

## Getting More Out Of Orchestra...

Welcome to the Olathe Northwest Orchestra!

The following handbook provides you with additional possibilities to enhance your orchestra experience. In it, you will find:

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Since you are enrolled and a member of the Olathe Northwest High School Orchestra, I hope you are dedicated to making the experience as successful and fulfilling as possible; for both you and the orchestra. The following handbook has ways in which you can make your participation in orchestra as rewarding as you would like it to be. Take the time to read the following and find a way to get more from your musical experience. You will get out of orchestra what you put into it!

## **FIRST STEPS TO GETTING MORE FROM ORCHESTRA**

### **Instrument Quality**

“Quality Instruments Make Quality Music.” The quality of the instrument you play on has an enormous impact on the quality of your own sound, as well as the sound of the orchestra as a whole. High quality stringed instruments are also an investment, gaining value with proper care over time.

#### **Upgrading Your Instrument**

By the time an orchestra student reaches high school, their skills on the instrument has progressed to a very proficient level. Many students, however, are still playing on beginning or intermediate level instruments. It is a natural progression for a student-musician to “upgrade” the instrument one or two steps from the beginning model which he/she started with in 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade. An upgrade in a student’s instrument influences the student’s technical facility and sound as well as improving intonation, since it is easier to hear pitch clearly. A higher quality instrument can also encourage more frequent practicing and interest in musical self-improvement. A list of area stringed instrument dealers is included. Please consider upgrading your student’s instrument to match his or her improving abilities.

### **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are an investment for any instrumentalist. Even with full participation in class and practice at home, lessons have significant benefits. Lessons can give the one-on-one attention that a large classroom teacher cannot. A private teacher can give attention to special needs and focus areas of each student, both assisting students that feel behind and helping students that are already excelling accomplish even more. Lessons are a perfect supplement to an orchestral class.

In private lessons, students can explore solo repertoire that is often technically more challenging and interesting than orchestral music. A student can truly become more well-rounded as a musician when performing both solo and orchestra repertoire. A student may also discover a talent and interest in music that is sparked by private instruction, opening the door to other possibilities for his/her college and career.

Many colleges offer a number of music scholarships to play in the orchestra. Often, you needn’t be a music major or minor in order to obtain them. However, you must be a strong player, and able to perform solo repertoire that a private instructor can offer. Even for those who don’t plan to continue music in college, I hope that your dedication to the orchestra at the high school level motivates you to take this important step.

In this handbook is included a list of private stringed instrument instructors. I hope you will consider taking lessons as an investment in your future. Congratulations to those who have already made this investment.

## STRINGED INSTRUMENT DEALERS

The following are a few of the local stringed instrument dealers. I have a good working relationship with these dealers and recommend them. Please feel free to bring any instrument you are thinking of purchasing to me to get my input.

### **-Meyer Music Co.**

10122 W. 119th, Overland Park  
491-6636

New and used instruments, including “step-up” instruments. Offers rent-to-own program.

### **-Hume Music**

Located on 151<sup>st</sup> at 69 Highway.  
897-7900

New and used instruments, including “step-up” instruments. Offers rent-to-own program.

### **-REW Music**

1080 W. Santa Fe Rd. at the corner of Parker and Santa Fe in Olathe  
780-4426

*The new kid in town. Their other location in Johnson County has been around for a while with a good reputation.*

### **-Toon Shop**

15 On The Mall in the Prairie Village Shopping Center  
362-6800

New and used instruments, including “step-up” instruments. Offers rent-to-own program.

### **-K.C. Strings**

5826 Merriam Drive, Merriam  
677-0400

High quality *handmade* instruments for a wide price range, including new and reconditioned instruments.

### **-Beckman Violin Shop**

5600 Johnson Drive, Mission  
831-1119

High quality *handmade* instruments for a wide price range, including new and reconditioned instruments.

