

Lawrence High School  
Orchestra

Student Handbook

2019 - 2020



# Lawrence High School Orchestra

## Student Handbook

### 2019 - 2020

Welcome to the Lawrence High School Orchestra! The LHS Orchestra program offers performing ensembles in freshman string orchestra, philharmonic orchestra, full symphonic orchestra, chamber orchestra, and small ensembles including string quartets, quintets and trios. The progress of each ensemble depends on the work of each member. The following three characteristics are the foundations of our success as an ensemble. Take them to heart. They are the key to true success as individual and ensemble musicians.

**We are an orchestra in motion, pressing forward through...**

#### COMMUNITY

The LHS Orchestra community is made up of unique and talented individuals who come to perform with, support and encourage each other. As you add your talents to the LHS orchestra, remember to always work with a mature and positive attitude.

#### COMMITMENT

Being a part of the LHS orchestra community raises the level of your commitment to others. Honoring that commitment by being responsible and reliable with attendance and practice, as well as committing to support each member of the orchestra will benefit both you and your ensemble(s).

#### PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Every day we strive for excellence, whether in rehearsal or concert. Be enthusiastic, focus, and always give 100% effort.

[www.lawrencehighorchestra.com](http://www.lawrencehighorchestra.com)

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## Goals

### **The goals for each ensemble are:**

1. Playing your instrument – To daily build your skills as a musician and to share music with your peers.
2. Technique Building – To focus on advanced left and right hand techniques.
3. Literature – To experience a wide variety of literature ranging in style and technical facility.
4. Musical Vocabulary – To discover new terms and techniques and how they expand our musical experience
5. Performance – To enjoy the rewards of hard work together in performance.

## Classroom Rehearsal Expectations

### **Before the bell:**

1. Take out instrument, folder & sharpened pencil.
2. Throw away gum.
3. Store or throw away all drinks or food.
4. Ask to use the restroom or see the nurse only in an emergency! Please be responsible and take care of this during your own time, not during our class time.

### **At the bell:**

1. Be seated.
2. End all conversation for the duration of the rehearsal.
3. Focus your attention on the warm-up activities, which will begin immediately.
4. Listen throughout our rehearsal, especially to other sections when you are not playing. When you do, sections that are similar will not have to be repeated for you and you can learn even more by observing others while they rehearse.

**REMEMBER:** Each of you is essential to the success of the orchestra!

In the event that students have difficulty adhering to classroom expectations and policies, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Verbal warning or confiscation of disruptive item (i.e. cellphone)
2. Brief interview after class
3. Parent Contact
4. Referral to Administration

## Student Assessment & Evaluation

Students will accumulate credit each semester from five sources:

- Playing assessments/tests
- Written tests & worksheets
- Daily participation
- Concert participation
- Community Support project

**Playing assessments** will evaluate performance skills including tone production, left and right hand techniques, rhythm, intonation and musical interpretation.

**Written tests and worksheets** will evaluate listening skills, knowledge of the fundamentals of music, self-evaluations, and other pertinent material covered in class.

**Concerts** are the main assessment of our work each grading period. Our concerts are a demonstration of the performance skills we've rehearsed. We also put .into practice respectful listening skills and the ability to show appreciation for the efforts of others. Concert participation is required: students and families should make note of all required dates on the attached calendar. If a concert is missed with an excused absence, students have two options to make up the missed credit:

1. Record yourself performing the concert literature for a parent or guardian.
2. Write a 1-2 page paper about one of the composers or compositions from the missed concert.

**Daily participation** points are earned for positive work in daily rehearsal. Students who are absent, including excused absences and school activities, tardy, or who are missing materials like music or instrument will lose daily participation points. These points may be made up through rehearsals with the teacher before or after school or during late arrival.

**Tardies** are unacceptable and impede the rehearsal of the ensemble. They will be dealt with as follows:

**Unexcused tardies** will be dealt with according to school policy as well as a reduction in daily participation points.

**Excused tardies** once per quarter will pass without incident because everyone has a slow start once in a while. After your second excused tardy, however, your parents, and your administrator, will be contacted to help find a solution.

***To be early is to be on time!***

**Community support** projects are designed to help you get involved in the broader orchestral community here in Lawrence. To earn these points you may do one of the following projects each semester and write a brief report on your project:

1. Adopt an Orchestra buddy – give two lessons or one lesson and attend one concert of a 7<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra student. This project must continue for a semester to ensure continuity for the younger student.
2. Middle School Concert Assistance – help tune and set-up for a middle school concert – you will need to contact the orchestra director to arrange for this project at least one week in advance.
3. Concert Attendance – attend two concerts at the high school, collegiate or professional levels and compare the two.
4. Contribution to the LHS orchestra – Set up the orchestra room before your first class for a week, help with concert set-up after school, work on the new LHS orchestra website, or other projects as they arise.

