

# BHS ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK

2023-2024



**Mrs. Creamer:** BHS Orchestra

brianna\_creamer@bedfordps.org

<https://bpsstrings.weebly.com>

Instagram: @bpsorch

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Concert Orchestra

Concert Orchestra is a performing ensemble open to any students who play an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass, harp, or piano). During a student's four years at the High School they will experience repertoire from a wide variety of musical styles and time periods. Up to two sections of the course will be offered. Students may opt to enroll in multiple sections. Skills necessary for ensemble performance will be stressed, which include the development of technical ability, tone production and sight-reading. At home practice is expected. It is strongly recommended that students in this ensemble take private lessons. Concert participation is mandatory. Prior to each concert there will be a mandatory, evening rehearsal. Grades will be based upon rehearsal participation and behavior, concert and dress rehearsal attendance, and recording assignments. No more than two pianists per section will be accepted. If needed, auditions will be held to fill the accompanist slots.

### Chamber Orchestra

Chamber Orchestra is an auditioned, advanced performing ensemble that learns a sizable repertoire of high-caliber orchestral literature. During a student's four years at the High School they will experience repertoire from a wide variety of musical styles and time periods. String students will be chosen based upon assessments of musical independence, and advanced technique skills (phrasing, vibrato, shifting, and musicality). Evidence of maturity and cooperative learning abilities as demonstrated in participation in other BHS performance ensembles is also necessary. Instruction and practice in independent group orchestral skills, and music theory will be given. String students should be able to learn music quickly through a required home practice regimen. It is strongly recommended that students in this ensemble take private lessons. Concert participation is mandatory. Prior to each concert there will be a mandatory, evening rehearsal. Grades will be based upon rehearsal participation and behavior, concert and dress rehearsal attendance, and recording assignments

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances (including BHS Graduation), during and after school, is mandatory.

Personal illness or family emergency is the only excuse for missing a performance. *Personal illness* is defined as being "unable to be up and about". An orchestra member who is mildly indisposed (headache, upset stomach, etc.) is expected to perform to the best of their ability, because the absence would directly affect the quality of the group's performance. Any such absence must be confirmed by a parent in writing the first day the student returns to school. An absence due to COVID for any reason would qualify as an excused absence, and students will be asked to complete a written assignment to make up for missing the concert.

If any student misses too many rehearsals, or continuously forgets their instrument, to the degree that the director feels that the student is unable to perform adequately at the concert, that student will be expected to attend the concert, but will not participate in the performance.

All concerts begin at 7:00 PM. Students must be at school by 6:30 PM in order to get tuned, and to warm-up prior to the concert.

## CONCERT DRESS

### OPTION 1

Concert Black - Black dress shirt/blouse and black dress pants or skirt (knee-length or longer) OR Black Dress, black stockings or socks, and black shoes. All collared shirts required a Blue Tie (provided).

### OPTION 2

Black suit with white button down shirt, black shoes/socks, and Blue Tie (provided).

## INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Students should store their string instruments on the racks (**NOT on the floor**) in D104 (Band/Orchestra Room). Under no circumstances should they be left in the hallway or any other part of the school building. *The use of the racks is only for the school day that a student has rehearsal.* At the end of the day, students should take instruments home to practice. Leaving the instrument at school creates an inability to practice, and an elevated risk when left unsupervised.

## GRADING

Students' grades will be determined as follows:

### 1. Quarterly Grade 50%

Students will receive a quarterly grade for the development of the skills inherent in becoming a contributing member of an orchestra. Teachers will be using the Daily Preparedness and Musicianship Checklist to grade students' efforts in each class. These daily scores will be applied to the Quarterly Grading Rubric to achieve students' quarterly grades.

### 2. Recordings 20%

Students will complete three to four recordings per quarter. Recordings should be completed at home, using Google Classroom, and submitted by the due date for full credit. Recordings will be graded according to the Eastern District Solo Festival Evaluation Sheet (<http://mmeaeasterndistrict.org/scoreform/senior/strings/>)

### 3. Concert Attendance 30%

There will be three instrumental concerts, the MICCA Festival, and BHS Graduation every year. Students' attendance at all performances is mandatory. An unexcused absence from one performance could significantly lower a student's grade. Please refer to the 'Attendance' section of the handbook should you have any questions regarding the BPS Instrumental attendance policy.

