

WALDO ORCHESTRAS



2004-2005 HANDBOOK

I. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Beginning Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra is for students who have never played stringed instruments. The instruments available are the violin, viola, cello and string bass. In this class we learn the basics of playing these instruments, with emphasis placed on correct posture and technique. Students will also learn music reading, ensemble skills, and rhythms.

Most students rent their own instruments for the class. There are, however, a limited number of school instruments available for use during the school year (a small fee applies; see section IV, below).

Intermediate Orchestra

Intermediate Orchestra is for violin, viola, cello and string bass players who have studied one or two years on their instruments. In Intermediate Orchestra students work on refining basic techniques of bowing and fingering and develop ensemble skills (rhythm, music reading, intonation and balance). Students will also gain familiarity with musical terminology and basic theory, such as scale patterns, half and whole steps, and chord structures. Performance opportunities will be presented throughout the year, as well as opportunities to attend concerts given by professional and semiprofessional musicians.

Advanced Orchestra

When students have mastered the material taught in the intermediate class, they are eligible to enroll in the Advanced Orchestra. Students wishing to participate in this more intense, accelerated class must perform an audition for the instructor in order to demonstrate adequate facility on their instruments.

Members of the Advanced Orchestra work on more advanced technique, such as shifting, vibrato, as well as refining and expanding on the basic skills of bowing, fingering, intonation, reading and balance. Students in this group will perform in festivals, contests and adjudications. Members of Advanced Orchestra are also strongly encouraged to expand their skills outside of class, through private lessons, participation in Salem Youth Symphony, or preparing a piece for Salem's Solo & Ensemble Contest.

II. CLASS REQUIREMENTS

All Groups

Materials - Students are expected to bring their instrument, music and a pencil to all orchestra classes. The instrument needs to be in good working order, correctly sized and adjusted to that student. Music that is passed out in class needs to be returned in good condition; writing is allowed in pencil only. Students will be charged for damaged or missing music.

Concerts - Students will be given notice of all concerts in writing at least 30 days prior to the event. If a student is unable to attend, written notice from the parent must be given to the director no later than three weeks prior to the concert (emergencies excepted) in order to be considered an excused absence. Excused absences may be made up with a written assignment to be arranged with the teacher. Unexcused absences will result in a "zero" grade for the concert and cannot be made up.

In case of emergency, please make a reasonable effort to contact the director and inform him of your situation. A signed note from a parent explaining the absence is required in order for an absence due to emergency to be changed from "unexcused" to "excused".

Class Behavior - Waldo School guidelines regarding dress, appropriate language, care of school equipment, etc., are, of course, in effect in the orchestra class. Orchestra classes are group based, and the performance of a single student affects the success of the whole. Consequently, if a student, due to behavior issues, needs to leave the class, the entire orchestra suffers. If a student is sent out of the class by the director, a student/teacher/parent conference will be required before that student may rejoin the group.

Appropriate behavior is especially important during concerts, field trips and tours. Waldo Orchestra members are expected to carry themselves in a manner that is courteous, respectful, and under control. Our groups over the years have earned a reputation for being a “class act”, and students must monitor their words and actions to ensure that reputation is untarnished.

Effort - Students are expected to apply themselves to each orchestra class. Students are not expected to be immediately successful at everything they try; in fact, some skills will take the course of the year to learn well (or perhaps even longer). Orchestra members are simply required to try their best, and not be discouraged if a skill is harder than it looks.

Responsibility for Learning - The director’s job is to provide the tools necessary for the student to learn the skills and music studied in class. The individual student has ultimate responsibility for his or her learning. That includes learning how to play the music well, practicing skills/passages or music that need work, and seeking the help of the director when needed.

III. GRADING

Points

Points are awarded as follows:

Class participation -- 10 points each week.

