

September 4, 2024

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Edmonds-Woodway Orchestra Program! I look forward to working with all of you as we continue the excellent tradition of music at EW. Each week we'll have rehearsals that will include large and small group ensemble playing, individual practice, technique instruction, sight reading instruction, listening and analysis and music theory lessons.

Students, you will need the following materials to begin this year in Orchestra:

- Your instrument
- Shoulder rest or rockstop/endpin strap
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Tuner, metronome (links to online versions in Canvas)
- 3 Ring Binder for music
- PENCIL x 3.

Please be sure to bring your instrument to school on the days we rehearse (cellos and basses are able to utilize a school instrument for a \$30 maintenance fee). Instruments may be stowed in the Orchestra room before school for safe storage during the day.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a guide and insight into the program. In it you will find **ORCHESTRA DESCRIPTIONS**, an explanation of the **GRADING SYSTEM AND OBJECTIVES**, a listing of **REHEARSAL PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS**, **UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS, INSTRUMENT STORAGE** other **GENERAL INFORMATION** you may find useful, and a google form **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**. Please read over all of its contents and keep it as a reference throughout the year. It will also be posted on your students' Canvas page.

Stay tuned by visiting our music department website: www.ewhsmusic.com.

Looking forward to a wonderful year together making music!

Sincerely,

Ms Gillian Malacari (she/her)
Director of Orchestras
malacarig@edmonds.wednet.edu
(425) 431-4370

ORCHESTRA DESCRIPTIONS

Concert Orchestra (Grade 9) 5th Period: A large, string orchestra comprised of students who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Incoming freshmen begin in this group, and no audition is required, but students should have experience playing in an orchestra. Students have the opportunity to audition for Philharmonic and upon entry must concurrently enroll in both Concert Orchestra and Philharmonic. Emphasis is placed on the development of intermediate and advanced playing techniques required for mature literature, as well as sight-reading practice. This group performs a wide array of string orchestra literature, ranging from Baroque to contemporary. Concert Orchestra participates in the SKMEA large group contest, performs at the Winter and Spring Concerts, and combines with the other orchestras for the Quadrant Concert in February with some other possible performance and travel opportunities arising throughout the year. Concert Orchestra meets 5th period this year.

**** For the 2023-2024 school year Concert Orchestra is combined with Symphonic Orchestra***

Symphonic Orchestra (grades 10-12) 6th Period: Symphonic Orchestra is open to all string players in grades 10-12 who have successfully completed one year of Concert Orchestra. No audition is required for this ensemble. Seating placements and section leader designations will occur throughout the year. Musicianship is further developed through challenging and diverse literature study and the refinement of string technique. This ensemble participates in SKMEA large group contest, and occasionally performs in other regional festivals. They perform in the Winter and Spring concerts and combine with the other orchestras for the Quadrant Concert and some other possible performance and travel opportunities arising throughout the year. Selected members are chosen to augment the Philharmonic Orchestra as needed in the Masterworks Concert. Symphonic Orchestra meets 6th period.

Philharmonic Orchestra (grades 9-12) 7th Period (Mon-Thurs, 2:00pm-3:00pm, Fri 12:45pm -1:30pm): An audition-only string orchestra comprised of students who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. This is a highly selective and motivated group of string players. Philharmonic Orchestra performs a rigorous array of string orchestra literature ranging from Baroque to contemporary. The Philharmonic Orchestra participates in the SKMEA large group contest, Solo and Ensemble contest, and a variety of other regional and state festivals. The group performs regularly throughout the year at school concerts and community events. In the spring, this group collaborates with members from the band and choir to present the Masterworks Concert, which features up to four students performing concerto movements or arias with full orchestra, and a major work for choir

and orchestra. Auditions for the Philharmonic Orchestra are held in February, and in late August for remaining openings. Philharmonic Orchestra meets 7th period from 2:00pm-3:00pm each day.

OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

The following performance opportunities meet outside the school day and are not credit bearing, but may count toward lettering in music.

Camerata (Tues and Thurs 3:00pm - 4:00pm): Students that are in Philharmonic are eligible to join Camerata, the extra-curricular chamber orchestra. Camerata typically rehearses Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00pm-4:00pm in room A111 during performance season. Camerata performs in SKMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest in February, and at the Music Boosters Craft Fair in December. In addition, Camerata performs at local retirement homes several times each year, and as needed for school functions. It is primarily a student-directed activity. All time spent with Camerata qualifies for CAS “creativity” hours for IB candidates, and some activities qualify for service hours, either for CAS or Tri-M.

