

2016 – 2017

KTEC MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK



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Welcome to the KTEC Middle School Orchestra Program!

I hope everyone enjoyed a summer filled with fun, rest, and relaxation! I can't wait to get to know all of you. I am so glad you are here, and I hope you are ready to learn and perform some great music!

Please read this handbook thoroughly and keep it someplace safe for your records and reference. The purpose is to provide you with important information such as grading procedures, concert dates, expectations, concert dress, supplies, and student information sheet. I provide this at the year's start so that you will be fully informed upon entering the program.

Parents, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact me via phone, **(262)359-7134**, or via e-mail: karobins@kUSD.edu. Thank you for giving your child the wonderful opportunity to learn and study an instrument. I am confident that you will see growth in many areas, including musicality, academics, and maturity. Our success is directly related to your support and encouragement...thank you for giving us the opportunity experience success together! I'm looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and music making!

Sincerely,

Mr. Robinson

	Important Dates to Record	
November 12	Orchestra Booster Pancake Breakfast. All invited to attend.	UAW all morning
December 6 (Required)	KTEC Band/Orchestra Winter Concert	6:30 P.M. KTEC - West Auditorium
March 4&5 (Required)	Orchestra Festival	ITHS, 6:30 Sat/1:30 Sun (Reh. On Saturday 10:00 – 2:00)
March 18	Solo and Ensemble	ITHS, all day, individual event times TBA
May 16 (Required)	KTEC Orchestra Spring Concert	6:30 P.M. KTEC - West Auditorium

Grading

Grading will be based on a variety of criteria stemming from the Standards and Benchmarks the school district has laid out. The areas of evaluation are as follows:

1) Lifelong learning Standards – Skills that are intended to provide you with lifelong skills to assist you in the world and workplace. I use this area to evaluate your responsibility, timeliness, attitude, behavior, preparation, and participation.

10 points per class

2) Standard 2 – Performs a Variety of Repertoire – Concert attendance and playing tests are included. **40 points per playing test**

Notice will be given 1 week prior to test **100 points per concert**

3) Standard 3 – Creates Music – In this area you will be asked to do a variety of writing and playing exercises dealing with creating your own music. Some examples of this standard are: basic improvisation study, creating variations on familiar tunes, as well as learning to write your own melodies. **Points vary per assignment**

4) Standard 4 – Reading and Notating Music – The evaluation of this standard will most resemble that of your standard subject areas. Included will be written quizzes & worksheets on music theory and vocabulary. **Points vary per quiz**

5) Standard 5 – Evaluates – This standard will be met by your critique of your own performances/ testing, as well as performances of other students and musical groups. There is one outside concert evaluation due per semester. See the bottom of this page.

5 points per evaluation

6) Standard 6 – Music History –

This area will include information on composers, literature, style, and time periods in history.

Practice Logs – Students will be required to fill out and hand in weekly practice logs (attached to this handbook) tracking practice at home. These practice logs are due weekly on Thursdays, showing a minimum 90 minutes of practice per week, over a minimum of 3 days. (6th graders will start with a 60 minute requirement, and will progress up to the 90 through the first semester.

10-15 points per practice log

Up to 5 points of extra credit may be earned by extra practice

Concert Uniform

The uniform for all students will be a KTEC polo with black pants or skirt, hose, and shoes. KTEC will provide the polos. Students will provide their own pants/skirt. Black jeans and clean black sneakers are fine. Black dress pants and dress shoes are also fine. No shorts or skirts above the knees.

Concert Attendance

Concert attendance is mandatory. Students with a schedule conflict must inform the director at least two weeks prior to the event. Please note that in the case of an excused absence, a make-up assignment will be provided, and must be completed in order to make up the missing grade. Unexcused absences will be able to do make-up work for a lower grade.

Please understand that music groups work as a team, and that musical selections are chosen with the strength of the whole group in mind. Please give as much notice as possible, when advising of an absence. It will be much easier on the whole group if communication is a priority.

Excused absences include sickness (with a doctor's note), death in the family, or pre-arranged schedule conflict. Inability to secure transportation, babysitting, or a schedule conflict that was not approved will not be excused.

Lesson Books

All students will be provided a classroom method book. This will be checked out at the beginning of the year, and returned at the end. Lost books will be subject to replacement fees.

Looking to Purchase an Instrument?

There are many purchase opportunities from eBay, Craig's list, and other Internet sources that look and are ***too good to be true***. The majority of these instruments possess one or more *major flaw*. These flaws are undetectable to the untrained eye, and will impede your student's playing ability and progress. In some cases the instruments are un-playable. Local repair specialists refuse to repair them. Here is a list of commonly found flaws.

- * Un-carved, unfitted, or un-notched bridge
- * Poorly aligned neck, fingerboard, tailpiece
- * Flimsy steel strings
- * Pegs do not fit correctly (won't stay in tune)
- * Green, uncured wood, prone to warping

Your orchestra teacher knows of several reputable vendors that sell instruments in all different price ranges. Please contact your teacher for help when you decide to make this important purchase.

School Rentals

However, for those students who qualify (those who qualify for the district Free and Reduced Lunch program), there may be some instruments available for use. Please contact Mr. Robinson for more information.

Supplies

All students will need the following:

- instrument in good, working order
- clearly labeled case
- 2 working pencils at all times (keep them in your case)
- orchestra book (available from orchestra director, free of charge)
- music folder (available from orchestra director, free of charge)
- music stand for at-home practice
- rosin
- soft cloth for cleaning, 100% cotton No polishing agent

Violin/Viola -A shoulder rest by Kun, Wolf, or Mach One is very desirable, but a sponge is also acceptable. Sponges are available for free from your music teacher.

Cello/Bass- A rockstop

** ALL shoulder rests, rosins, and rockstops should be labeled in permanent marker with the student's first and last name. Unlabeled equipment is easily misplaced or stolen. Please make sure your child's instrument case is also clearly labeled.