

Woodland Middle School
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Woodland Middle School Orchestra Handbook 2018-2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Orchestra Program at Woodland Middle School! I hope you had an enjoyable summer vacation. This handbook was designed to provide you with important information about the WMS Orchestra! I will also communicate with you through written reminders, the WMSO webpage, *Remind* texts, email, via Google Classroom, by phone, or in person. If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am very excited to have Miss Pastora Sanchez student teaching Orchestra at WMS first semester! Miss Sanchez is a violinist and Music Education major at Clayton State University. I am honored to be your Orchestra Director and am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Sam Lowder

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

Please be sure that your email addresses and phone numbers are current in Infinite Campus – In the portal, select the Account Settings tab on the left side of the screen to make any changes.

To receive important WMS Orchestra REMIND texts, please text the appropriate code to 81010:

6th Grade Orch.: **@wms06** 7th Grade Orch.: **@wms07** 8th Grade Orch.: **@wms08**

Please visit the WMS Orchestra webpage: <https://goo.gl/x7Y7dV>

Please like/follow the WMS Orchestra *Facebook* page: www.facebook.com/woodlandmsorch

Please complete and return the WMSO Handbook Contract/Form page and any payments ASAP.

Your involvement, support, and encouragement are crucial to your child's success at WMS!

Orchestra Course Description

The Orchestra is a year-long, performance-based class designed for students who are interested in learning how to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass (with the director's approval and recommendation). Concentrations for this class are skill development and refinement, music reading, and performance. Growth and achievement will be assessed in large group ensembles, small groups, and individually. There will be numerous learning and performance opportunities inside and outside-of-class. Some performances are professionally adjudicated and students will receive ratings for their performances. Students in the WMS Orchestra will perform in at least five concerts each year. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

Orchestra Georgia Standards of Excellence

Improvise, compose, and arrange music within specified guidelines. MSBIAO.CR.1

Perform a varied repertoire of music on instruments, alone and with others. MSBIAO.PR.1

Read and Notate music. MSBIAO.PR.2

Listen to, analyze, and describe music. MSBIAO.RE.1

Evaluate music and music performances. MSBIAO.RE.2

Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts. MSBIAO.CN.1

Understand music in relation to history and culture. MSBIAO.CN.2

Orchestra Rules

1. Be on time and prepared.
2. Be attentive and participate.
3. Be respectful of all people, instruments and equipment.

Orchestra Consequences

1. Warning – Name in Log
2. Last Out – Conference/Sign Log
3. BITE* – Parent Contact
BITE #3 is an Office Referral

Orchestra General Procedures

1. The Orchestra Room is available for morning practice on designated days and times each week. Students attending morning practice must remain until dismissal for homeroom.
2. Instruments may be dropped off at the Orchestra Room prior to homeroom each morning. Instruments may be picked up from the Orchestra Room following the afternoon announcements.
3. Students may receive a permanent pass to attend practice, or to drop off or pick up instruments. Friends may not accompany students to morning practice or afternoon instrument pick up.
4. All personal instruments, equipment, and music must be labeled with the student's name.
5. Restroom and water breaks should take place between connections classes.
6. Any orchestra payments should be delivered directly to the director or the front office. Payments must be sent in an envelope and include the student's name, grade, and amount. Checks must include a valid address and phone number; single checks cannot exceed \$300.00.

Orchestra Daily Procedures

1. Upon arrival to class, students should line up outside of room against the wall.
2. Upon entering class, students are to retrieve their music, instrument, shoulder rest or rock stop.
3. Violin and viola cases are to remain on the instrument racks during class.
4. Bows are to be rosined before sitting down.
5. Other personal belongings are to remain under the student's chair or under the back shelf.
6. Student who need assistance with tuning are to see the director.
7. Once seated, students are to tune, warm-up, and practice until the director is at the podium.
8. Instruction begins when the director is at the podium and silence is required at this time.
9. Students are to raise their hand and will be called on for questions, comments, or to leave their seat.
10. In the event of an emergency or drill, students must listen for directions remaining silent and orderly.

Orchestra Required Materials

The proper concert attire is required for performances and includes a black WMS Orchestra shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes. The WMS Orchestra shirt *must* be purchased through the school Orchestra for \$23.00. Parents may purchase the rest of the concert attire wherever. A black 1/2 inch, 3-ring binder and at least 2 pencils (available for \$2.00 through the school Orchestra or may be purchased elsewhere) is required for class daily along with a working instrument, bow, and case, a shoulder rest (violin/viola) or rock stop (cello/bass), and rosin. A cleaning cloth is also recommended. For students opting to use a school-owned instrument, there is a general maintenance assessment of \$50.00 per year, which does not cover damage, abuse, loss, or theft. Students who rent/buy their own violin or viola are expected to bring/use them daily in class and for rehearsals and concerts. Students who rent/buy their own cello or bass are expected to use their own instrument at rehearsals and concerts but may use a school cello or a school bass daily in class.

