



Grove Junior High School Orchestra Handbook

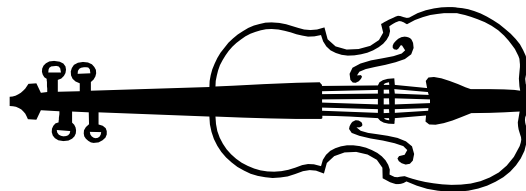
2015-2016

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August 2015

Dear Orchestra Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Grove Junior High School Orchestra program! I hope that you are looking forward to another exciting year. Awaiting you this year will be many exciting musical activities such as concerts, solo and ensemble contest, orchestra contest, and outreach performances in our community. Additionally, the 8th Grade Orchestra has been accepted to perform at the Illinois Music Education Conference in January!

This handbook is designed to outline and describe the policies and expectations of the Grove Orchestra Program. Each student should read the handbook together with a parent or guardian. After you have finished reading and discussing the handbook, please complete and return the final page (front and back) to me by Friday, August 28th. Please save this handbook in order to refer to it during the course of the year.

It is our hope that along with the enjoyment you have playing your instrument, you will also develop your own goals for orchestra and follow the classroom expectations for a successful year. Feel free to contact me at any time with your questions or concerns.

I am looking forward to another awesome year!

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Orchestra Director
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Preparing Students To Be Successful For Life

Student and Parent Expectations and Responsibilities

Student Expectations

All orchestra students are expected to:

- Come prepared to all rehearsals and lessons with:
 - Instrument with first and last name on case
 - Rosin, rock stop (cellos), shoulder rest or pad (violin/viola)
 - Pencil!
 - Music - in **1/2"-1" binder**
 - Plastic sheet protectors for music (not required, but recommended)
 - Best efforts!
- Wear appropriate attire (see "Uniform") for performances.
- Store instruments properly in the orchestra room at the beginning of the school day.
- Bring home instrument daily in order to practice.
- Attend scheduled orchestra concerts, contests, and field trips.
- Attend weekly group lessons (sectionals).
- Take home informational memos from the director to the parents, and return signed slips indicating that their parents have been provided with the information.
- Behave appropriately during class and during group lessons, to ensure the highest quality of learning for all members of the class.

Parent Responsibilities

For any instrumental music program to thrive and for students to succeed, there must be supportive parental backing. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, including:

- Making sure that your child attends all rehearsals, lessons, and performances scheduled for his/her orchestra.
- Providing a daily time and appropriate place for your child to practice.
- Giving continued positive encouragement and support! Ask your student to play for you what they have been learning in lessons and in orchestra.
- Attendance at the Grove Orchestra Association meetings. At this group, we will discuss upcoming performances, guest artists, fundraisers, field trips, and celebrations.

Practice

All instrumental music students should be practicing their instrument on a daily basis. Each student is expected to bring home his or her instrument and music **every day**, and should practice at least 100 minutes every week. Students should strive to spread out practice over several days, rather than attempt a one-day practice “marathon.” Students should be practicing material assigned in their weekly small group lesson, as well as music they are learning in orchestra class.

Uniform

The District 59 Orchestra Performance Uniform consists of basic white top and black bottoms. Students also wear colored bow ties and cummerbunds, which are provided by the District 59 Orchestra Boosters.

Required performance attire is:

- White shirt
 - Must be tucked in
 - Must button at neck
 - Must have pointed collar (to be worn with a bow tie)
- Black pants or black skirt
 - No sweatpants, workout pants, leggings, or jeans!
 - No mini skirts
- Black shoes (no tennis shoes)
- Black socks, or black/neutral hose

Last year, many students purchased white tuxedo shirts through the Grove Orchestra Association. These shirts may be reused for the 2015-2016 school year. ***Students should try on their shirts to make sure they still fit correctly.*** Tuxedo shirts will be available for purchase again this year during the fall.

Grove JHS Orchestra Grading Policy

Grading for students in orchestra will be based the following components:

- I. Orchestra members will take two playing tests per quarter. Your student will typically record his/her playing test at home on his/her school-issued device. Each playing test will be worth 100 points (up to a possible total of 200 points per quarter). The exception to this will be during first quarter, during which the start of lessons may be delayed due to beginning of the year activities.

- II. Students in orchestra are expected to practice 100 minutes per week. They earn points each week toward their grade, and the breakdown is as follows (with a possible total of 10 points weekly):
 - Parent Signature = 5 points
 - 100 minutes or more= 5 points
 - 80 to 99 minutes= 4 points
 - 60 to 79 minutes = 3 points
 - 40 to 59 minutes = 2 points
 - 20 to 39 minutes = 1 point
 - 0 to 19 minutes = 0 points

***50% will be deducted from assignments turned in 1 day late.

***No credit will be given for assignments turned in 2 days late.

****Some weeks, your child may be provided with an alternate assignment (rather than simply recording practice minutes). Please be sure to ask your child what the current week's assignment is.*

- III. A portion (up to 100 points per quarter) of the grade may be based on written assignments and quizzes.

- IV. Each weekly sectional (small group lesson) will be worth a total of 15 points (5 points - is on time for lesson, 3 points - has all music, 2 points - has pencil, 5 points - is prepared with the previous week's assignment).

- V. 100 points will be awarded for participation at each required concert. To receive the full 100 points, your child must:
- i. Be present for the entire concert.
 - ii. Be in concert uniform.
 - iii. Display appropriate concert behavior, both while playing and while listening to others.
 - iv. Have all materials (music and instrument) at the concert.
 - v. Give his/her best effort! 😊

Any orchestra member missing a required performance will NOT be excused for any reason other than:

- A. **Illness explained in a written note from a parent, guardian or doctor.**
- B. **Family emergency explained in a written note from a parent or guardian.**

If a student misses a concert due to an excused absence, he/she will be provided with an alternate assignment and has the opportunity to make up 100% of the points.

If a student misses a concert due to an unexcused absence, he/she will need to make up his/her points through our extra credit opportunities (see below).

Extra credit opportunities ARE available for instrumental music students. A couple of ways a student can receive extra credit include:

1. Attending a concert (pre-approved by the teacher), submitting a program and writing a 1 page concert review afterwards-----20 points
2. Practicing in the band or orchestra room after school
-----15 points per half hour practiced

If students are missing points, we highly recommend they take advantage of these opportunities for extra credit!

Contact Information

Mrs. Berger will send regular e-mail updates to orchestra parents in addition to posting information on the Grove Orchestra website. Feel free to contact Mrs. Berger at berger.carolyn@ccsd59.org or at (847) 472-3074 if you have any questions throughout the year.

Orchestra Website

Please check the Grove Orchestra Website for updates, handouts, and homework assignment due dates. Mrs. Berger will update the website regularly.
<http://grove.ccsd59.org/teachers/bergercarolyn>

Google Classroom

This year, the orchestra students will be utilizing Google Classroom as a means of checking homework, sharing resources, and turning in assignments. Once students receive their devices for the school year, they will begin using Google Classroom.



Grove Orchestra Calendar



2015 - 2016 School Year

Date	Event	Location	Time	Grade
Wednesday, September 16	Orch. Association Meeting	Grove JHS	7:00 PM	parents
Wednesday, October 7	ILMEA Jr. Orch. Auditions	Lake Zurich MS South	evening	Select 7, 8
Monday, October 26	Orch. Association Meeting	Grove JHS	7:00 PM	parents
Thursday, November 12***	EGHS Dessert Night***	EGHS***	6:30 PM***	8***
Saturday, November 14	ILMEA Junior Festival	Wauconda HS	all day	Select 7, 8
Tuesday, December 1	Orch. Association Meeting	Grove JHS	7:00 PM	parents
Wednesday, Dec. 16***	Winter Orchestra Concert***	Grove JHS (gym)***	5:30 PM***	5***, 7***
Wednesday Dec. 16***	Winter Orchestra Concert***	Grove JHS (gym)***	7:30 PM***	6***, 8***
January TBD***	IMEC Preview Performance***	Grove JHS or EGHS***	evening***	8***
Friday, January 29***	IMEC Performance***	Peoria Civic Center***	all day***	8***
Thursday, February 4	Orch. Association Meeting	Grove JHS	7:00 PM	parents
Saturday, March 12***	IGSMA Org. Contest***	TBA***	TBA***	8***
Tuesday, March 29	Orch. Association Meeting	Grove JHS	7:00 PM	parents
Wednesday, April 6	Solo and Ensemble Contest	Holmes JHS	after school	5, 6, 7, 8
Monday, May 2	Orch. Association Meeting	Grove JHS	7:00 PM	parents
Tuesday, May 17***	Spring Orchestra Concert***	Grove JHS (gym)***	5:30 PM***	6***, 7***
Tuesday, May 17***	Spring Orchestra Concert***	Grove JHS (gym)***	7:30 PM***	5***, 8***

***Denotes REQUIRED

event

Please mark and save the applicable dates on your calendars. You will be informed well in advance if there are any additions or corrections to this schedule!

Fundraiser dates and pickup dates will be announced in the early fall.

Please complete and return this sheet to Mrs. Berger.

I have read the Grove Orchestra Handbook, and I fully understand and accept my responsibilities within the instrumental music program grading policy.

Student's Name _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____ Grade _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

This form is due *no later than* Friday, September 4th.

(Please make sure to fill out reverse side!)

Grove Orchestra Contact Information

Please print clearly!

Instrument and size of instrument (if known): _____

___ Please check if you rent your instrument

Where is instrument rented from? _____

___ Please check if you own your instrument

This form is due *no later than* Friday, September 4th.

(Please make sure to fill out reverse side!)