5. Public Performance – A performance as a soloist or small ensemble member at a church, school or retirement community.

The semester grade will be determined by calculating the average score of the two combined quarters. The grading scale (expressed in percentages) is as follows:

100-90: A

89-80: B

79-70: C

69-60: D

### *Concert Dress*

Uniforms will be provided for LHS Symphonic, Philharmonic and Concert Orchestra members. Freshman Orchestra members will have specific concert attire they will be responsible for obtaining. Men and women are expected to wear black closed toe shoes, black socks or hose, and present themselves in a professional manner and with a professional appearance. Tuxedos should be dry-cleaned and dresses should be washed at least twice during the school year.

Uniforms are to be returned no later than the day of the final concert in May. They do not need to be dry cleaned. Uniforms received after our final performance will be subject to a \$20 late fee.

### *Orchestra Fees*

**USD 497 Participation Fee (“Pay to Play”)** – All students performing in the LHS Orchestra must pay a \$25 participation fee each year they are a member of the orchestra. All members will also be expected to purchase an LHS activity ticket. These funds go towards transportation of the orchestra throughout the school year.

**USD 497 Instrument Maintenance Fee** - LHS provides the opportunity for cellists, bassists, and a few upper strings to rent an instrument through the school district. Maintenance fees for the year are \$50. The student and parent must sign an Instrument Agreement form and the maintenance fee will be assessed to the student’s account.

**LHS Orchestra Uniform Fee** – Below is a list of all possible uniform fees.

\$15 T-Shirt Fee – For all 9-12 LHSO Members

\$15 Uniform Fee – For all 10-12 Members who checked out a uniform

\$20 Tuxedo or Black Dress Shirt Fee – For all male members purchasing a new shirt

**LHS Orchestra Concert & Rehearsal Dates  
2019-2020 Season**

August

8/12 & 8/13	Music Enrollment Days	TBA	All Groups	LHS
Wed., 8/14	Concerto Auditions	6:00 pm	All Interested	LHS
Wed., 8/21	Freshmen Parent Meeting	6:00 pm	Freshmen Parents	LHS
Wed., 8/21	Fun Night	7:30-10 pm	All Groups	LHS
8/26-8/30	Chamber Auditions	TBA	All Interested	LHS

September

9/3 – 9/6	Chamber Orchestra Begins	TBA	All Selected	LHS
9/20	Lawrence SF Breakfast	7:00 a.m.	Symphonic	Hilton DT
Wed. 9/25	LHS Homecoming Parade	6;30 p.m.	Fiddle Club	LHS
Thurs. 9/26	Homecoming Assembly	TBA	Symphonic	LHS

October

Wed., 10/2	Freshman Orch. Concert	6:30 p.m.	Freshman	LHS
Wed., 10/2	10 – 12 Orchestra Concert	7:30 p.m.	10-12 Groups	LHS
Thurs. 10/31	LHS/KU Halloween Concert	7:00 p.m.	Sym/Chamber	Lied

November

Mon., 11/4	<i>Gala Dress Rehearsal</i>	6:30 p.m.	<i>Chamber</i>	<i>LHS</i>
Tues., 11/5	<i>LHS Gala Concert</i>	6:30 – 8 p.m.	<i>All Groups</i>	<i>LHS</i>
Sat., 11/9	District Auditions	TBA	All Interested	Eudora

December

Sat., 12/7	District Mini-Convention	TBA	All Selected	Topeka
Thurs., 12/12	Dolce Dicembre	7:00 p.m.	All Groups	LHS

January

Sat., 1/11	State Live Auditions	TBA	All Selected	Salina
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February

Wed., 2/12	Freshman Orchestra Tour	TBA	Freshman	South/S.W.
Friday., 2/14	Serenade Your Sweetheart	All Day	Symphonic	LHS
Tues., 2/26	Small Ensemble Showcase	6:30 p.m.	All Groups	LHS
2/27-2/29	KMEA State Convention	All Day	All Selected	Wichita

March

3/2 – 3/6	LHSO Placement Auditions	In School	All Groups	LHS
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April

Thurs., 4/1	Pre-Festival Concert	7:00 p.m.	Phil & Sym	LHS
Sat., 4/4	Regional Solo/Small Ens.	All Day	All Selected	SHHS
Tues., 4/7	South Area Str. Concert	7:30 p.m.	Phil & Sym	LHS
Thurs., 4/16	State Large Ens. Festival	All Day	Phil. & Sym.	TBD
Sat. 4/25	State Solo/Small Ens.	All Day	All Interested	WRHS

May

Tues., 5/13	Spring Concert	7:00 p.m.	All Groups	LHS
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