**WARNING:** I have had many parents try to get an instrument from Ebay or another internet site. I caution highly against this. Even though you can find what appears to be a great deal, the instruments you can end up getting are often of extremely poor quality, with a bad sound, difficult to care for, and usually causing many problems and repairs that can cost more in the long run.

*Please be sure you can see and try out an instrument before purchasing it.* Feel free to ask me about any instruments you find. I will be glad to look at any instruments for you, and tell you if I think it's worth purchasing or repairing.

## PRIVATE LESSON INSTRUCTORS

Instrument	Name	Phone
Violin	Sheri Cain	254-7461
Violin	Jessica Cox	816-260-8214
Violin	Jeannine Elashewich	383-8678
Violin	Heidi Gunderson	938-4617
Violin	Chris Harnden	897-3703
Violin	Kayo Hasegawa	491-5053
Violin	Donna Heer	829-6046
Violin	Lisa Jackson	780-5355
Violin	Lubomira Paskaleva	484-1213
Violin	Yang Pei-In	451-3346
Violin	Jennifer Clevenger	888-7883
Violin	Xiaoguo Zhu	816-405-5888
Violin/viola	Monty Carter	967-7117
Violin/viola	Carl Cook	816-616-8614
Violin/viola	Misty Elfer	816-878-5151
Violin/viola	Michalis Kousoupides	785-393-4410
Violin/viola	Natasha Kwapich	764-3613
Violin/viola	Jackie Lee	638-3575
Violin/viola	Naomi Miller	432-3009
Violin/viola	Jennifer Tousley	816-419-8071
Viola	Nell French	816-560-3750
Cello	Jodie Fuentes	816-529-7307
Cello	Jesse Henkensiefken	785-220-2058
Cello	Matthew Herren	646-245-5987
Cello	Andrea Kelley	515-3632
Cello	Trilla Ray Carter	967-7117
Cello	Gail Rowland	642-2629
Cello	Connie So	816-763-5455
Bass	Bob Bowman	816-455-0943
Bass	Gaylee Bonnie	451-3315
Bass	John Hamil	816-305-7559
Bass	Alaine Hernandez	407-334-3838
Bass	Reggie Hunt	816-569-4899
Bass	David Luvln	816-252-6517
Bass	Mac Mayer	982-6254
Bass	Ken Mitchell	327-5429
Bass	Sally Porter	648-4325

**Studios who offer private musical instruction include:**

Meyer Music  
491-6636

REW Music  
780-4426

Hume Music  
897-7900

Toon Shop  
362-6800

KC Strings  
677-0400

## **CHAMBER ENSEMBLES AT ONW**

Chamber music is an important part of the stringed instrument repertoire. Often a composer's best works are written for string chamber groups. Chamber music requires a different type of performance focus than orchestra or solo music. Each musician is a soloist on his/her own part, while still performing in tandem with equally important parts, all without a conductor. Any musician can benefit from the musical maturity gained from playing in a chamber group. The following are ways orchestra members can become a member of a chamber ensemble.

### **Select ensemble**

The principal at Olathe Northwest, as well as leaders in the Olathe School District and community often ask for a group to perform for special events. The select ensemble is that group. This group is comprised of 9 members: 2 first violins, 2 second violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos, and 1 bass. Since this group is very visible in the community and participation in it is limited, the best members of the orchestra are selected to participate (hence the name). Performing in this group is an honor as well as a great way to represent the orchestra and school. The select ensemble has a core set of repertoire with which each member must be familiar. Extra time will be required, including rehearsal time, usually before school on Tuesdays.

### **Quartets and Quintets**

Any member of the orchestra can participate in a quartet or quintet. String quartets are typically comprised of 2 violins, a viola, and cello. A bass can be added to create a string quintet. A variety of string quartet and quintet music is available for students wanting to combine to create such a group. I would be happy to provide students with music and coaching. Get together with some other musicians and find a time to rehearse: form a string quartet or quintet!

