

*King High School
Orchestra Handbook*



Welcome

Welcome to a new year in the King High School Orchestra. I am very excited to continue my role as director and I can't wait to hear the beautiful music that we will make together. It also is very important to me that each and every orchestra student knows that they have somewhere at school that is a safe haven from all of the difficulties they face. You should be able to leave all of your troubles outside when you enter the music building.

Orchestra music is one of the oldest and most respected forms of music. This year, we will strive to preserve the past by performing works from such masters as Mozart and Tchaikovsky while expanding our repertoire to include contemporary composers like Elliot Del Borgo and Soon Hee Newbold. Knowing that we will be challenged – by our music, by our schedules, and by our personal circumstances – it is an admirable goal to rise above the hardships that you will face as high school students and to grow and achieve as an individual and as a part of an ensemble. We will strive to reach out to our audiences and, more importantly, each other. We will be a family that is bound together by a love of music – and a love for each other.

This handbook will serve as a comprehensive guide to the Orchestra Department along with the aid of our website www.khsorchestra.org. If you have any question about procedures or requirements, deadlines or rehearsals, please revisit this handbook or check out the website.

Musically Yours,



Robert A. Luster

A painter paints pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence. ~ Leopold Stokowski

Music Courses

Music courses in Hillsborough County are considered co-curricular, not extra-curricular, and music being performed is rehearsed both during and outside of regular class time. Students are assessed based on their ability to perform the literature in a satisfactory manner. The Department of Education's State Course Description includes the following statement: "Special Note: This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day."

After School Rehearsals

Students are required to attend rehearsals after school from time to time. These rehearsals will be advertised well in advance to all students involved. These rehearsals are part of the "performance and rehearsal" portion (40%) of the student's overall grade. Parents should do all that is possible to schedule medical appointments, etc. around rehearsals. Students should contact employers with the days off needed well in advance and give a copy of the calendar dates in writing to his/her supervisor in case they are challenged at a later time. Students who are excused from any rehearsals are still responsible for learning what was taught during after-school rehearsals. Students who are unexcused will receive a grade of Zero for that rehearsal.

Performances

While there will be written exams in class, students are primarily assessed through performances. Performances, including District MPA, are mandatory for all eligible students and are included in the "performance" portion of the student's overall grade. Please plan ahead! To help with this planning, here were the proposed dates before the pandemic happened. Adjusted dates will come as they are released.

- U Fall Concert – October 26th at 7pm
- U Winter Concert – December 9th at 7pm
- U Solo and Ensemble - February 12th @Strawberry Crest HS
- U District MPA – February 17th-19th – time TBA @Armwood HS
- U Spring Concert – April 28th at 7pm

Effort should be made to avoid conflicts with performances (including SAT/ACT testing, medical/dental appointments, work, college visits, etc.). Make-up work is only available to students who are excused by the director prior to the performance (see procedure below). Students who are unexcused will receive a grade of Zero for that performance. Students who miss a performance may make it up by completing all 4 steps of the following assignment:

1. Attend a performance by another middle or high school orchestra.
2. Have the director of that school sign your program, which must be turned in to Mr. Luster.
3. Write a summary and review of the performance.
4. Submit a taped solo recording of your missed performance.

Excused Absences from Rehearsals/Performances

Any student who wishes to be excused from an after-school rehearsal or performance must have his/her parent or guardian email or call Mr. Luster 2 weeks in advance. Legitimate excuses include true emergencies, serious illness, or pre-arranged participation in a King High School sponsored event (sports, band, chorus, drama, debate team, mu alpha theta, etc.) with the director's prior knowledge. The following reasons are NOT legitimate excuses: not having a ride home, work, homework load, and other non-emergency circumstances. The excused or unexcused status of an absence is determined by the director only. Special circumstances will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the director only.