Youth Symphony: There are a number of community youth orchestras for students interested in enriching their orchestra experience outside of school. These organizations offer multiple levels of orchestra, and require their members to participate in the school music program as well. Auditions are typically held at the end of summer, but from time to time students may be admitted during the school year. Students are encouraged to contact the organization for information on auditioning.

Cascade Youth Symphony: www.cyso.us

Seattle Youth Symphony: www.syso.org

Everett Youth Symphony: www.eyso.info

All-State / All-Northwest: All-State and All-Northwest are state and regional honor groups comprised of the top musicians from across the state or Northwest. Students are selected based on auditions which must be recorded in the presence of their music teacher during the month of September. More information including audition requirements can be found under “Student Events” at the WMEA website: wmea.org. Both events take place during President’s Day weekend in February. Participation costs are often subsidized by the Music Boosters.

Chamber Ensembles: Chamber ensembles can be most rewarding for advanced players. Performing one on a part and competing at Solo/Ensemble festival (first week of February) are the highlights of many students' high school music experience.

Private Instruction: Private lessons with a qualified professional instructor are a must for students considering competing at Solo/Ensemble Festival, going on to study music in college, hoping for a scholarship, or playing in an all-state group. Students should contact a local professional, or ask for a referral.

GRADING SYSTEM AND OBJECTIVES

Summary:

50% - Classroom participation, preparation (practice), homework, in-class attitude and effort

30% - Performance participation (concert and event attendance mandatory)

20% - Skills/ Knowledge - Playing tests, theory tests, projects, listen analysis activities

The depth of coverage of material in this course requires active student engagement and participation. The failure to attend class prevents active student engagement.

Because active student engagement is a necessary component of this class, attendance, tardiness, and class participation will be considered as a basis for grading in this course.

Each student is given monthly points for rehearsal participation. Doing work for other classes or work not assigned to be done during class, sleeping, social talking, being tardy, wearing headphones during rehearsal or leaving class early without an excuse are all circumstances that may result in loss of participation points. Students will lose participation credit for days on which they have unexcused absences. Philharmonic have their own attendance agreement and all absences must be cleared by the Orchestra Director.

GRADING POLICIES

Grades are determined in the following manner:

A	=	93-100%
A-	=	90-92
B+	=	87-89
B	=	84-86
B-	=	80-83
C+	=	77-79

C	=	74-76
C-	=	70-73
D+	=	67-69
D	=	60-66

All graded activities and assessments will be assigned a point value. Grades will be based on the sum total of the points earned as a percentage of the points possible. Point values for individual activities will be determined based on the relative importance of that activity in the curriculum. Students will be graded on the following categories of work:

DAILY PARTICIPATION, PREPARATION, ATTITUDE & EFFORT - 50% of Grade

“Practicing is when you learn your own part; rehearsing is when you learn everyone else’s part.” Important to our success is the individual’s ability to maintain an attitude of willingness to learn. Students will be awarded monthly participation points. Points will be deducted for absence, tardiness, behavior infractions, and policy violations. See “Attendance Policy” below for specific details on how attendance is graded. Points are added to Skyward at the end of most months.

PERFORMANCES PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVITIES - 30% of Grade

Performances are mandatory, grade-bearing activities. It is up to the director’s discretion to determine if a student has a valid reason for missing a performance. Absences may be considered unexcused even if authorized by the student’s parent if the reason does not meet the criteria set up by the director. Excused absences are rare, and students will need to complete an independent project to make up the credit for missed performances. From time to time, students will be expected to attend rehearsals and sectionals that take place outside of the regular class time. Credit is given for activities that occur outside of class, and are weighted according to the importance of the activity - with our main concerts and pre-concert rehearsals being worth up to 20 - 50 points.

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE - 20% of Grade

Students’ musical progress and preparation will be assessed by their performance on playing tests. Tests will be submitted via Canvas as a videorecording (and sometimes performed in class time). Tests will include assigned scales, prepared exercises, and excerpts from the orchestra music. In addition, preparation will be assessed regularly through visual observation during rehearsals and sectionals. Written work including goal-setting, self-evaluations, reflections, knowledge tests, performance reflections and listening analysis activities will be completed using Chromebooks, posted on Canvas and mostly completed in class time. Skills and knowledge tests usually range from 4 - 10 points.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Grading: Every student starts the month with 100% for their attendance and daily participation in class. This takes into account: arriving to class on time and participating fully for the duration of the rehearsal. Students who are consistently tardy, showing up to class without an instrument or music, or a student with unexcused absences may lose points for that class period, especially after repeated reminders. *At the end of each month students receive an attendance and daily participation grade.*

Probation: Students who have missed more than 20% of the rehearsals for a given performance (absent or non-participating for any reason) will be placed on attendance probation. Students on probation will only be allowed to perform once they have demonstrated that they are adequately prepared. Students on probation that cannot demonstrate adequate preparation will still be expected to attend the performance as an audience member, and may be granted partial or full credit for the performance, depending on the reason for missed rehearsals.

