

Patuxent High School Orchestra Handbook



Director: Cheryl Blockland
Phone: 443-550-8880
Address: 12485 Southern Connector Blvd.
Lusby, Md. 20657

“It’s All About Music”

Mission Statement:

Students will learn to work creatively, and collaboratively to become their “best,” personally, and as a group.

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Orchestra program. If you like music and want to meet new friends and be a part of something to be proud of then you’ve come to the right place. We have it all, great music, great friends and an environment that encourages everyone to be the best they can be.

This handbook is designed to foster the success of the orchestra, provide information to students and parents, and address questions and concerns that may arise during the school year. We are proud of the orchestra program and the respect that it has earned through the diligent efforts of the students, parents, director and school administrators. As a member of the orchestra, each of you accepts the responsibility to maintain the same level of pride and dedication as your predecessors. We are happy to have you as a member of the team and hope that you will enjoy all of the benefits that participating in a musical group provide.

Music helps students as they prepare for their future. Being in a school music program has been proven to improve SAT scores and enhance the skills necessary for achievement in math and science. College admissions officers cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions claiming that participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness.

Additionally, music provides students with the opportunity to become a part of a close-knit family by working together for four years. Music can and does make students smarter but more importantly it provides them with opportunities to grow and mature into young people who value: leadership, respect, responsibility, self-discipline, teamwork, co-operation, kindness and tolerance.

Please take a few minutes to read through this handbook and keep it as a reference throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me, your suggestions are welcome and appreciated. I am looking forward to a great year and I know you are too!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Blockland, DMA
blocklandc@calvertnet.k12.md.us
443-550-8880

Grading Policy

Assignments that figure into a student's quarter grade will be in one of two categories: Product and Process. Assignments that make up the product category are those that are designed to measure the degree to which a student has mastered the content. Assignments that make up the process category are those that provide students with the opportunity to practice the skills that they are not yet expected to have mastered. A student's quarter grade will consist of no less than 70% product assignments and no more than 30% process assignments. Each category will contain a minimum of 6 assignments per quarter. The following are examples of the assessments that will be given to students in the orchestra classes.

Product

Performance
Bowings
Written Self-evaluation
Daily Participation

Process

Theory Worksheets
Part Preparation
Rehearsals
Scales and

All students are required to have the following items in class each day:

Instrument and All Music, A Shoulder Rest (Violin and Viola) or Rockstop (Cello and Bass), A **BLACK 1"** Three Ring Binder, Paper and a Pencil, Rosin and a Tuner. The recommended tuning app for your phone is Tonal Energy.

- Performances: concerts and in-class chamber performances.
- Scales and bowings - each student will be required to perform assigned scales during class.
- Written evaluation- includes tests and all other written assignments.
 - Rehearsals -include any sectionals, dress rehearsals, and other necessary after school rehearsals. If you cannot make it to a dress rehearsal you will be required to make up the practice time during B lunch. You must come a least twice in order to be considered for partial credit. (If rehearsal is an hour and a half that is the amount of time you will owe) Partial attendance will result in a reduced grade (by percentage of time missed) and make up assignments will vary in difficulty based on the amount of time missed.
 - Part preparation - Students will be assessed in class every day, this may occur individually, in sections or as a group. Playing tests will occur at least **once per concert performance** and may be **announced or unannounced**. Evaluating factors will include correct notes, rhythms, articulation, phrasing, intonation/tone quality, and general musicality.
 - Daily participation grade is based on three principles:
 - Punctuality: be in your seat ready to play 4 minutes after the bell. Cell Phone in holder provided
 - Preparedness: Instrument, pencil, music, **black 1"** three ring binder and knowledge of music.
 - Cell Phone only used for in class purposes, NO texting or phone calls. Your phone will be turned into the administration.
 - Behavior/Attitude: Positive attitude and appropriate behavior.