Orchestra Grades

5% Habits of Work and Learning (H.O.W.L.s)

H.O.W.L.s are a set of academic mindsets and character traits on which life-long success is built. Grades will be centered on the principles of: Respect, Responsibility, and Perseverance.

15% Practice Work (Classwork/Homework assignments may be written, playing, or technology based)

The Classwork grade is earned for being present, punctual, prepared, and for participating.

Participation is the most important aspect in orchestra.

Being absent, tardy, unprepared, not participating, or being disruptive may lower the grade.

Homework is also an essential component for success.

Students are expected to “adequately prepare” for class through home practice and study.

Missing work is due by the end of the 4½-week period to receive a maximum score of 70%.

65% Assessments (Tests/Quizzes/Rehearsals/Concerts may be written, playing, or technology based)

Tests and Quizzes are formative assessments that may be announced or unannounced.

Rehearsals and Concerts are summative assessments and participation is required.

Full credit requires reporting on time (in concert attire) and remaining for the entire event.

Retakes are due by the end of the 4½-week period to receive half credit for corrections.

15% Final (Semester Exams/Culminating Tasks/Projects may be written, playing, or technology based)

One retake is allowed per semester and the higher grade will be credited.

When students are absent from class, it is the responsibility of the student-*not the teacher*-to get missed assignments and to make up (and turn in) all missed work. Students are expected to make up/turn in work on the first day following any absence but have a number of days equal to the number of missed days to make up assignments. Progress Reports will be issued every 4 ½ weeks via Infinite Campus.

Orchestra Missed Rehearsals/Concerts Policy

Excuses for missing a rehearsal or concert will be evaluated on an individual basis. Whenever possible, prior excuses should be provided to the director, otherwise within 48 hours of the event. Please secure transportation for rehearsals and concerts ahead of time. If transportation might present a problem, please plan ahead to utilize another family member or friend. It is impossible to re-create a rehearsal or concert for an individual student therefore make-up assignments will be at the director’s discretion and may require documented practice time. Lack of transportation is not a valid excuse for planned events.

Orchestra Concert Attire Policy

Concert attire is a black WMS Orchestra shirt, black dress pants, black socks and black dress shoes. Incorrect concert attire may result in a lowered grade or possibly not being permitted to perform.

Orchestra Music Care Expectations

It is very expensive to provide all of the necessary concert music for each student in the Orchestra. Students should be careful and responsible with all of their music. All provided music is required in class daily, at any rehearsals and concerts. Music should be kept in a black 1/2 inch, 3-ring binder. Every student will be assigned a designated music slot for his or her music binder. Students should always label each sheet of their music with their name and slot number.

Orchestra Instruments

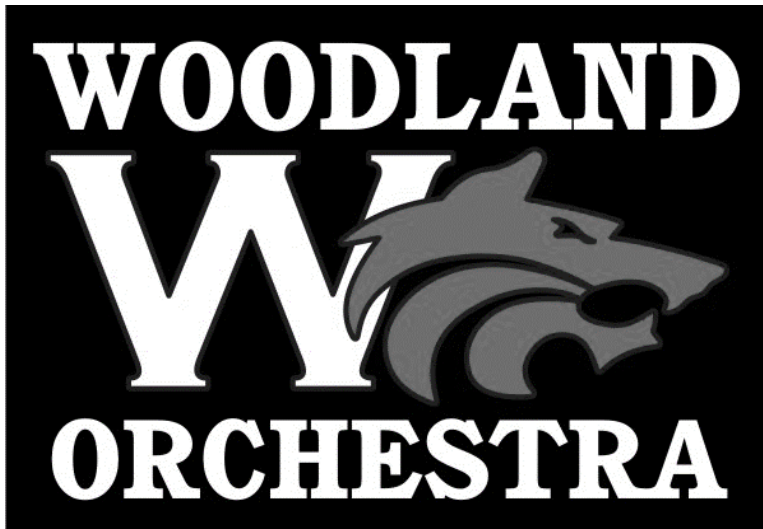
All orchestra students are encouraged to rent or buy an instrument. String instruments are rather inexpensive to rent. Most music stores offer rent-to-own plans and insurance. When renting/purchasing a string instrument, be sure you know the correct size of the instrument first. You should also know some important specifications: instruments should have a maple scroll, neck, back, and ribs. The top should be spruce. The pegs, nut, fingerboard, tailpiece, and saddle should all be made of ebony. The instrument should have inlaid purfling. Avoid instruments that have parts made of boxwood or plastic. All instruments need a bow, case, rosin and a shoulder rest (violins/violas) or a rock stop (cellos/basses.)