Missed performances: If the absence is EXCUSED (very rare), the student will receive half credit and will be allowed to make up the remaining points by submitting concert evaluations or an independent project (discussed with the Director). If the absence is unexcused, the student will receive a zero for the performance.

Philharmonic attendance - Full attendance is expected when committing to this ensemble. However, individual situations will be considered. Please contact Ms Malacari to make a plan to get excused absences. **No excused absences will be given in the week of a major performance.** For example, if a performance is on Wednesday - there will be no excused absences on Mon, Tues of the performance week as well as Wed, Thurs, Friday the week before.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Be in your seat with your music binder, instrument and a pencil at the start of class.
- You will be expected to participate fully every day that you are in attendance. I realize that there will be some days you will not feel like playing. However, if you are well enough to be in class, you will need to participate. **You may not chew gum, eat, or drink anything other than water in class.**
- Listen and pay attention at all times during rehearsal. Even if only one section is rehearsing, everyone else should be following along in the music.

- Play with good posture at all times. Make posture a habit, rather than something you save for performances.
- Mark your music IN PENCIL during rehearsals.
- **Keep cell phones put away in your bag (after tuning)**
- Conflicts with the performance schedule and other personal business should be discussed outside of class and on a one-on-one basis with the director.
- A respectful attitude toward your classmates and the director must be maintained at all times. There will be challenging times in this class, but there will be many more good times. I want you to enjoy orchestra and a positive atmosphere will make that possible.

SMA Cell Phone Free Classroom Policy

If a student has their phone out during class, they will be instructed to put their phone in the parking lot. After three violations it will be reported to the administration and the phone will be handed to the administration for a day. Any further violations will require parents to collect the phone from school.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

To be successful, all instrumentalists need certain accessories to keep their instruments in working order at all times. In addition to the **pencil** and **sheet music** that musicians must have with them at every rehearsal, please acquire these items from a local music dealer by the second week of school if they are not already included in your current set-up:

All instruments: rosin, a cleaning cloth, one extra set of strings and a folding music stand for home practice and run-out performances.

Violin/Viola: shoulder rest (KUN is the recommended brand)

Cello/Bass: endpin holder (you are responsible for bringing your own to every performance).

All instruments: A 3 ring binder (to keep your music organized) and 3 PENCILS!

CANVAS

We will be utilizing the Canvas program for playing tests, written tasks, and other assignments. All students will need to have access to their Canvas account provided by Edmonds School District. Playing tests will be video-recorded and uploaded to Canvas

for review. While it is possible to record playing tests on district Chromebooks, the sound quality tends to be poor. Students are encouraged to use other devices if possible for recording their playing tests. Most students have achieved good results recording tests using their phones.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

The school provides cellos and basses for students to use during class if they choose not to transport their own instrument from home. There are only eight school cellos and these are offered first to senior students, or students with long walk/bike or bus commutes. An **instrument use fee of \$30** (Check payable to EWHS Music Boosters in the ASB Office) is charged to all students using school instruments, and must be paid at the beginning of the school year in the main office. Please understand that cellos and basses are shared by students in all three classes and cannot be taken home unless special arrangements have been made. Students are expected to bring their own instruments to performances and combined rehearsals. **Students must treat school instruments with the utmost of care and respect. Failure to do so will result in loss of instrument use privileges. Never use another student's instrument without explicit permission from the student to whom it belongs.** Violins and violas are occasionally checked out to students that do not have their own instruments. These instruments are issued to students by Ms. Malacari and are subject to availability. Students need to complete the Instrument Loan Agreement upon checkout and pay the instrument use fee of \$30. **Students are responsible for repairs to these instruments** while in their possession. School violins and violas are to be used only by the student they are checked out to, and should be taken home for practice.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Students in orchestra will store their instrument either in lockers in the band room (using locks that are provided) or in the orchestra room on a rack. The Edmonds School District, Edmonds Woodway High School, and Ms. Malacari **will not be liable for any damage or theft.** Cellos in soft cases are to be placed on the rack in the robe closet. Cellos in hard cases are to be stored in the classroom as directed. Students are expected to take their instruments home to practice after each orchestra class. Parents may contact Ms. Malacari if they have questions about the security of instruments stored at school. **Store instruments in designated areas only.** Please be careful when moving about the room to make sure you do not damage an instrument. If you cannot access the proper storage area when you arrive at school, please keep your instrument with you until you can, or leave it in the main office if it is a cello or bass.