Playing tests -- 50 points each

Written tests / quizzes -- 10 - 20 points each

Concert Attendance -- 50 points each

Grading Scale

At the end of each grading period, a letter grade is assigned based on the following scale:

90-100 %	A
80-89 %	B
70-79 %	C
60-69 %	D
below 60 %	F

Extra Credit / Make-up Work

Extra credit assignments may be arranged with the instructor in order to make up missing class time due to absences or *excused* concert absences. The student is responsible for meeting with the teacher to arrange extra credit work. Examples of make up work include additional practice assignments, attending an extra concert (i.e. a McKay Orchestra concert) or writing a report on a subject pertaining to orchestra. Students must O.K. a project with the teacher before beginning.

IV. WALDO INSTRUMENTS

There are a limited number of school district instruments available for Waldo Students to check out for the year and use. Students are responsible for keeping their instruments in good condition. Space is available in room 301 to store instruments during the school day, or overnight if it is required to keep the instrument at school. An contract must be signed by both the student and the parent before an instrument can be taken home.

A user fee of \$10 is requested for the use of a school instrument each term (twice during the year, for a total of \$20 per year). This fee covers string replacement, bow rehair, and other normal, “wear and tear” type of minor repairs. If this fee represents a financial hardship for the family, the student may agree to undertake a work project after school instead of the fee. Examples of projects might include sorting music, updating records and inventory,

and cleaning. Details will be worked out between student/parents and the teacher.

V. FUND RAISING

The orchestras will hold one or two fund raisers during the 2001-02 school year. Participation in these fund raisers is optional, but highly encouraged, as some of the activities we will participate in would not be possible without the aid of the additional revenue. It is especially appropriate that those students who are borrowing instruments from Waldo participate in the fund raising activities, as some of those funds are used to maintain the school's instruments.

VI. ORCHESTRA OFFICERS

The Intermediate and Advanced Orchestras

will have officers, some elected by the class, others appointed by the director. These officers have special duties that help ensure the smooth running of class. A student is free to accept or decline nomination for a post.

Section Leaders (appointed by director, one for each section). Section leaders must be able players with leadership ability.

Duties:

- While rehearsing and performing, lead the section in their part.
- Help other members in their section learn difficult parts, as needed.
- Help the president with bookkeeping tasks.
- Assist in organization during field trips, tours, etc.

President (elected by group). The President must have good leadership ability, as well as being a solid player.

Duties:

- Take role at the beginning of class.
- Help the director organize projects, like fund raisers.
- Take on special projects, as needed.

Vice President (elected by group). The Vice President also needs both leadership and playing ability.

Duties:

- To assume the duties of the president in case he or she is absent.
- Assist the president in special projects.

Librarian (elected by group). The librarian keeps track of music, and is in charge of the checking out and checking in procedure.

Duties:

- Keep a record of music and who it is checked out to.
- Pass out new music, collect music when we are finished with it.
- Help the director keep the orchestra library in order.

VII. CONCERT DRESS

Standard concert dress for orchestra is black pants or skirt, black shoes, and white shirt. Ties are optional. Tennis shoes or black denim jeans are not acceptable. Please make sure your outfit is clean, unwrinkled, free of holes, and will allow you to play uninhibited.

WALDO ORCHESTRA REGISTRATION FORM 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

Directions:

1. **Print clearly!**
2. Make sure you and your parents have read through the handbook before signing. By filling out and signing this form you are agreeing to uphold the expectations contained in this manual.
3. Print your name as you wish it to appear in concert programs.
4. If you have questions or concerns, contact Mr. DeRoest at Waldo (503-399-3215) or E-mail (deroest_dave@salkez.k12.or.us).

First Name	Last Name
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Address	City,State	ZIP
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(____) _____

Phone	E-mail
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Parents Names

Class (Beg, Int or Adv)	Instrument Played
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Borrowing Instrument from School? (Y/N)	Birthday
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By signing below, we are agreeing to the conditions and terms outlined in the orchestra handbook.

Student Signature

Parent Signature
