

**Parkview 7/8
Orchestra Handbook**



2016-2017

Mrs. Jennifer Taylor, Director
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Dear Orchestra Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the Parkview Orchestra! I am will be the Long Term Substitute for Mrs. Laura Hebert for this year. I will try to maintain what Laura has put into place in order for students to have consistency. Roseville has a wonderful reputation for great music and I am very excited for this school year. I know it will be a year full of learning, growing, creativity and a lot of fun! It is my goal for each orchestra class to become a TEAM. Orchestra is just like a team sport; in order to achieve our goals, we need every person, and every person is a valuable part of our team. Every team member will receive respect and support from the rest of the team, and every team member will do their own personal best to help the whole orchestra succeed.

In terms of curriculum, students will be learning to think critically and practice effectively. They will increase their technical skills on their instrument to help them create fun, expressive music. They will learn about music theory, writing music, and music history.

In the back of this handbook, you will find a contact info/practice goal/ agreement form for the student and parent/guardian to sign. Every student is to set a practice goal. This is the “homework” for orchestra class. The students will be given practice cards to record their weekly practice minutes. They will be graded on their *average* weekly practice, so if there is a week they don't make their goal, they can make it up the next week. I feel that a minimum of 120 minutes a week is required to make progress in middle school. **Practice cards will be due at the end of each MONTH.**

I am very excited for this school year! Please feel free to contact me by phone or email with any questions. Emails are preferable since I share a phone.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Taylor

e-mail: jennifer.taylor@isd623.org



Grading System:

Practice cards- 50 points per month

Playing exams- 40 points per test (3-5 per trimester)

Lesson/large group preparation- 15 points per lesson (5 points for coming on time, 5 points for bringing music/pencil/binder, and 5 points for coming prepared!)

Pencil/Binder Check- 110-140 points per trimester (each trimester is a different length)

Other areas of grading:

On Time

Concert Reflection- 30 points

Theory homework- as needed

Materials Needed for Orchestra:

Folding Music Stand (at home for practicing)

Pencil – must have one for every class!

Rosin- found at any music store

Shoulder rest/rock stop- found at any music store

Mute- found at any music store

Cleaning cloth- any soft, clean cloth will work!

Orchestra Binder- 1 inch 3 ring binder

7/8 Lesson Book: Packets will be provided, but books may also be purchased. Please stay tuned as needed!



Instruments:

All students need an instrument in good condition and the correct size. Many students grow into full size violins in 7th grade. Please be warned about buying instruments over the internet; I would love to give you the name of some local places where you can purchase good quality instruments. A poor quality instrument will be a source of frustration for students.

-Instruments can be rented from Parkview for \$60 a year. The Rental fee is due October 7th. If possible, cellists and bassists will have one instrument to use at school and one to use at home. Rental contracts will be handed out to those who need them.

-Violinists and violists will need to carry their instruments back and forth from school to home. Not only are they small enough to transport, but practicing on the same instrument that you perform on will help practice-time be more effective and increase technical skills quicker!

-Violins and violas are stored in the lockers in the music wing during the day. All cases need to be clearly labeled with the owner's name.

Orchestra Procedures

4

Schedule: Orchestra meets M-W-F one week and then M- W the next. Orchestra takes place on “Main ” weeks so please keep track of when you have orchestra!

Beginning of Every Class: Jennifer will say “Binder and pencil ”. At this time every student will hold up their own Orchestra Binder and pencil.

Orchestra Binders: Thin binders with dividers will be used to keep all music copies/worksheets/handouts/lesson book used in class. These are the “textbooks” for Orchestra class. The binder should be taken home regularly so that the students have their music to practice! There is a shelf in the orchestra room where students can store their binders during the day if they wish, but they are expected to take them home each night for practicing.