Orchestra School-Owned Instruments

A *limited* number of school instruments are available for use in class and possibly for check out. For students who do not rent/buy their own instrument, there will be general maintenance assessment of \$50.00 per year to use a school-owned instrument. This general maintenance assessment does not cover accidental damage, abuse, loss, or theft; these would be the parent's financial responsibility. Misconduct in class or mishandling or damaging any school-owned instrument may forfeit a student's privilege to use a school-owned instrument and possibly removal from the orchestra. In the case of extreme financial hardship, please contact the director, so that accommodations may possibly be made. The general maintenance assessment should be paid in full by Friday, August 31, 2018.

Orchestra Fundraising

During each year, the orchestra faces costly expenses for new instruments, instrument repairs, music, accessories, equipment, festival fees, transportation, field trips, and student awards. Although some of these expenses are paid for through school and county funding, most are not. The Orchestra will hold at least one annual fundraiser to help pay for these expenses. Successful fundraisers require *everyone's* participation! In lieu of participating in a fundraiser, orchestra students/families are requested to consider making a tax-deductible donation. Thank you all in advance for your participation and support.



Woodland Middle School 7th & 8th Orchestra Calendar

Tuesday, August 7	Orchestra Parent Meeting & Instrument Rental Night 6:00 PM in the Commons – this is OPTIONAL for 7 th & 8 th Graders
Friday, August 31	General Maintenance Assessment Deadline (\$50.00) For students using school-owned instruments
Wednesday, September 5	Performing Arts Trip Payment #1 Deadline (\$200.00)
Thursday, September 27	Performing Arts Picture Day (Individual and Composite) During Connections – WMS Orchestra Shirt
Thursday, September 27	7 th & 8 th Grade Orchestra Fall Rehearsal 4:30-6:00 PM in the Band Room
Wednesday, October 3	Performing Arts Trip Payment #2 Deadline (\$200.00)
Thursday, October 4	WMS Orchestra Fall Dessert Concert 6:30 PM in the WMS Commons – Concert Attire
Wednesday, October 10	Performing Arts Fall Fundraiser Kick-Off During Connections – Will run through Wednesday, October 24
Saturday, October 13	GMEA District VI Orchestra All State Auditions M.D. Roberts Middle School (Select students only)
Wednesday, November 7	Performing Arts Trip Payment #3 Deadline (\$150.00)
Saturday, November 10	GMEA Orchestra Solo & Ensemble M.D. Roberts Magnet School (Select students only)
Wednesday, December 5	Performing Arts Trip Payment #4 Deadline (\$150.00)
Wednesday, December 12	7 th & 8 th Grade Band & Orchestra Winter Rehearsal and Concert 4:30-6:15 PM Rehearsal/6:30 PM Concert in the Gym – Concert Attire
Thursday, December 13	Performing Arts Winter Holiday Assembly 9:00 AM in the Gym – WMS Orchestra Shirt
Saturday, January 12	GMEA Orchestra All State Final Auditions Westminster School (Select students only)
Saturday, January 19	GMEA Orch. All State Final Auditions (Inclement Weather) Westminster School (Select students only)
Friday, February 1	Performing Arts Trip Student Meeting During Connections in the Band Room
Wednesday, February 6	Atlanta Symphony Orchestra & Varsity Field Trip 8:45 AM-1:30 PM (\$20.00 + Lunch money) – WMS Orchestra Shirt
Thursday, February 7	Performing Arts Trip Chaperone Meeting 6:00 PM in the Orchestra Room
Wed.-Sat., Feb. 13-16	Performing Arts Trip: Orlando, Florida Disney's Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, and Hollywood Studios
Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 28-Mar. 2	GMEA Band & Orchestra All State Event The Classic Center in Athens, GA (Select students only)
Monday, March 4	7 th & 8 th Grade LGPE Rehearsal and Pre-LGPE Concert 4:30-6:15 PM Rehearsal/6:30 PM Concert in the Gym – Concert Attire
Tuesday, March 5	Performing Arts Pre-LGPE Assembly w/ Band, Chorus, and Orchestra 9:00 AM in the Gym – WMS Orchestra Shirt
Thurs.-Fri., March 14-15	GMEA District VI Orchestra Large Group Performance Evaluation First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, GA – Concert Attire
Wednesday, May 8	7 th & 8 th Grade Orchestra Spring Rehearsal and Concert 4:30-6:15 PM Rehearsal/6:30 PM Concert in the Commons – Concert Attire