### **Solo and Ensemble Festivals**

The KSHSAA Regional Solo and Ensemble Festival is held in early April. This event allows students who have been working on a solo or in a small ensemble to perform their piece for an adjudicator for a rating and comments. Solos and ensembles who receive a "I" rating are able to perform it later that month at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Receiving a "I" rating at Regional and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals is an incredible honor and testament to your performing ability. It also looks great on a resume and college application.

## **HONOR ORCHESTRAS AND PIT ORCHESTRA**

The best musicians are usually looking for extra events and orchestras they can play in to further develop their skills. The following groups are a few of the “one-time” orchestras (as opposed to year-long) that you can be a part of. All of these ensembles is full orchestra, including winds, brass, and percussion. This creates a different type of experience than string orchestra, as well as opening students up to a completely different set of repertoire. Each of these groups is also selective in nature and will look good on resumes and college applications.

### **NEKMEA All-District Honor Orchestra**

District Honor Orchestra auditions are held in November in Baldwin. Audition materials will be available at the beginning of the school year and will include 3-octave scales (2-octave for bass) and orchestral excerpts. Auditions for the NEKMEA District include students from Olathe, Blue Valley, Shawnee Mission, Lawrence, and others. The top auditioners are selected to perform in the Honor Orchestra in early December. A guest clinician is brought in to rehearse the group followed by a performance that afternoon. Being selected for this group is a distinguishing honor.

### **KMEA All-State Honor Orchestra**

Students selected for the All-District Honor Orchestra may then audition for KMEA All-State Honor Orchestra. The best orchestra students from across the state audition for this group, making acceptance into the orchestra a remarkable feat. Students who are accepted will have a three-day weekend (and have to miss some school) in February in Wichita. A distinguished clinician will rehearse the orchestra, culminating in a performance of the challenging music. Three-year participants in this orchestra are bestowed with an additional medal for their accomplishment.

### **Musical Pit Orchestra**

Every year, the Olathe Northwest Performing Arts Department performs a musical, combining the band, orchestra, vocal music, and drama departments for one event. This event is always popular, well-attended, and quite publicized in the community. Quality musicians are therefore needed for the pit orchestra. The music is often challenging, so after school rehearsals and individual practice is necessary. Performing for a stage musical is a unique musical art and is quite a lot of fun for those willing to put in the time. Because of the pit size, only a limited number of students are able to participate. Consequently, the best and most dedicated students are selected to be a part of this important event.

## **YOUTH SYMPHONIES AND COMMUNITY ORCHESTRAS**

Youth symphonies are full orchestra ensembles, featuring winds, brass, and percussion along with the strings section. This opens students to a new set of repertoire and a wholly different experience than string orchestra. The level of music is often difficult, and auditions are required in order to become a member of the group.

### **Olathe Area Youth Symphony**

The Olathe Area Youth Symphony, under the direction of Mr. Greg Ferguson and Mr. Randy Detrick, features the top high school musicians in the Olathe area. Rehearsals are held every Monday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 at Olathe South, and two Sunday afternoon performances are given each year. Auditions are held each May.

### **Kansas City Youth Symphony**

The Kansas City Youth Symphony is directed by Dr. Glenn Block. The orchestra is comprised of the best musicians in the Kansas City metropolitan area and plays difficult repertoire from professional symphonic music. Rehearsals are held every Sunday afternoon, with several performances given throughout the year. Auditions are held in May.

### **Olathe Community Orchestra**

While not as selective as a youth symphony, the Olathe Community Orchestra offers another option for students interested in the full orchestra literature. The group, conducted by Mr. Steven Smith, is made up of adults and students in the Olathe area that enjoy playing the classics. The orchestra is non-audition and rehearses Thursday evenings, giving a few concerts throughout the year. The Olathe Community Orchestra also holds an annual concerto competition (you needn't be a member of the OCO to apply). The winner will perform the piece with the Olathe Community Orchestra and will receive a scholarship. Contact Mr. Steven Smith if interested in joining or auditioning for the competition.

### **Church Orchestras**

Many churches have orchestras that play on a regular basis. If you attend a church that has an orchestra, don't be afraid to join. It will give you another opportunity to make music and increase your repertoire. Take advantage of any chance to play more music!