Performance Policy

Students will perform in several concerts per year. These are the culmination of many weeks of in class work; therefore, I ask that all students attend. The performances are considered two of the playing exams (**200 points**) for the marking period. If a student must miss a performance they will be given a *performance* make up assignment. Make up assignments will only be given if the student has an *excused* absence. **Work, driver's education, and other outside activities are examples of unacceptable excuses. When scheduling these activities refer to the enclosed performance schedule and plan appropriately.** The required attire for all students is as follows: floor length black dresses and nude hose for the ladies; tuxedos for gentlemen. All students must have **black dress shoes, (no flipflops or white socks)**. This is a performance class

and the students are expected to practice a minimum of 90 minutes each week. To facilitate this, instruments must go home every weekend.

- Attendance/Participation: 85%
- Performance 15% - you must know your part completely in order to receive 100 points.

Example of Excused Absences

Absence from school; funeral/wedding; college visit; driver's education; mentorship.

Examples of Unexcused Absences

Didn't have a ride; work; doctor/orthodontists/hair appointment; have to get sibling off the bus; athletic practice; weight room; other rehearsals; detention; tutoring; work release; I forgot

Final Exam

The final exam will be divided into two sections:

Section I – (50%) Will consist of the preparation and performance in a small group of one selection and a final scale.

Section II – (50%) will be awarded for performance at graduation. **Please note: there is no make-up assignment for missing graduation, the chamber performance will serve as their final grade.**

Discipline Policy

Expectations:

Arrive on time for class.

Raise your hand to ask a question.

Exercise respect at all times.

Bring all supplies daily.

Remain quiet during sectionals.

Consequences:

Warning

Parent notification.

Written assignment.

Referral

Repair Policy

If a student has a broken string, I will allow **one week** for it to be replaced. After one week, the student will be marked unprepared. Major repairs will be considered case-by-case, but I will allow plenty of time before marking a student unprepared.

Contact Information

Please do not hesitate to call me at 443-550-8880 or email me at

blocklandc@calvertnet.k12.md.us if you have any questions or concerns.

Remind.com - follow attached directions. I will use this as the main source of communication throughout the year.

Fee

It is requested that each student participating in the orchestra program contribute \$25.00. This fee covers the cost of year-end awards, an orchestra T-Shirt, new tux shirts, tux jackets and pants, as well as formal dresses. An alternative to paying this fee is to participate in the **first** fundraiser and commit to raising a profit of \$25.00.

Fundraisers:

It is anticipated that everyone will participate in the fundraisers arranged for this year in order for us to meet our financial obligations – uniform maintenance, some field trip expenses (bussing, substitute coverage, etc.) At present we are planning to sell poinsettias for the holidays and butter braids in the spring. Individual student fundraising efforts may be used to offset field trip costs.

.Just a reminder that the profit is only a percentage of the total amount of sale.

Chair auditions

Chair auditions will be completed during the first quarter. All decisions made from this blind, in class audition are final; however, a Challenge system is in place for those students who believe they have been “incorrectly” placed.

Challenge System

The following procedure will be observed for all challenges:

1. You may only challenge the person preceding you in a section. You may only be involved in one challenge at any one time.
2. The challenge must be made in writing to the other person and the Director. No challenge will be granted within 20 calendar days of a concert. If the person who is being challenged does not contest the challenge then the change of chair assignments will take place with no further action.
3. The students and director will schedule a time for the two people involved in the challenge to play. At that time, the director will inform the students of the potential literature and technique that must be prepared. A third party will also be present as a proctor. This will prohibit the judge(s) from knowing which student is playing at any given time.
4. Results will be given to the two students involved immediately after they play. At that time, the judge(s) will give a critique and give the reason(s) for the decision.
5. You may only challenge once per semester. You may only challenge the same person twice. If there is a second challenge it will occur the following semester.

