

2022-2023
Egg Harbor Township
Students grades 6-8
Orchestral Strings Handbook



Revised 9/2/21

Ms. Kate Wyatt
FMS & Miller
Google Classroom: 5z2i33z

wyattk@eht.k12.nj.us

Ms. Jenna DiSalvio
AMS & EHTHS
Google Classroom: zdm364n

disalvioj@eht.k12.nj.us

Dear EHT String Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! This year will be packed with exciting performance opportunities, trips, competitions, and other fun events for our orchestra students. Students will have orchestra built into their schedule every other day for a semester (half of the school year). This will allow for added instructional time, giving more time to focus more on fundamentals, learn more music, more scales, and further develop our musical and non-musical skills.

We're looking forward to a great year for instrumental music in EHT!

<i>Ms. Wyatt</i> 609-383-3366 X1515 wyattk@eht.k12.nj.us	<i>Ms. DiSalvio</i> 609-653-0100 X2617 disalvioj@eht.k12.nj.us
--	---

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide and a source of information for students and families in the program. Every student is given a copy of this handbook at the beginning of the year and it is essential that every student reads the handbook thoroughly as information, policies, and expectations are addressed. The overall program will benefit from adherence to our policies, which foster better parent, teacher, and student relationships. To that end, this handbook cannot possibly cover every detail of our program, so, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. DiSalvio, Ms. Wyatt, or your building principal.

***After reading this handbook, please fill out and sign the last page of this packet.
This form is due to Ms. Wyatt or Ms. DiSalvio by Friday, September 23rd.***

Attendance

Performances and After-School Rehearsals

Instrumental Music is a performing art and our performances are considered an extension of class time. It is essential that students participate in all performances. If a student must be absent from any rehearsals or performances, a parent must inform Ms. Wyatt or Ms. DiSalvio in writing, preferably via email, **before** the event occurs if the absence is to be excused. Students with an excused absence may be required to complete an alternative assessment.

Examples of excused absences include, and may not be limited to: sickness, religious event, family illness, hospitalization, legal obligations, snow/weather related circumstances, death in the family, etc. Non-school events are not an excused absence. Please put all orchestra rehearsal calendar dates on your personal calendar at home so that potential conflicts can be avoided. A calendar will be given to all students and important dates are also included in this handbook. If you have a conflict with another school activity, let Ms. Wyatt or Ms. DiSalvio know well in advance and they will work it out with the other activity advisor or coach.

An unexcused absence from a performance or a required rehearsal will result in the student receiving a grade of 0 (zero) for the event. A grade of zero (0) for an unexcused absence will remain in place until the student completes an "alternative assignment" with a 60 being the highest grade attainable.

Continued unexcused absences may result in the student being removed from the performing arts organization.

Orchestra Class (as an elective)

During the semester you have Band or Orchestra as an elective, you are required to be present in class. Because the class is on students' schedule, they are no longer "missing" another class to be in Band or Orchestra.

Lessons (All students grades 6-8)

During the semesters that you DO NOT have Orchestra as an elective (or if you are a 6th grader), you will be required to attend one lesson per week*. Students will be coming out of phys ed (gym) class or their scheduled special OR their WIN time, to attend those lessons. All students are responsible for any work missed while attending their lessons.

*See further details under "Grading System"

Rehearsal Etiquette

- Respect each other and respect all equipment.
- Enter the room quietly, get your instrument, and take a seat, and warm up.
- Please refrain from all food, drink, gum, or candy in the orchestra room or Stage unless approved by the director. Bottled water is always allowed.
- Running and horseplay are never allowed.
- Writing on the dry-erase boards, music stands, risers, and/or chairs is never allowed.
- Touching or holding another student's instrument is NOT permitted, even with the other student's permission.
- For your security as well as to practice, instruments and folders/binders are to be taken home each weekend.
- Cell phone use during rehearsal is prohibited unless you are using it for musical purposes, ie. tuner, metronome, etc.

Alder Avenue Middle School Instrumental Ensembles

String Orchestra: *Ms. DiSalvio, Director*

This ensemble is composed of ALL violin, viola, cello and bass students who have developed the skills required to perform in an ensemble. The emphasis in Orchestra is on learning the fundamentals of musicianship through the performance of challenging repertoire that includes and is not limited to classical, popular or thematic music. The Orchestra performs two concerts a year in the evening.

