT** that you have this with you in class every single day, as our warm ups will be taken from here. Please make sure you keep it in a safe place! You will be issued one at the start of the year, **replacement handbooks will cost \$1.00.**

Class Description:

Orchestra is a yearlong class at Berthoud High School. Many performance opportunities will be made available throughout the year. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to work with string players from northern Colorado.

Required materials:

You will need the following at every rehearsal:

“We First” Attitude

Instrument

Music

Handbook

Pencil

For formal concerts in Orchestra, you will need black bottoms (dress pants, dress, skirt, etc...) and black top, with solid black dress shoes. Sneakers/tennis shoes are not allowed!

Expectations:

All students in the class are expected to follow and adhere to the following rules:

1. **“We First” Attitude** – Band is a group effort; we succeed together! It is not for those seeking glory for individuality. Your individual talent and contributions will make the group stronger, and not the other way around!
2. **“Always Improving”** – The expectation for your musicianship is that it is never perfect, but always improving from one day to the next. While there may be some bumps along the way, we will work together to make you better!

3. **“TRIADS”** – Tone, Rhythm, Intonation, Articulation, Dynamics, Sharing. These are the focal points of our musical output.

“The Way”

The Way cannot be taught, it can only be learned. Through careful observation and self-discipline, each student can learn the various aspects and components of The Way. In short, it is doing the right thing, even when others are not watching. Remember to always choose the right thing to do, and not simply just the easy thing to do.

Class Rules:

1. All students will be in their seat, ready to go no later than 2 minutes after the bell rings. Instrument needs to be assembled and ready to play, music needs to be organized for class, pencil at the ready, etc...
2. All students will stay actively engaged throughout the rehearsal. So much of what we do is a “whole orchestra” concept, but there are times where I will work with one section. During those times, it is expected that the other students are marking their parts, silently fingering/playing along and paying attention, frequently something said to one group applies to another.
4. Cell Phones will be taken on sight, picked up after class for the first offense, from the office at the end of the day for repeat offenses. This will have a negative effect on the students’ grade.
5. Swearing, disrespect, insubordination and general inappropriate behavior, whether directed at a teacher or another student is grounds for immediate discipline referral per BHS policy.
6. All music will be turned in at the end of the year. Music is expensive and costs money. Any student missing parts will be charged accordingly.
7. The Band Room is a Sanctuary to many, and a home to all. Please treat it with the proper respect. Clean your area, put all trash in the appropriate container. Unless specifically allowed by Mr. Grotzky, **FOOD AND DRINK ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM. (100% Water is the ONLY exception)**
8. All students are expected to attend and stay for the entire concert. You are an audience member as well as a performer. By showing good audience etiquette you set a standard of excellence for others to follow.

Grading:

We will be transitioning to SBI (Standards Based Instruction) grading for Orchestra during the 2016-2017 school year. More information will be made available soon.

Contact Information:

Mr. Rick Grotzky, Music Director – Berthoud High School

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Please sign up for the BHS Band mailing list by visiting www.berthoudhighband.com

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/berthoudhighschoolmusic

Practice Routine

An effective practice routine is one that allows you to be successful by maximizing your time, and setting specific goals. The **MINIMUM** that you should be practicing is 30 min, every other day, in addition to classtime. This will allow you to continue to improve upon your musicianship even when not in class!

First, set a goal for yourself. It does not need to be a **HUGE** goal, anything will do. If you feel that you need to work on a technical passage in the music, then that is your goal. If your goal is to go farther in one breath and supporting your sound, that is okay too. Try to keep your goals realistic. Here is a simple form that I have used in the past to help me practice.

PRACTICE GOAL: _____ **(Be Specific!)**

Warm-Ups/Long Tones: (Spend 5 minutes practicing long tones and scales, similar to how we do in class)

Meat and Potatoes: (Spend 15 minutes working on your goal, whatever that may be. Do not let yourself cheat if you accomplish goal early, continue repetition and use this time fully. If you do NOT achieve your goal, no worries! Simply make it your goal next time as well!)

Fun Stuff: (Spend 5 minutes playing something that is “fun” for you; an old piece from years past, something you found online, a song from a book you may have. This is important and acts as a “cool down” of sorts...)

Reflection: _____

(Write down your struggles/successes and ideas to work on next time!)

By using this practice routine **EVERY TIME YOU PRACTICE**, you develop good practice habits, and become much better as a musician much quicker! Remember, just picking up your instrument and playing it is not enough, have a specific goal in mind!

COPY THIS PAGE AND USE IT AS MANY TIMES AS POSSIBLE TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE PRACTICING ROUTINE!

CONTRACT

I, (your name) _____, have read and thereby abide by all rules and expectations contained in this handbook. I understand that I can be successful in band by following said rules and expectations, and also understand that failure to follow these rules will have a negative impact upon my grade, my standing in class and will severely limit my success as a student musician.

(signed) _____

I/We, (parents names) _____, have read and thereby abide by all rules and expectations contained in this handbook. The success of our child is very important to us, and we will be there to support him/her throughout their time in the band. I/We understand that consequences may arise.

Date: _____