Woodland Middle School 6th Orchestra Calendar

Tuesday, August 7	Orchestra Parent Meeting & Instrument Rental Night 6:00 PM in the Commons
Friday, August 31	General Maintenance Assessment Deadline (\$50.00) For students using school-owned instruments
Wednesday, September 26	6 th Grade Orchestra Fall Rehearsal During 5 th and 6 th Period Connections in the Band Room
Thursday, September 27	Performing Arts Picture Day (Individual and Composite) During Connections – WMS Orchestra Shirt
Thursday, October 4	WMS Orchestra Fall Dessert Concert 6:30 PM in the WMS Commons – Concert Attire
Wednesday, October 10	Performing Arts Fall Fundraiser Kick-Off During Connections – Will run through Wednesday, October 24
Monday, December 10	6 th Grade Orchestra Winter Rehearsal and Concert 4:30-6:15 PM Rehearsal/6:30 PM Concert in the Commons – Concert Attire
Wednesday, February 6	Atlanta Symphony Orchestra & Varsity Field Trip 8:45 AM-1:30 PM (\$20.00 + Lunch money) – WMS Orchestra Shirt
Wednesday, March 6	6 th Grade Orchestra LGPE Rehearsal and Pre-LGPE Concert 4:30-6:15 PM Rehearsal/6:30 PM Concert in the Commons – Concert Attire
Thurs.-Fri., March 14-15	GMEA District VI Orchestra Large Group Performance Evaluation First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, GA – Concert Attire
Saturday, April 13	GMEA District VI Orchestra Honor Clinic M.D. Roberts Middle School (Select students only)
Monday, May 6*	6 th Grade Orchestra Snack and Rehearsal: 4:30-5:45 PM in the Gym Perform for Rising 6 th Grade Parent Night at 6:00 PM in the Gym*
Thursday, May 9	6 th Grade Band & Orchestra Spring Concert 6:30 PM Concert in the Commons – Concert Attire

*This performance is intended for parents of Rising 6th Grade Students who will start at WMS 2019-2020. Orchestra student pick-up will be at 6:30 PM on the Bus Lane. The WMS Orchestra Shirt is required.



Please complete and return this page on the next school day

Woodland Middle School Orchestra Handbook Contract

I have read the 2018-2019 Woodland Middle School Orchestra Handbook.
 I understand all rules, procedures and expectations of the Orchestra, WMS, & Henry County Schools.
 I agree to follow all of these guidelines and I will accept the consequences for not doing so.

 Student's Name (Please PRINT neatly)

 Grade

 Student's Signature

 Date

 Parent's Name (Please PRINT neatly)

 Parent's Signature

 Date

Woodland Middle School Orchestra Order Form

As stated in the WMS Orchestra Handbook, all Orchestra students are required to obtain concert attire including a black WMS Orchestra shirt, black dress pants, black socks and black dress shoes; a black 1/2 inch, 3-ring binder and at least 2 pencils; a working instrument, bow, case, rosin and a shoulder rest (violins/violas) or a rock stop (cellos/basses); a cleaning cloth is also recommended.

The WMS Orchestra shirt *must* be purchased through the school Orchestra for \$23.00.
 Parents may purchase the rest of the concert attire elsewhere.

A black binder and 2 pencils *may* be purchased through the school Orchestra for \$2.00.
 Parents may purchase the black 1/2 inch, 3-ring binder and at least 2 pencils elsewhere.

All orchestra students are encouraged to rent or buy an instrument. For students opting to use a school-owned instrument, there is a general maintenance assessment of \$50.00 per year.

Payments may be made in the form of cash, money order, or check payable to *WMS*.
 Checks must include a valid address and phone number. Please write the student's name on the check.

QTY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
1	WMS Orchestra Shirt*	\$ 23.00	
1	Black 1/2 inch, 3 ring binder with 2 Pencils	\$ 2.00	
1	School-Owned Instrument General Maintenance Assessment**	\$ 50.00	
TOTAL			

***Please circle the correct size:** Youth-XL Adult-S Adult-M Adult-L Adult-XL Adult-2XL

I have some try-on samples of the WMS Orchestra shirt for students to confirm the best fit.
 Returning students should make sure their shirt still fits! Shirt orders are placed in August.

**This is *only* required of students who do not rent or buy their own instrument and is due on 8/31/2018.

Remember: update Infinite Campus info, sign-up for texts, visit the WMSO webpage & *Facebook* page!