### 4. Extra Credit

A student may also earn up to 5 points for each item of extra credit, which will then be applied to their point average. Grades above 100% cannot be issued in accordance with BHS's grading policy. Below are some ways to earn extra credit at BHS.

- Auditioning for the Eastern Senior District or All-State Orchestra
- Participating in the Eastern Senior District or All-State Orchestra
- Outside Youth Orchestra Participation
- Participation in the BHS Musical Pit Orchestra
- Attendance at Concerts where the student is not performing

## BHS Orchestra Daily Checklist

### Preparedness

Instrument	Yes	No
Materials	Yes	No
Rehearsal Readiness	Yes	No
Scales	Yes	No

100% "YES" corresponds to a 4 on the Quarter Grading Rubric

75% "YES" corresponds to a 3 on the Quarter Grading Rubric

50% "YES" corresponds to a 2 on the Quarter Grading Rubric

<25% "YES" corresponds to a 1 on the Quarter Grading Rubric

### Musicianship

<b>Musicality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rhythm reading</li> <li>● Note reading</li> <li>● Dynamics</li> <li>● Tempo</li> <li>● Articulation</li> </ul>	4	3	2	1
<b>Tuning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tune instrument</li> <li>● Puts fingers on instrument to create correct sound</li> </ul>	4	3	2	1
<b>Technique</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bow hold</li> <li>● Bow arm</li> <li>● Bowing technique</li> <li>● Instrument Posture</li> <li>● Left hand position</li> <li>● Fingerings</li> </ul>	4	3	2	1
<b>Behavior</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Appropriate classroom behavior</li> <li>● Ensemble listening skills</li> </ul>	4	3	2	1

The above numbers correspond directly to the Quarter Grading Rubric.

## BHS Orchestra Quarter Grading Rubric

Criteria	4 Exceeds Standards (A)	3 Meets Standards (A-, B+)	2 Emerging (B, B-)	1 Little Attempt Made (C, D)
<b>Instrument</b>	<i>Always</i> comes to rehearsals with their instrument	<i>Usually</i> comes to rehearsals with their instrument	<i>Sometimes</i> comes to rehearsals with their instrument	<i>Almost never</i> comes to rehearsals with their instrument
<b>Materials</b>	<i>Always</i> has music, book (if applicable) and pencil for every rehearsal	<i>Usually</i> has music, book (if applicable) and pencil for every rehearsal	<i>Sometimes</i> has music, book (if applicable) and pencil for every rehearsal	<i>Almost never</i> has music, book (if applicable) and pencil for every rehearsal
<b>Rehearsal Readiness</b>	Attends every rehearsal with music prepared, on time, and is ready to play <i>immediately</i>	Attends every rehearsal with music prepared and on time	Attends every rehearsal with music prepared and on time <i>almost all of the time</i>	Attends every rehearsal with music prepared and on time <i>almost none of the time</i>
<b>Scales</b>	Has all of the required scales learned with consistent intonation and technique	Has all of the required scales learned, but intonation and technique need improvement	Has most of the required scales learned, and intonation and technique need improvement	Has few or none of the required scales learned, and intonation and technique are inadequate
<b>Concert Music</b>	Has concert music prepared <i>well in advance</i> for concert performance	Has concert music prepared for concert performance	Has concert music <i>almost</i> prepared for concert performance	Has concert music <i>almost never</i> prepared for concert performance
<b>Musicality</b>	Demonstrates knowledge, skill, and execution of music <i>above grade level</i>	Demonstrates knowledge, skill, and execution of music <i>at grade level</i>	Demonstrates knowledge skill and execution of music <i>below grade level</i>	Demonstrates knowledge, skill, and execution of music <i>far below grade level</i>
<b>Tuning</b>	Knows how to tune & <i>always</i> has consistent intonation	Knows how to tune & <i>usually</i> has consistent intonation	<i>Sometimes</i> can tune & has consistent intonation	Unable to tune & has <i>inconsistent</i> intonation
<b>Technique</b>	<i>Always</i> demonstrates appropriate technique/posture	<i>Usually</i> demonstrates appropriate technique/posture	<i>Sometimes</i> demonstrates appropriate technique/posture	<i>Almost never</i> demonstrates appropriate technique/posture
<b>Behavior</b>	<i>Always</i> displays appropriate classroom behavior and is engaged in active listening	<i>Usually</i> displays appropriate classroom behavior and is engaged in active listening	<i>Sometimes</i> displays appropriate classroom behavior or is engaged in active listening	<i>Almost never</i> displays appropriate classroom behavior or is engaged in active listening

