

**Shorewood High School
Orchestras**

HANDBOOK

Welcome (or welcome back) to the Shorewood High School Orchestra program! I am thrilled to be starting the new school year with you and excited to build on the excellent work we achieved together last year. Although there are a few changes in the Shorewood High School Orchestra program this fall, I am confident that everyone will have a musically fulfilling experience.

Your satisfaction with orchestra will be in direct proportion to the effort you invest. You will be expected to work hard and do your best each day. In order for a large music ensemble (or any “team” of individuals working together toward a common goal) to be successful, it is imperative that each member contribute to the learning and growing process to the best of his or her ability. I have selected some wonderful and challenging music for the orchestra to study, and know that with your consistent effort and positive attitude we will have a great year!

The purpose of this handbook is to share with you and your parents the opportunities, policies, and procedures relating to the Shorewood High School Orchestra program. Please read the following pages-- you will find answers to many of your questions in this booklet. Of course, feel free to discuss any additional questions or concerns you may have regarding orchestra class.

Again, I look forward to a very rewarding year in orchestra!

Ms. Karen Frink
Shorewood High School Orchestra

Orchestra Ensembles

The Shorewood Orchestra Program consists of three ensembles. These are as follows:

Symphony or String Orchestra

Symphony and String Orchestra each meet every day during the school day and perform four concerts each year. The ensembles rehearse and perform literature for both string ensemble and full symphonic orchestra (in combination with orchestral winds and percussion). Orchestra students also continue to study string playing technique and musical knowledge (theory, history). Symphony is open to juniors, seniors, and select sophomores, while String is open to freshmen and sophomores.

Chamber Orchestra

The Chamber Orchestra is a select group of approximately thirty-five advanced, highly-motivated string players who rehearse and perform standard chamber orchestra literature. Performances include concerts, festivals, and special occasions. The Chamber Orchestra rehearses everyday during the school day and membership is by audition only.

Other Orchestra Opportunities

Chamber Ensembles

All interested students will have the opportunity to experience music making in a small chamber ensemble. These include various combinations of instruments performing and rehearsing as duets, trios, quartets, and similarly uncondacted settings. Ensembles will receive coaching both during and outside of class and are expected to rehearse on their own outside of the school day. Qualifying ensembles may participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Festival in March.

Wisconsin School Music Association District and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals

Each spring, orchestra students have the opportunity to participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students may perform both solos and various chamber ensembles for a rating or critique only. Students performing in Class A and receiving a 1* rating then perform at the State festival later that spring. These festivals are an excellent opportunity for students to learn and perform solo and ensemble literature. Students must pay entry fees for solos and a percentage of the entry fee for ensembles at the district contest. All entry fees are non-refundable.

Orchestra Tutor Program

Orchestra students interested in teaching may participate in the Shorewood Orchestra Tutor Program. High school orchestra students give weekly, half-hour private lessons to elementary students enrolled in the Shorewood Orchestra program. The tutors receive five dollars each lesson. The orchestra teacher will provide any necessary teaching guidance. Any orchestra student interested in teaching, working with children, and earning some money should consider becoming an Orchestra Tutor!

Private Lessons

All orchestra students are encouraged to study their instrument privately with a specialist. A list of currently available teachers may be obtained from the orchestra teacher.

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestras

Orchestra students may audition for one of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestras. These orchestras rehearse and perform challenging orchestral repertoire throughout the school year. Auditions are held each spring. Please see the orchestra teacher for details.

Wisconsin State Honors Orchestra

Every February, high school orchestra students are invited to audition for the Wisconsin State Honors Orchestra. This orchestra meets during the month of June for rehearsals, then reconvenes the following October for a performance at the Wisconsin State Music Teachers Convention. Please see the orchestra teacher for details.

Grading Policy

The orchestra grade is based on class participation, concert attendance, sectional attendance, playing tests, scale competencies, written assignments, and the final semester exam. Grading scales may vary each quarter depending on the activities scheduled for orchestra class. Points earned will be totaled, a percentage will be calculated, and a letter grade will be assigned based on the percentage. Orchestra students will receive specific assignments and a schedule for completion of assignments at the beginning of each quarter.

Playing Tests

Each semester, every orchestra student is required to perform a playing test for the orchestra teacher. This playing test will consist of a selection of short excerpts from the literature being rehearsed by the orchestra. The results of the playing tests are a portion of the semester grade and are used to determine chair placement within the orchestra. Chair placement will be at the discretion of the orchestra teacher, and all sections will be subject to seating rotation. Every student is important to the success of the orchestra. Therefore, it is essential that seating be viewed simply as a part of the learning process and not an end in itself.

Sectionals

Each semester, every orchestra student will be required to attend two sectionals. These sectionals will be scheduled during the lunch hour and will be announced at the beginning of the quarter. If a student cannot make the assigned lunch sectional, there will be limited afterschool make-up times available. Sectional attendance will be included in the semester grade.