Travel

Student safety is the priority during all travel periods. The following are the rules and regulations during all bus rides:

1. All previous rules apply.
2. All rules of the bus service apply.
3. The Director will make bus assignments and if possible there will be a bus exclusively for male students and exclusively female students. If such accommodations are not possible, male and female students will be separated on one bus. Chaperones and the Director will provide the separation between the genders.
4. If students are not riding the bus throughout the entire trip, written notification must be presented to the Director 24 hours in advance of the departure of that trip.
5. Parents or Guardians picking up students must be prepared to show photo ID.
6. No application of perfume, cologne, hair spray, nail polish, or nail polish remover should occur inside the bus.
7. No sound systems without personal headphones. Sound systems and personal items are the students’ responsibility. No extra security provisions will be made.
8. Movies, if any, will be rated PG-13, PG or G.

Lost Items

Students who lose or damage items checked out to them will be charged accordingly.

Tuxedo	\$100	Black Dress	\$70
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Awards

- Awards will be given in the following manner:
- First year: certificate of participation
- Second year: pin
- Third year: medal
- Fourth year: plaque
- *National School Orchestra Award* – Top musician in the graduating orchestra class, includes participation in All County, Tri County and State level events.
- *Calvert High School Orchestra Award* – Selected by the director for outstanding contributions and dedication to the orchestra program

Uniforms

It is the responsibility of each orchestra member to bring all uniform parts to performances. It is also the responsibility of each orchestra member to clean appropriate uniform parts for every performance. Students are responsible for making sure that their uniforms are only altered by a qualified seamstress. The tuxedo pants and black shirts may be washed on **gentle cycle, cold water, no fabric softener and the pants hung to dry**. The dresses may be washed on **gentle cycle, cold water, no fabric softener and hung to dry**. Please make sure that your uniform looks sharp for performances. This affects the public perception of the orchestra program.

While in Uniform, the student will:

Not chew gum.

Not eat foods or drink liquids that will stain.

Not wear jewelry of an “inappropriate” nature.

Be well groomed.

Standard Orchestra

Acceptance into this class is by director permission only.

As a member of the String Ensemble, students are expected to provide the equipment necessary for participation in the ensemble.

The dress rehearsals and performances of the String Ensemble are all requirements of the class.

Absence from any performance prevents an adequate evaluation to be made.

There **will** be practices **after school**. **Attendance is required**. Failure to be at rehearsal may adversely affect student concert participation and cause the performance to be considered an unexcused absence. Additionally, lack of preparation may cause a student to be “pulled” from a concert causing the concert to be considered an unexcused.

Advanced String Orchestra

Acceptance into this class is by audition and director permission only.

As a member of the Advanced String Orchestra, students are expected to provide the equipment necessary for participation in the ensemble.

The dress rehearsals and performances of the Advanced String Orchestra are all requirements of the class. Absence from a performance will prevent adequate evaluation and will adversely affect the student’s grade.

Webpage

www.calverthighschoolorchestra.com

Keepin’ Track Weblink

Please register if you would like to serve as a chaperone for fieldtrips. Chaperones for overnight field trips will also have to be **finger printed at the Board of Education**

www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/instruction/volunteer/applicationsprocess.asp

Class Communication:

Email and Remind

Sign up for remind using the attached instructions.

Orchestra Contract

Student Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Shirt Size: _____ please enter requested size

Youth Lg, Adult S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Parent Name: _____

Best phone #: _____

Best Parent email address: _____

_____ I hereby authorize Calvert County Public Schools to use a photo and/or video of my child for print and internet publications.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

_____ A check for \$25.00 payable to CHS is enclosed in lieu of fundraising.

_____ We will participate in the first orchestra fundraiser and agree to sell enough items to equal the \$25.00 fee in profits.

Orchestra Parents

Are you willing to donate a little of your time? Please check the things you may be able to help the Orchestra with:

_____ baking

_____ public relations

_____ computer skills

_____ sewing

_____ video/CD recording

_____ own, manage, or know of a business that would like to sponsor the Orchestra

Which items are you willing to assist with?

_____ Uniform organization/repair/distribution

_____ Fundraisers

_____ Chaperones

_____ Awards

**Please sign and return by:
Friday, September 14, 2018
25-point participation grade**