Symphony Orchestra: *Ms. DiSalvio, Director*

This ensemble will comprise the top string and band students at Alder & Fernwood per director recommendation. They play a wide variety of challenging music.

Fernwood Avenue Middle School Instrumental Ensembles

6th-8th Grade Orchestra: *Ms. Wyatt, Director*

This ensemble is composed of ALL violin, viola, cello and bass students who have developed the skills required to perform in an ensemble. The emphasis in Orchestra is on learning the fundamentals of musicianship through the performance of challenging

repertoire that includes and is not limited to classical, popular or thematic music. The Orchestra performs two concerts a year in the evening and two daytime concerts for the students and faculty.

Symphony Orchestra: *Ms. Wyatt, Director*

The Symphony Orchestra is an audition based ensemble that is made of selected wind ensemble and string orchestra students. The Symphony Orchestra practices and performs more challenging pieces, while collaborating with students outside their usual ensembles.

Fiddle Club: *Ms. Wyatt, Director*

The Fiddle Club is an ensemble for 7th and 8th graders who choose to join. This ensemble studies more modern genres such as fiddling, rock, pop, blues and more. This ensemble also travels and will perform off campus. Students in this ensemble must have one year in string orchestra before joining.

Withdrawing from Program

Students may withdraw from the Instrumental Program by having their parent or guardian email Ms. Wyatt or Ms. DiSalvio and their guidance counselor. You may not withdraw mid-semester. You will be removed from Infinite Campus at the start of the next, new semester and are responsible for all work up to that point.

All-South Jersey Orchestra

Seventh and eighth grade students may audition for Region and Honor Orchestra. Audition music is available to all students during the first month of school. Students are encouraged to participate in the audition process by recommendation of Ms. Wyatt and Ms. DiSalvio. Sixth grade students are eligible to be nominated for the South Jersey Elementary Honors Orchestra, for which there is no audition. If accepted, you will be required to attend all rehearsals and the concert. Students in grade 7 & 8, **this year's auditions are on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at Absegami High School.**

Fundraising

Although the Alder and Fernwood Instrumental Music Program receives funding through the school district, there may be times when these funds must be supplemented to allow for special functions to take place. In the event that our instrumental music students participate in a fundraising activity, profits from the fundraiser will go towards travel, music contests, social events, incentives, and awards.

**If you do not wish for your child to participate in a fundraising activity, please notify the director by e-mail, phone, or a written note.

Grading System

Alder and Fernwood Middle School's Instrumental program uses a grading system that evaluates each student's progress in musical literacy, performance and technical mastery, and that is consistent with and supportive of the NJCCS and PARCC. Grades will be earned in each category below and averaged together each marking period.

I. Lesson participation and preparation (35%) – Students are expected to attend four (4) lessons a month during full months of school. During the months of November, December, and Spring Recess, students are required to attend three (3) lessons. Students may come to lessons that are listed on the calendar and compatible with their schedule. In addition, Students **MUST** inform their classroom/subject area teacher prior to attending their lessons. Students begin each grading period with a 100. The grade is reduced ten (10) points each time the student does not attend or shows up unprepared. The grade is increased by 1 point; each time a student shows up in addition to their normal lesson (recess, tutorial, lunch, etc.) and is well prepared. Grades can also be increased at the director's discretion for completing extra musical assignments, helping other students or by exceeding stated requirements.

II. Scales and Exercises (30%) - These grades will include written tests and playing tests (scales, exercises, warm-ups, etc.). Students are given scale sheets from which to work. All assigned scales must be completed by June 1st, 2022.

III Concerts and Concert Music – (35%) – These grades will include the preparation and performance of selections for seasonal concerts.

Instrumental Grading Rubric/Guide

50	60	70	80	90	100
Student struggles with the basic tone production and rhythmic accuracy required to perform the selection. This is likely the result of lack of preparation or practice.	Performed approximately 50% of all pitches accurately. Tone quality and tempo had several lapses in quality and consistency. In addition, articulations are rarely presented in the performance.	Performed most pitches accurately and fluently. Tone quality and tempo maintenance present challenges for the performer. In addition, not all articulations are properly presented.	Performed all pitches accurately and fluently. Tone Quality is clear and beautiful and tempo is consistent. In addition, all articulations are properly presented.		