Performance Guidelines and Expectations

1. Students are to arrive at the advertised call time, in uniform (unless otherwise stated by the director), ready for the performance. Warm-up/tuning time will begin at call time. Students needing to get dressed and ready at school should arrive early enough to allow time for these preparations.
2. Attendance records will be maintained by student attendance officers. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that he/she has been marked present at an event.
3. Ladies should wear their hair up and out of the face for all performances. This provides a look of uniformity and eliminates distractions for the audience and the performances as well. Hair too short to be worn up must still be out of the face.
4. Men with long hair should have it pulled back to provide a look of uniformity and eliminate distractions.
5. Students should not display hairdos that draw attention to the individual (brightly colored hair, for example).
6. Students are not allowed to wear jewelry on stage.
7. ***For after school rehearsals and performances on campus, students must remain in the auditorium or the music building unless excused by the director. Students may not meet friends and family for uniform drop-off other than the classroom or stage door.***
8. Once warm-up time has begun, talking should take place on an as-needed basis only.
9. Students will usually be seated in the auditorium while other orchestras are performing. Students are not allowed to talk, sleep, listen to music, use a mobile phone, do homework, or do anything other than listen to the performances taking place. Students are not allowed to leave the auditorium during a concert. Students must abide by the guidelines for concert etiquette as displayed in each concert program.
10. All students are required to stay after the concert until released by the director. Post-concert activities include cleaning the dressing rooms, cleaning the audience area of the auditorium, and returning the state to pre-concert conditions (music stands and chairs must be put away).

Rehearsal and Classroom Guidelines

1. During all rehearsal, be attentive, alert, and ready to contribute at all times.
2. Do not disrupt any part of rehearsal.
3. Be respectful and courteous to all people.
4. Absolutely NO food, drink (other than bottled water), gum, candy, etc. are allowed in the music building or auditorium at any time.
5. Follow all posted classroom and school procedures.

Consequence Ladder

1. Student conference, interventions (seat change, temporary removal from classroom, etc).
2. Parent notification, participation/conduct grade lowered.
3. Parent notification, participation/conduct grade lowered.
4. Referral, participation/conduct grade lowered.
5. Possible removal from Orchestra.

GRADING POLICY

The grading system for all orchestra courses at King High School is based on a hybrid of a point and percentage scale. Students' final grades are based on four areas. Below students will find how each component figures into their final grade as well as how he/she can make up any points he/she may not receive due to extenuating circumstances. *IB students are not exempt from any of the components because of rotation out. The director will explain this in more detail.*

COMPONENT ONE

Class Participation and Preparation 10%

Students are expected to be prepared with all the necessary materials and participating. These points may be sustained by doing all of the following:

- ✓ Be on time to class
- ✓ Be attentive in class
- ✓ Have instrument
- ✓ Participate in class
- ✓ Have music that was assigned and that is being rehearsed

- ✓ Have a pencil

COMPONENT TWO

Rehearsal Participation and Preparation 30%

Students will be required to attend after school rehearsals and be prepared with with all the necessary materials. These points may be sustained by doing all of the following:

- ✓ Be on time to rehearsal
- ✓ Be attentive in rehearsal
- ✓ Have instrument
- ✓ Participate in rehearsal
- ✓ Have music that was assigned and that is being rehearsed
- ✓ Have a pencil

COMPONENT THREE

Classwork (Theory/Written Assignments) 20%

Students receive points for various written assignments and computer work assigned throughout the quarter. It is each individual's responsibility to keep up with these assignments regardless of absence. This includes bellwork, classwork, and homework.

COMPONENT FOUR

Performances (Smart Music, Pass-Offs, Concerts, MPA's) 40%

Students earn points for attendance at each rehearsal and each performance. Any rehearsal or performance that is not announced with at least 2 weeks notice is subject to additional points that can be earned. It is important to note that ALL performances are treated as test grades! Students will be expected to submit weekly assignments on Smart Music. Students can earn the points mentioned above by doing all of the following:

Materials Needed

Each student will need the following materials in order to participate in class every day.

- Pencil (no pens allowed)
- 1/2" black three-ring binder (with assigned music in sheet protectors)
- Instrument (with accessories to play)

Uniforms

Gentlemen are expected to have a full tuxedo: including black bow tie, black belt, and black shoes. This tuxedo can be purchased on your own at such vendors as Sacino's or Men's Warehouse. Approximate cost of a tuxedo is \$100.

Ladies are to purchase their black concert dress through the King High School Orchestra Department. Approximate cost is \$80.

Fees

All Orchestra Members are required to pay the mandatory \$75 orchestra fee. This fee includes the orchestra t-shirt and all group adjudication and performance assessment fees.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, contact Mr. Luster right away – don't just drop the class!

Additional Performance Opportunities

FMEA All-State Orchestras

These orchestras are comprised of the best student orchestral musicians in the state of Florida. Additional help sessions can be scheduled before or after school and during traditional 4th period or IB lunch. The cost to audition is \$35.00 per student. Auditions will take place on Saturday, October 2nd at Strawberry Crest High School. The FMEA All-State Convention will be held in downtown Tampa from January 8-11th. Students and their family are responsible for all transportation.