MUSIC BOOSTERS

We are proud to provide outstanding opportunities to our Warrior Musicians and these events could not take place without helpful parents. We are very grateful to have a wonderfully supportive parent group, the EWHS Music Booster Club. It is a nonprofit, charitable association organized for the purpose of supporting the EWHS Music Department. Functions include:

- Providing support to the staff and students
- Raising supplementary funds to benefit the music program
- Providing scholarships to music students

Membership: NO DUES. All parents/guardians of EWHS music students are members by virtue of their students' enrollment in music classes. Parent participation enables the music teachers to do what they do best... spend their time working directly with the music students. **MEETINGS:** Generally the first Tuesday of each month. Watch the website for exact meeting dates: www.ewhsmusic.com. The music booster club also distributes an email newsletter to keep families notified of upcoming events in the music department. Please make sure your email is on their list.

UNIFORMS

Concert and Symphony Orchestra Performance Uniforms

Wear more formal black clothing from toe to neck to elbow (wrist is even better). All black, covering everything - that way the focus is entirely on our music performance. Keep it simple and comfortable and please let us know if you need some help getting some black clothing.

An orchestra t-shirt is required for some casual performances, which can be purchased for **\$20**.

All students must provide their own black dress shoes and black socks or stockings.

Philharmonic Orchestra Performance Uniforms

We are fortunate to have concert uniforms for the Philharmonic orchestra. Students will be fitted for uniforms during September. Students new to EWHS orchestra must pay a one-time **uniform rental fee of \$20** (Check payable to EWHS Music Boosters in the ASB Office). Students in the Philharmonic wearing shirt and pants will also wear a black jacket.

Ties are not required, but a black t-shirt should be worn under button-up shirts.

HEMMING/ALTERATIONS

In most cases, concert pants and skirts are issued **unhemmed**. It is the responsibility of the student/family to hem these garments so that they fit properly, and to remove the hem changes prior to returning the uniform. Please do not cut off any of the fabric when hemming these items. Any additional alterations must be approved, temporary, and removed prior to returning the uniform. If a garment cannot be returned to its original condition, please pay the replacement cost for the item.

FINES for lost or damaged uniforms are as follows:

Blouse: \$30, Skirt: \$30, Jacket: \$50, Shirt: \$15, Pants: \$30, Garment bag: \$10.

Families are expected to launder/clean uniforms as needed while in their possession. Skirts, blouses, and shirts can be machine washed and dried. Tux pants and jackets must be professionally dry cleaned.

CASUAL PERFORMANCES

Black orchestra T-shirt (\$20), jeans or black pants (as directed).

An orchestra t-shirt is required for some performances, which can be purchased for **\$20**.

**** We currently (Sept 2024) have no Orchestra T-shirts available - we will work on this and keep you posted!***

All students must provide their own black dress shoes and black socks or stockings.

ASB CARDS

Music at EWHS is an ASB-supported activity. **All students in band, orchestra, and choir at EWHS are required to purchase an ASB card.** See Mrs. Daines in the ASB office to pay for your ASB card and learn about the additional benefits. Payment plans are available.

EWHS MUSIC HONOR POINTS

Students who show exceptional dedication and musical excellence may earn music honor points, which can qualify them for additional awards and honors such as a varsity letter or membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society. More information about Tri-M can be found at www.nafme.org.

ACTIVITY	POINTS/ YEAR
All-State/All-NW audition	10
All-State participation	40

All-State Jazz groups or All-NW participation	50
Perform a solo at solo/ensemble contest	20
Perform in an ensemble at solo/ensemble contest	10
Score a superior rating at solo/ensemble contest	5
Perform in State Solo/Ensemble contest	30
Perform in an approved community youth symphony, jazz ensemble, or choir (full year)	40
Participate weekly in a church performing musical ensemble	20
Lead role in EWHS musical	30
Supporting role in EWHS musical	20
Chorus member in EWHS musical	15
Perform in pit orchestra for EWHS musical	25
Section leader	10
Full Orchestra (winds/percussion)	10
Drum Major	20
Private Lessons (weekly throughout the year)	50
Participate in a Summer music camp (per week)	15
Music council	10
Perform the National Anthem alone at a school-wide event	10
Perform a featured solo in a concert	10
Perform a concerto in the Masterworks Concert	30
Enrollment in multiple performance classes	20
Enrollment in Wind Symphony or Philharmonic Orchestra	10
Enrollment in Jazz Ensemble I or Mello-Aires	25
Enrollment in IB Music	25
Membership in Tri-M Music Honor Society	15
Volunteer at Edmonds Summer Music School	25
Music service projects - discretionary	5-25