## ONW ORCHESTRA LETTERS

Olathe Northwest Orchestra members may letter in orchestra. Orchestra members who contribute and participate at a higher level may receive this honor at the end of the year. The following gives the requirements in obtaining a letter in orchestra.

### Requirements

- Attendance and participation at all but TWO required afternoon/evening combined rehearsals.
  - Attendance and participation in ALL Olathe Northwest Orchestra required concerts/events.
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When BOTH requirements have been met, you may begin tabulation on letter points below (all events applicable only if they occurred this year).

- Chosen and participating member of NEKMEA All-District Honor Orchestra (30 points)
- Chosen and participating member of Kansas All-State Orchestra (40 points)
- Received a "I" Rating at KSHSAA State Solo/Ensemble Festival in solo or small ensemble (30 points)
- Received a "II" Rating at KSHSAA State Solo/Ensemble Festival in solo or small ensemble (20 points)
- Received a "I" Rating at KSHSAA Regional Solo/Ensemble Festival in solo or small ensemble (20 points)
- Auditioned for NEKMEA All-District Honor Orchestra (15 points)
- Regularly taking private lessons during the school year (25 points)
- Member of Olathe Area Youth Symphony (20 points)
- Member of Kansas City Youth Symphony (20 points)
- Member of ONW Orchestra select ensemble (20 points)
- Member of ONW musical pit orchestra (20 points)
- Member of church or civic orchestra (15 points)
- Member of Tri-M Music National Honor Society (15 points)
- Attendance at an ORCHESTRA music event (must be approved and have documentation) (5 points)
- Other various activities as approved by Mr. Martin (values TDB)

**You must have a total of 60 points to letter.**



## **MUSIC ENDORSEMENT**

This is an opportunities to take part in a programs that is particular only to the Olathe School District high schools and Olathe Northwest specifically. Being a part of this program demonstrates an elevated dedication to music, as well as having high academic standards in general.

### **Music Endorsement Program**

The Music Endorsement Program is part of the Olathe School District's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Enhancement Programs. These programs focus on expanded connections with jobs and careers, expanded use of technology, cross-discipline learning, and student (as well as program) recognition. This endorsement is recognition on a student's transcript that indicates the student's focus or area of study as music. The concept is similar to other weighted grade designations made on students' transcripts, such as Advanced Placement, honor classes, and Career/Technical certifications.

Students interested in a music endorsement must take orchestra all 8 semesters during high school, along with at least one semester of music theory and some other arts-related electives. Students must participate in extended learning experiences outside the school day, such as community orchestras or youth symphonies. The student must also demonstrate individual and leadership experiences, such as KSHSAA Solo and Ensemble Festivals and KMEA Honor Orchestras.

The program requires extra work and culminates in a final project, most likely a performance, your senior year. This is an excellent opportunity if you are considering pursuing music after high school.

## MUSIC THEORY AND APPRECIATION

Olathe Northwest offers a course in Music Theory and Appreciation that you can take in the fall as a single semester course or for full year. This class is particularly helpful for those considering pursuing music after high school or for those who just have an interest in knowing more about how music works.

Mr. Martin teaches the course, focusing on the basics of music theory, chord recognition and analysis, voice leading principals, and basic four-part writing. The music appreciation part of the course follows the history of art music, as students listen to, journal about, and discuss music throughout the history of composition.

If you are considering a music major or minor in college, this course will give you an excellent start on your studies. If you just love music and want to study its functions, as well as listen to some great music, then this would be a great class to consider.

## SUMMARY

The fact that you are enrolled in high school orchestra demonstrates that you have an interest in making music and playing a stringed instrument. By this level, considering the amount of time you've put into learning to play a stringed instrument, you should be thinking about how to get more from orchestra. Consider what you want to get from orchestra, and what you are willing to put in. As you have seen, there are a lot of opportunities waiting for students willing to take advantage of them.