## **PARENT SUPPORT**

Parental involvement is an important part of a successful music program. Your support means more than you know. Parents are urged to attend performances, encourage students to practice, and become active in the school music program. Parent volunteers are needed to help with concerts, fundraising, and scholarship opportunities for seniors through Bedford's Patrons of Music (POMS). Bedford's POMS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that has supported music programs in Bedford through fundraising and service to the community for more than 50 years. POMS' fundraising efforts support the students and music faculty of Bedford, with supplementary funds and services to help make Bedford's vibrant music program even better. We encourage your involvement with this organization to whatever degree you are able to participate. As always, a huge thank you to all of you who make Bedford's POMS the amazing support system it is!

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

We encourage all students to take private lessons at BHS. Students can progress at amazing rates while taking private lessons. All orchestra students are encouraged to seek private instruction to further develop technique, sight-reading ability, and repertoire. POMS sponsors an after school private lesson program where, for a fee, students can study one-on-one with specialists on their instrument. Information can be found at [www.bedfordpoms.org/private-lessons](http://www.bedfordpoms.org/private-lessons).

## **KEEP UP WITH BPS ORCHESTRA**

Want to stay up to date on the Bedford Orchestra program or get more information?

Check out our website: <https://bpsstrings.weebly.com>

or

Follow our Instagram: @bpsorch

### BHS ROTATING DAY SCHEDULE

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
7:40	WARNING BELL					
7:45 - 8:55	A	FLEX	A	A	FLEX	A
8:59 - 10:09	Concert Orchestra	Chamber Orchestra	BC	Concert Orchestra	Chamber Orchestra	BC
10:09 - 10:18	BREAK PERIOD/ADVISORY WEDNESDAYS (9:29-9:56) A213 - Ms. Goetchius's Room					
10:22 - 11:32	Concert Orchestra	MMMP	MMMP	Concert Orchestra	MMMP	MMMP
Lunch Block	FIRST LUNCH: 11:36 - 11:56		CLASS SECOND: 12:00 - 1:10			
	CLASS FIRST: 11:36 - 12:46		SECOND LUNCH: 12:50 - 1:10			
	DE	D	D	DE	D	D
1:14 - 2:24	E	Ind. Study	E	E	Ind. Study	E

### BHS ORCHESTRA CONCERT DATES 2023-2024

<i>November 4 @ TBD</i>	<i>Eastern District Senior Auditions (optional)</i>
December 11 @ 6:00-8:00 PM	BHS Band/Orchestra Dress Rehearsal @ BHS Auditorium
December 12 @ 7:00 PM	BHS Winter Instrumental Concert @ BHS Auditorium
<i>January 5-7</i>	<i>Eastern District Senior Festival (for accepted students)</i>
<i>January 20</i>	<i>All-State Auditions (for accepted students)</i>
<i>January 27 @ TBD</i>	<i>Eastern District Junior Auditions (optional - Freshmen)</i>
<i>March 8-10</i>	<i>Eastern District Junior Festival (Freshmen)</i>
March 18 @ 6:00-8:00 PM	BHS Band/Orchestra Dress Rehearsal @ BHS Auditorium
March 20 @ 7:00 PM	All-Town Strings Vertical Concert @ BHS Auditorium
March 21 @ 7:00 PM	All-Town Vertical Concert SNOW DATE
<i>March 21-23</i>	<i>All-State Festival (for accepted students)</i>
April 25 @ 7:00 PM	Music Major Recital Night (all students welcome) @ D104
May 13 @ 6:00-8:00 PM	BHS Band/Orchestra Dress Rehearsal @ BHS Auditorium
May 14 @ 7:00 PM	BHS Spring Instrumental Concert @ BHS Auditorium
June 6 @ 6:15 PM	BHS Graduation (students will be departing at 4:00)



# **BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA**

## **STUDENT COMMITMENT FORM 2023-2024**

An email will be sent to you with a digital copy of the handbook and a Google Form in lieu of a paper Commitment Form to complete with your child acknowledging that you have read and understand the handbook.

You may also scan the following QR code to access and sign the Commitment Form instead.