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

This year TRI-M will be directed by Ms Reese (Choir Director)

- Only students enrolled in EWHS performance classes are eligible for membership in Tri-M.
- Students must accumulate 50 points in order to be considered for membership.
- Points are awarded upon completion of activities. Students cannot claim points for activities they intend to do but have not yet completed.
- **Tri-M members are required to earn at least 50 points and complete 10 hours of approved music service projects per year, and participate in Tri-M meetings and activities in order to maintain their membership in good standing. Dues are \$15 per year.**
- In order to wear the Tri-M music honor cord at graduation, students must have earned at least 300 points, completed required service hours, and maintained continuous involvement in Tri-M Honor Society since they have been eligible for membership.

VARSIY LETTER

- Students will achieve letterman status once they have earned 300 points.
- Multiple letterman status will be awarded for each 200 points accumulated after the initial letter (maximum one letter per year).

COMMUNICATION

Parent and Students

Email is best! (malacarig@edmonds.wednet.edu)

I am split between two schools and I will always have a record of your questions and concerns on email.

If you'd like to speak in person - no problem. Just email and we can set up a time to speak

Student EMail Communication Standards

When sending emails to your teacher, include the following

- A clear subject line
- A properly formatted email (Dear Mrs. Malacari, complete sentences, and a sign off, i.e. Sincerely, student name)

- All emails should be written in a professional and respectful manner. Remember you are emailing your teacher, not texting a friend.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions (malacarig@edmonds.wednet.edu)

SIGNATURE SHEET

Now that you have completed reading the handbook, please fill out the Statement of Understanding:

<https://forms.gle/YgBmzn7BBGq9iBkH9>

CONCERT, SYMPHONIC, PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Instructor: Ms. Malacari
EWHS Credit: 1.0
School Phone: (425) 431-4370
E-mail: Malacarig@edmonds.wednet.edu
Office Location: A111
Office Hours: by appointment or Friday 1:50pm- 2:20pm (not on ER days)

MUSIC SYLLABUS

ORCHESTRA OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Recognize notes and note values.
- Demonstrate knowledge of time signatures.
- Demonstrate knowledge of key signatures.
- Play major, minor, and chromatic scales.
- Read treble, alto and bass clef with some ability.
- Perform basic rhythmic patterns using all note values and rests.
- Demonstrate proper posture for playing.
- Demonstrate an understanding of bow hold and right hand technique.
- Demonstrate an understanding of left hand technique.
- Make a beautiful tone.
- Perform in a variety of left hand positions.

Enduring Understandings

- Participation in a performance ensemble benefits the individual and the group

- Independent success will lead to greater group success
- High level performance builds positive self esteem
- Music reflects and shapes culture and history
- Music has content and meaning
- Music is a life-long activity that provides enjoyment and enrichment
- Music is a craft as well as an artistic endeavor
- The Arts are a universal language

Essential Questions and/or Learning Targets

- What does it mean to be a responsible musician?
- What does it mean to be a leader in a music ensemble?
- What role does music play in my life, now and in the future?
- How is music a form of communication?
- What is the value of adjudication?
- How can self-evaluation make me a better musician?
- What is music literacy?
- What skills am I learning by preparing this piece of music?
- How can musical progress be measured?
- Why is it important to set goals for personal improvement?

Students in orchestra are viewed as both performers and educated consumers of music. Throughout their course of study, students will:

- Increase playing skills as they relate to the technical demands of the music
- Improve intonation, knowledge of rhythm reading and practicing scales in different keys
- Learn to identify and appreciate various styles of classical music, including *Baroque*, *Classical*, *Romantic*, and *20th Century*
- Study basic concepts of music theory and learn to apply music symbols and terminology
- Continue to improve all aspects of musicianship, including *tone*, *intonation*, *ensemble skills (listening)*, *rhythmic counting and playing*, *expressiveness*, and *technique*
- Improve music reading skills through regular ensemble practice
- Exercise leadership and problem-solving skills through participation in sectionals and chamber ensembles
- Show a high level of self-discipline and personal responsibility, as demonstrated by diligence in home practice, proper care of equipment, and attendance at required events
- Learn and follow protocol for rehearsals and sectionals