Hillsborough County All-County Orchestras

The festival will take place January 27-29th and the concert location TBA. There is no fee for this event or the concert. Students and their family are responsible for all transportation.

District Solo and Ensemble MPA

All students may choose to prepare and perform a solo or ensemble to be judged by a state certified adjudicator at this event. Students performing either a solo or an ensemble must follow the guidelines set by the Florida Orchestra Association. Solo fee is \$15 and ensemble fee is \$10 per member. You must also pay for an accompanist but the amount is unknown at this time. The director will arrange for an accompanist unless the student gives advance notice that they will be using their own. The event is Feb. 12th at Strawberry Crest High School.

Fundraising

Several fundraisers are held throughout the year to help students, and the orchestra department, meet the general costs of such a well-respected and professional program. These costs include: music, accompanists, transportation, district festival entry fees, etc. Students will earn 50% of the PROFIT from all fundraisers (car washes excluded) to go towards their account to help off-set the cost of the program (uniform fees, trip fees, etc.) the following is a sample list of planned fundraisers for the 10-11 school year.

World's Finest Chocolate – We will sell these world famous \$1 chocolate bars sometime in the middle of the school year (we must check the school fundraising calendar to confirm the dates). Students must sign-out every box that they take and will only be allowed to check-out another box when the money from the previous box is returned in full.

Bed Sheets- We will be selling bed sheets during the spring. While it may seem like an odd fundraiser, everyone needs bed sheets. Don't be scared to take a risk and try them out yourself!

Note: Any student that does not turn in monies collected from fundraisers will be placed on the King High School debt list. This will prevent those students from receiving textbooks and will also prevent them from purchasing homecoming and prom tickets as well GradNite tickets for seniors.

Orchestra Officer Positions

President: Work with Mr.Luster and Orchestra Boosters to maintain communication on events and needs of the orchestra - including but not limited to instrumental needs (condition of instruments), auxiliary needs (tuners and pick-ups, etc), and other needs of the orchestra. Liason between Mr.Luster and orchestra. Responsible for the execution of all orchestra events.

Vice President: Assist the President in completing duties as specified by Mr.Luster. In the event that the president cannot complete their duties, the Vice-president will assume the role and responsibilities of president. Responsible for assisting in the planning and preparation of all orchestra events. Shares the responsibility of orchestra publicity.

Secretary: Works directly with Mr. Luster in communicating information and maintaining student records. Also responsible for maintaining the accuracy and condition of the website. Shares the responsibility of orchestra publicity and corresponding with the school newspaper, morning show, and student body to promote the program. Also responsible for collecting all student information - including an inventory of instruments rented.

Librarian(s): Organize and maintain all music within the library. Keep an accurate inventory of all orchestra music. Also responsible for making copies of music and keeping track of music checked out by individual students and other directors.

Equipment Manager: Maintain an accurate inventory of instruments. Repair the necessary fixes of instruments and items needed to make the orchestra successful.

Historian: Maintain a photographic record of orchestra events throughout the course of the year. Position will culminate in a scrapbook available at the end-of-year banquet.

Parent Involvement

Any good orchestra program is only as good as the involvement of the parents associated with it. There are many ways parents can be involved and our hope is that our parents will choose to invest in their student's experiences in whatever way their schedules will allow.

Booster Club

The best way parents and other interested adults can positively impact our program is through membership in the King High School Orchestra Boosters. The Booster Club provides additional funding, act as chaperones for trips, organize concerts and other events, coordinate fundraising activities, and volunteer for other tasks associated with the smooth operation of the orchestra program. Meetings will be held throughout the year. There are three levels of membership to fit the unique needs of each family. Please visit the website or see the booster club membership form that is attached.

Volunteering

There are many tasks for which volunteers can be used, from sorting fundraising merchandise to hemming uniforms to organizing our music library to supervising ticket and concession sales at concerts. We are asking that each family sign-up to volunteer for at least one event during the school year.

Chaperoning

Every trip requires chaperones. In addition to being members of the Orchestra Boosters Club, all chaperones must be "Level 2" SERVE certified. This certification requires fingerprinting by the School District (the current fee is \$85). This certification is good for three years.