Orchestra Expectations

- Sit with good posture when playing: feet flat on the floor (legs uncrossed), back away from the back of the chair
- Be on time, ready to begin with music and instrument ready to go.
- NO eating, drinking, or chewing gum during rehearsal
- Take care of/keep track of your orchestra binders—they are your textbook for orchestra!
- Practice every day! Each student will have a practice card that needs to be signed by parent/guardian. Jennifer will check these practice minutes every week at lessons and the student will turn in the practice card at the end of each month.

The Podium: When someone (usually the teacher, but not always) stands on the podium, all students bring their attention to the front of the class and listen. (no talking, playing, or plucking when there is someone on the podium)

2-Minute Rule: In orchestra class, Jennifer will give students the first 2 minutes after the bell rings to get instruments and materials ready to go. This is the time for rosinning the bow and getting folders from the hallway. When the 2-minutes is over every student should be in their seat, ready to go.



Lessons

In addition to orchestra class, all students (unless student currently takes private lessons and has made arrangements with Jennifer) will be scheduled to come out of another class for a small group lesson, once a week. These lessons are around 30 minutes long. Lesson times may change each trimester. Every student is expected to come on time to every lesson. Instruments, orchestra binders, practice cards, and the lesson book.

Concerts

Orchestra is by nature a **performance** class. The concerts are a chance to celebrate the progress the students have made and fun way for the parents/guardians and Roseville community to see what the students have been learning. It is also important that orchestra is a team effort so it is vitally important that every member is there. It affects the entire ensemble if one student is missing!! Concerts at Parkview are a music department event, so the band will be performing on the same nights. **Students are expected to stay for the entire concert and support their peers in the other ensembles! NO EXCEPTIONS!** **Please plan ahead for these dates!!**

If a student cannot attend a concert, the parents/guardians should contact Jennifer by e-mail as soon as possible. I should be contacted least 48 hours in advance to allow time for seating changes etc. *Jennifer will give the student an assignment to make up for the missed concert.*

Concert dress: Girls should wear a collared white shirt with sleeves and long black pants (no yoga pants). Boys should wear a collared white shirt with sleeves and long black pants. Black dress shoes should be worn by everyone.

The Concert dates:

October 6th: Faculty Recital (7:00) This is optional, but extra credit will be given ☺

December 13th: 7/8 Grade Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra (12:45pm and 6:30 pm)

February ? TBA: MNSOTA Middle Level Orchestra Festival Tier 1. Possibly 2/22 at Wayzata High School.

March 20th: MNSOTA Tier 2 (ONLY if we pass Tier 1 with high distinction)

May 23: 7/8 Grade Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra (12:45pm and 6:30 pm)

Exciting Opportunities!

Chamber Orchestra – A weekly before or after school extra-curricular orchestra that any band/orchestra students can join. Auditions will take place in the next couple weeks. We will start meeting the last week in September. Students who are interested can come sign up! The fee for chamber orchestra is \$60 (\$50 for Chamber Orchestra and \$10 for T-shirt).

MNSOTA Middle Level Honors Orchestra- Audition date Oct. 14. Performances on February 17-18. More information at www.mnsota.org



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Contact Info form and contract

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Instrument: _____

Parent/Guardians name(s): _____

Preferred parent/guardian contact phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's e-mail: to ensure that I have a current email, **PLEASE EMAIL ME WITH YOUR CHILDS NAME so I can keep this on record!**

Student's e-mail: _____ (optional)

Lessons: check all that apply

I will only be taking school lessons this year.

I will be taking private lessons **and** school lessons this school year

My private teacher is _____.

I am **interested** in taking private lessons and need a list of local teachers.

I will only be taking private lessons this year

Chamber Orchestra- please check. (optional)

I am interested in playing in Chamber Orchestra 2:00-2:45 pm on Monday

I understand that I need to keep track of my practice minutes on my practice card and it will be signed by my parent/guardian with my monthly practice minutes recorded.

I have read and understand the Parkview Orchestra Handbook and know when all concerts take place. I understand I am not able to leave early for these concerts.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Email:

Please email me with your child's name!

Date

(please return this form to Jennifer by September 23, 2016)