Retest Policy: Students may retest as often as possible for a higher grade on any scale or piece of concert music within the current marking period. Retesting will change the student grade when the retest result is a higher score.

Instrument Identification

Every student must have his/her name fastened to his/her instrument case. Percussion students must label all of their equipment with their name, including sticks and mallets. Students may not use another student's instrument.

Instrument Storage

Each student will be assigned a space to keep his/her instrument and music binder during the school day. Students are expected to keep their instrument in their assigned space. Students may not leave backpacks and other school books in the cabinets. Please use your school locker for those needs.

Materials

All instrumental students are encouraged to have a 3-ring binder with plastic sheet protectors or an organized music folder, a pencil used for orchestra only, music folder, and a metronome-tuner or an app with those functions. Students who do not have the necessary materials for their instrumental music class will be loaned the materials if possible. If a persistent problem occurs, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian and schedule a conference. **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR MUSIC WITH YOU!**

Practicing

To be a successful musician, it is important that you distinguish the difference between playing and practicing. The amount of practice required will vary from person to person as some need more than others in order to learn their music and improve on their instrument. Quality of practice is more important than quantity; therefore it is important to be relaxed and be able to concentrate. Select a time of day that will be free from interruptions and try to practice at the same time every day. A good warm up and slow, steady practice will pay off much more quickly than trying to play things as fast as possible! Private instruction is a great way to improve and is always encouraged. See your teacher for recommendations on who might be able to help you.

School-owned Instruments

Students may sign out a school-owned instrument if necessary. The student is responsible for the care and maintenance of the school-owned instrument that they are using. If the instrument is damaged while in the possession of the student, they must pay the repair cost to put the instrument back into its original condition.

Important Dates*

Make sure all applicable dates are in your calendar to avoid conflicts.

Date	Time	What	Where	Who
Friday, October 7,, 2022	5pm-7pm	National Anthem Project	EHT High School Gym	All Music Students
Saturday, December 10, 2022	All day	SJBODA auditions	Absegami High School	*By recommend
Wednesday, January 25, 2023	In school	Dress Rehearsal	Fernwood	Orchestra
Thursday, January 25, 2023	6:15pm report 7pm Concert	Winter Concert	Fernwood Auditorium	Orchestra
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	All School Day 7pm Concert	District Strings Festival	EHTHS	District String Students
Wednesday, May 25, 2023	In School	Dress Rehearsal	Fernwood MS Auditorium	All strings grades 6-8

Wednesday, May 25, 2023	6:15pm report 7pm Concert	Spring Concert	Fernwood MS Auditorium	All strings grades 6-8
TBD	Times TBD	Music in the Parks Festival/Trills and Thrills/PAC for a day?	Six Flags Great Adventure	TBA

****These dates are subject to change. Performances may be added.***

Student Behavior

Ms. Wyatt and Ms. DiSalvio will handle minor behavior violations and disciplinary problems such as disrespect and first time late offenses. The parent will be contacted and a conference will be scheduled whenever Ms. Wyatt or Ms. DiSalvio feels that the behavior of a student impedes their success or the success of others. Repeated and/or serious misbehaviors will be referred to the Assistant Principal.

Expectations

- Be on time, to enter the room/stage quietly, to have all materials, and to participate in the class in a positive manner.
- Be seated in his/her assigned seat, with all class materials, as soon as possible.
- Demonstrate good citizenship, be courteous, and respect teachers, guests, other students and their property.
- Play or touch your instrument only. Students will be held responsible for any damage they do to another student's instrument.
- The student is expected to participate in all required functions. These include concerts, contests, festivals, special events, pep rallies, etc. You will always be informed well in advance of these events so that conflicts may be avoided. Most dates have already been scheduled and you can find them on the Instrumental Calendar.

Instrumental Music Handbook Agreement

*Please detach, sign, and return to Ms. Wyatt or Ms. DiSalvio by **Friday, September 23, 2022.***

I have read and understood all of the policies in the Alder/Fernwood Instrumental Music Handbook. I understand the expectations that are to be upheld by the instrumental music students and will encourage my child to abide by the rules set in place and to fulfill their obligations to the organization.

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Phone Number Parent/Guardian Email Address