Behavior Expectations

Students must behave in a mature and appropriate manner when dealing with teachers, peers, and substitute teachers. Working in a group for the common good is one of the major objectives of a music performance class. Disrespectful and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

- Be on time for orchestra class. Tardies, as well as absences, will be noted.
- Be in your seat and ready to tune as quickly as possible. Rehearsal begins promptly, at two minutes after the bell.
- Do not bring food or beverages into the orchestra room.
- Do not chew gum during rehearsal.
- Have all of your orchestra supplies available at each rehearsal.
- Refrain from talking during rehearsal.

Each student will receive a possible two points for every rehearsal. Points will be deducted for failure to comply with the above rehearsal expectations. Students are expected to behave in a manner that is conducive to a productive learning environment. Your attitude and level of preparation at each rehearsal demonstrates your commitment to excellence!

Concert Dress

women	Long sleeved black blouse, sweater, or turtleneck. Long black skirt or pants. Black nylons, black dress shoes.
men	Long sleeved white dress shirt with collar. Black bow tie. Black tuxedo jacket and pants (supplied by school) Black socks, black dress shoes.

Concert Attendance

It is essential that all orchestra members perform at each concert--every member is vital to realizing the full potential of the group. Therefore, attendance is required at all performances. Students are expected to arrange work schedules and social calendars to accommodate orchestra performance events and occasional dress rehearsals.

Two weeks prior notice in writing from parents will be required should an extreme conflict arise. Illnesses and dire family emergencies are the only acceptable excuses for absence--notify the orchestra teachers as soon as possible, and follow up with a written note from a parent immediately.

Orchestra Materials

Instruments

Generally, every orchestra student is expected to supply his or her own instrument. Shorewood High School will provide students with cellos and basses to use at school and bring home on the weekends for practice. Instruments must be at every rehearsal and in good playing condition. All violin and viola cases must be labeled with the student's name.

This year, all students who use a school-owned instrument will be required to pay a \$25.00 rental fee for the school year. This fee will be used to repair and maintain these instruments. Please refer to the instrument rental contract for more information.

Music

It is essential that every orchestra student attend all rehearsals with his or her own music folder, music, and a pencil. Each student is responsible for keeping his or her music in good condition and transferring any rehearsal markings into the music.

Accessories

Every orchestra student should have the following accessories:

rosin	mute
soft cloth	spare set of strings
rock stop (cello/bass)	
shoulder rest (violin/viola)	

Care and Maintenance of String Instruments

String instruments require proper care. Orchestra students are expected to perform the following maintenance on their instruments:

- rosin bow every day
- wipe off rosin after each use
- loosen bow after every use
- keep bows off floor
- set violins/violas on chairs only
- store cellos/basses on sides, not on backs
- retract cello/bass endpins after rehearsal
- keep instruments in cases when not playing
- keep instruments out of extreme heat or cold

Awards and Honors

Solo and Ensemble Medals

Medals will be awarded to orchestra students receiving first- and second- division ratings for solos and ensembles performed at the Wisconsin School Music Association district and state contests.

The National School Orchestra Award

The National School Orchestra Award is presented to the outstanding senior of the orchestra. The recipient must have served as a loyal member of the orchestra for four years, exhibited outstanding leadership and commitment, and proven to be a superior musician. The student receives a certificate and desk piece, and his or her name is added to the orchestra wall plaque.

James A. Bushner Award for Service to Orchestra

James A. Bushner served as SHS Orchestra Director from 1964-1997. In honor of his many years of service, the Bushner Award for Service to Orchestra is presented to an outstanding orchestra senior. The recipient demonstrates exceptional leadership and service to the program. The student receives a plaque and his or her name is added to the orchestra wall plaque.

Civic Music Award

Sponsored by the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee, the Civic Music Award is presented to an outstanding senior musician at Shorewood High School who has demonstrated leadership within the music department and throughout the school and community. To receive this award, a student must have participated in orchestra, band, or choir for his or her entire career at Shorewood High School and demonstrated outstanding musicianship and leadership. The recipient of this award will be selected by the three Shorewood High School music directors. The recipient receives a certificate and pin and his or her name is added to the school plaque.

Shorewood Orchestra Booster Senior Scholarship

Sponsored by the Shorewood Orchestra Boosters, this award is presented to an outstanding senior member of the Shorewood High School Orchestra who intends to pursue the study of music at a college, university, or conservatory. The recipient is selected by the orchestra director, and the award will be presented at the Spring Awards and Scholarships event.

Shorewood Orchestra Boosters Summer Camp Scholarships

Every spring, the Shorewood Orchestra Boosters will present a limited number of scholarships to orchestra students attending summer music camps. Any student interested in receiving a scholarship must complete an application. Scholarships will be presented at the end of the school year.