

# Western Branch High School Orchestra

## Course Syllabus 2016-2017

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Planning Time: 2-3:30pm

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope all of you have had an enjoyable and restful summer vacation!! I am looking forward to another fantastic school!! This year, the orchestras of WBHS have been reorganized into 3 separate performing ensembles. Each orchestra will have a different focus and direction...I am so excited about the unique opportunities we will be able to explore!

I've compiled this information to help clarify the policies and rules that govern the Western Branch High School Orchestra Program. Please take a moment and review the information that follows. The final page is to be signed by both the student and parent. Please return this form to school as soon as possible. Do not hesitate to contact me at 757-638-7900 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the manual. Thank you again for your incredible support and cooperation-I'm looking forward to a Great Year!!

### ***THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:***

My email is: [martin.glasco@cpschools.com](mailto:martin.glasco@cpschools.com)

WB Orchestra Website: [www.westernbranchorchestra.com](http://www.westernbranchorchestra.com)

### **I.) COURSE INFORMATION:**

1. This syllabus is for Orchestra Courses: 65211, 65121, 65010, 65210, and 65201
2. These courses include: Chamber Orchestra, Zero Bell Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, and Preparatory 9<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra.
3. ***In the Fall 2016 semester, students may only drop classes within the first five days of school (by Monday, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016).***

### **II.) REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Students are required to provide an instrument, bow, rosin, pencil, paper, and instrument case. Cello and Bass students will be issued an instrument to use at school, however, it is **STRONGLY** encouraged that each of students provide their own instrument for home practice. Cello/Bass students will need to provide rosin and a cleaning cloth.
2. Sheet music and folders will be provided to each student. All original parts must be returned before the end of the term in their issued condition. All marks should be erased and music should **NOT** be folded or creased.
3. Students should stock: rosin, a pencil, a soft cloth for instrument cleaning, and extra strings.
4. All folders and music should bear the student's name and instrument cases **MUST HAVE A NAMETAG.**

### **III.) CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

1. All Chesapeake and WBHS rules and regulations apply to the Orchestra. Students are to present an absentee notice to cover days/times absent on the first day back at school. Each student is responsible for making up any missed work.
2. The Orchestra will be use the Orchestra Room (P5) as our rehearsal/class room. Students will not be permitted to eat lunch in the Orchestra Room. **NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM WILL BE ALLOWED IN THIS ROOM.**
3. Instruments are to be stored in their cases. WBHS is not responsible for any theft or damage to an instrument during the day or evening. Students may leave their instruments in the storage room in the Orchestra Room (P5). **ALL VIOLINS AND VIOLAS MUST BE TAKEN HOME EVERY FRIDAY.** Students who leave their instruments at school on Fridays will receive a grade deduction.

**IV.) STUDENT EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE:**

The Orchestra will use the following weighting for grades:

1. 40% for Performances
2. 30% for Participation/Practice
3. 30% for Quizzes/Homework

**CPS Numerical Grading Scale—Student grades will be calculated using the following scale:**

Range	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-7	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
Below 64	E

**V.) MAKE UP WORK/ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. All members of the Western Branch High School Orchestra are expected to attend all concert performances. It is the policy of this school and the City of Chesapeake that any student who is NOT in attendance of a scheduled concert and is without a written excuse acceptable by the Principal and of the Administration of Western Branch High School will be given a ZERO for that performance grade. Any student who experiences an emergency situation before written notification can be given is expected to submit a written excuse from the parent/guardian on the next school day (please refer to the attached memo from the Chesapeake City Schools Administration). Any student who is more than 15 minutes tardy to a performance will be considered absent and subject to the same grade reduction. With the exception of select ensembles, there will be at least TWO weeks notice prior to any concert performances
2. Students who are unable to attend a performance may be assigned an alternative assignment if the absence is considered “Excused” according to the attendance policies in the WBHS Student’s School Handbook.
3. Make up assignments will include a live performance of the concert music as well as a written evaluation of the student’s performance.
4. Students will receive a 10% grade deduction for each day a makeup assignment is late.

## **VI.) BYOD AND CELL PHONE POLICY:**

Students will not be allowed to use their cell phone/devices in the Orchestra Room (P5) during school hours. This classroom is a RED ZONE. Students possessing a cell phone/device will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **VII.) ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

1. Students will be required to adhere to the Chesapeake Public Schools attendance policy. Please refer to the Western Branch High School Student Handbook.
2. A separate memo regarding ZERO Bell Attendance Policies has been distributed and also posted in the Orchestra Room (P5).

## **VIII.) CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Students will be required to adhere to the Code of Academic Integrity which is referenced in the Western Branch High School Student Handbook.

## **IX.) CPS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY:**

Students will be required to adhere to the Chesapeake Public Schools Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy. Please refer to the CPS Students Conduct Policy Guidelines for Parents and Students issued on the first school day.

## **X.) MONOGRAMS:**

Orchestra Monograms are Chenille Letters given in recognition of outstanding achievement. Monograms may be earned by anyone who:

1. Has an 'A' average for the year.
2. Has NO unexcused absences from a rehearsal, for the year.
3. Auditions and/or Participates in Regional Orchestra
4. Attends at least 90% of all scheduled rehearsals.
5. Participates in fund raising/extra orchestra activities.

## **XI.) AUDITIONS/CHECK-OFFS:**

Seating auditions will be held after each concert performance to determine the seating in the orchestra. These auditions may be taped and reviewed by the teacher and possibly other professional musicians. The seating decision made by the Director is final and will be based on factors including audition performance, daily preparedness, reliability, and attitude. Check-offs will be given at intervals throughout the school year and may include non-playing objectives. Students may be asked to repeat a Check-off until mastery of the skill is demonstrated.

## **XII.) SECTION LEADERS/CONCERTMASTER:**

The principal player in each section will be determined in an audition at the beginning of the school year. It is the responsibility of that individual to meet with the other principal players and conductor to determine the bowing in each of the parts. The principal players should always be able to demonstrate any of the techniques of the music at any time. The principal player may be removed from that position in the case of being unprepared or a challenge from another player.

## **XII.) FUNDRAISING:**

Fundraising is a very important part of the successful operation of the orchestra outside of the school. The City of Chesapeake does provide funding for school related supplies, however, they do not aid in many of the performance pursuits of this organization. It is NOT REQUIRED that each student participate in the orchestra's fundraising efforts. The fundraising aspect of the orchestra does NOT affect the student's grade in any way and is considered optional. It must be expressed that being a part of any group may require time and effort to insure a productive and enjoyable experience. Monies raised over and above the monetary goal of that student will not be refunded. Students who raise a surplus may elect to maintain the extra in the orchestra account until such time as it is needed.

## **XII.) CONCERT ATTIRE: Each member of a WBHS Orchestra will be expected to wear the following for each performance: (a memo will follow shortly)**

**WOMEN:** Each female performer in the WBHS Orchestra will wear the "Caprice" Concert dress from Southeastern Apparel. Students will purchase their own concert dresses at the beginning of the school year. A very limited number of dresses are available to students to use for the year free of charge.

**MEN:** Each male performer will be required to wear a full black tuxedo with white wing tipped collar tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, cummerbund, black shoes, and black socks. Students will purchase their own concert dresses at the beginning of the school year. A very limited number of tuxedos are available to students to use for the year free of charge

## **XIV.) BANQUET:**

At the end of each year, the Western Branch Orchestra Parents host an End-of-the-Year Banquet honoring the Senior members of the WBHS Orchestra program. Attendance is requested of all Senior Orchestra Members and their families. The Banquet includes a meal and may require a small fee from each person who attends. Families are encouraged to attend to help honor the outstanding accomplishments of these students.

## **XV.) HONOR CODE:**

Academic consequences for honor code violations will no longer include failure of a term or a semester. Academic consequences may only result in a zero for that particular assignment for which the student violated the honor code, as well as additional consequences to be determined by administration. Consequences may include ISS, OSS, and temporary or permanent removal from membership in a school-sponsored organization.

## **XVI.) Western Branch Orchestra Parents Association WBOPA:**

The Western Branch Orchestra Parents Association is an organization of parents who work to generate funds to help defer costs associated with the orchestra program. The WBOPA maintains many activities throughout the school year. The WBOPA website is: [www.westernbranchorchestra.com](http://www.westernbranchorchestra.com). The website contains important information, reminders, and calendar dates. Parents can volunteer to help with activities using the link on the site.

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. WBHS and its employees shall not be responsible for any instrument that is lost or stolen in or on the school grounds. The instrument shall remain the sole responsibility of the student (this includes celli and bassi that are checked out from the school).
2. Students will be required to pay for lost or mutilated music. ALL music must be turned in free and clear of any marks.
3. The Orchestras will have a number of after school rehearsals to prepare for concert performances. Time in the auditorium is very limited so rehearsing outside of class is inevitable. All after school rehearsals will be announced at least ONE week prior and all members will be expected to make the necessary arrangements for jobs and transportation.
4. Seating will be determined at various intervals throughout the year. Students may elect to challenge the player ahead of them to improve their seating. No challenges will be permitted within TWO weeks of a concert performance. Students may only challenge ONE chair ahead of their present seat.
5. All Cellos and Basses are owned by the City of Chesapeake and must be signed out before students will be allowed to use them. All proper documents must be filled out by both the student and parent. Cellists and Bassists will be responsible for providing their own rosin and cleaning rags. Any instrument that is lost or stolen after it has been checked out by the student will be the responsibility of that student. WBHS is not responsible for lost or stolen instruments that are in the building.
6. All orchestra members will be expected to review at least one concert (other than one they participate in) per semester. The critical reviews will be written and turned by a specified date. They will count as a test grade.
7. Participation in extra curricular orchestra events is strongly encouraged. Transportation to all **school sponsored** events will be provided by CPS and all participants will be expected to use it. Students will not be allowed to drive by themselves to school sponsored orchestral activities.
13. A President and Committee will be elected by the students to perform various tasks throughout the school year. These elected students should be able to spend time after school and will carry additional responsibilities..
14. Bruin Sinfonia members will have an additional calendar of performances. These additional engagements may be made without the two weeks notice given to the concert and preparatory orchestras. Students performing in the Chamber Orchestra should have a flexible calendar and be prepared for last minute performance dates.

# **REGISTRATION FORM FOR MEMBERS**

2016-2017

**Please read the manual carefully and return this form signed by the next class meeting.**

Student's Name: (please print)

Address:

Email Address:

Home Phone Number:

Parent's Work Number (Please indicate which parent):

Emergency Number:

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Full Name:

Student Instrument Information:

Type:

Make:

Serial Number:

Renting or Own?

(Please check with your insurance agent concerning instrument damage and theft coverage.)

**STUDENT:** I have read and understand the guidelines set forth in the  
WBHS Orchestra Manual.

Student Signature:

Date:

**PARENTS/GUARDIAN:** I have read and understand the WBHS Orchestra Syllabus.  
I give my permission for my child to participate in the  
instrumental music program and all activities included.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: