

Wheaton Christian Grammar School

Concert  
Orchestra  
Handbook

2011-2012

# **Wheaton Christian Grammar School Concert Orchestra Handbook**

2011/2012 School Year

Dear Orchestra Members and Parents,

I am really looking forward to working with each one of you in the coming year. In this handbook you will find my policies and procedures of the orchestra program as well as information concerning this school year.

## **Parents**

Thank you for allowing your son or daughter the opportunity of playing in the orchestra. Playing in an orchestra is an enriching experience. It is crucial that I have the support of parents as we partner in training your children in reaching their full potential musically. Please encourage your children in the area of practicing. The only way to improve as a musician is to spend time practicing. A musician's expertise on an instrument is directly proportional to the time spent practicing .

Please read through the following information very carefully. Students and their parents must turn in the signed sheet by Friday, September 2.

I'm looking forward to a great year together!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carol Knosp

## Daily Rules and Procedures

The following rules are set in place to create an atmosphere of learning and success. Students who violate these rules are responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently hurting the entire orchestra.

1. Enter the orchestra room in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Quickly get your instrument and music and take your seat.
3. Students that are late to rehearsal must bring a pass from the teacher of their previous class in order to be excused from being tardy.
4. Students are to tune as soon as they have prepared their instrument. Any tuning help should be addressed before class begins.
5. Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium and no further talking will be permitted.
6. Students will not play other students' instruments. **This includes percussion instruments and keyboards.**
7. Orchestra members will have the following at every rehearsal:
  - a. INSTRUMENT (with the necessary accessories)
  - b. ALL MUSIC
  - c. PENCIL (you supply your own)
8. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
9. Instruments **MUST** be stored in instrument lockers when not being played at school. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT IN HALLWAYS.** If you would like to lock your instrument in your instrument locker, locks are available. Please use WCGS locks only.
10. Practicing is very important. More is accomplished in rehearsal when you have learned your music at home. Leaving your instrument at school overnight should be the exception rather than the rule.
11. Students who do not have their instrument or music for rehearsals or sectionals will have points deducted from their participation grade.
12. Absolutely no gum, food, or drink in the rehearsal. (water is OK)
13. Respect the rights, safety, and property of others.
14. Accept responsibility for yourself and your learning.

## Grades/Points

Grades are based on an average of Attitude, Responsibility and Smart Music assignments. Points are accumulated for each activity listed above. In addition to these activities students may also earn extra points by doing the following:

**Concerts/Recitals** – Students may attend concerts or recitals to earn points. Concerts that you attend must be performed with live music and musicians. To receive 30 extra credit points a student must write a short paragraph describing the concert they attended.  
*30 points per event*

**Recitals** – If you play in a recital with a private teacher, or in the spring recitals at WCGS, you may earn points toward your grade. *60 points per event*

**Private Lessons** – Every instrumentalist should consider taking private lessons on his/her instrument. Students will receive points for taking weekly private lessons.

*30 points per lesson*

**IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest** – Solo and ensemble contest will be coming up in February. Now is a good time to begin thinking about your involvement in this contest. Information will be sent home when it is available.

*30 points per event*

**IMEA District Honors Orchestra** – Students will receive points for auditioning for this group (see Mrs. Knosp for details).

*50 points for playing an audition*

*75 points for being accepted and participating in the orchestra*

## Sectionals

All students in Concert Orchestra have a scheduled sectional. Sectionals will be scheduled during the regular school day as well as before or after school for those who would prefer not to be pulled out of a class. Please contact Mrs. Knosp as soon as possible if your child would prefer a sectional before or after school. Since academic classes will be missed for sectionals during the school day, **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK!** The only exception for missing a sectional is if a teacher is giving a test during that period in class and it cannot be made up at another time. **It is critical that every student attend these sectionals. They are vital to the success of our groups' progress.**

## Smart Music Practicing System

All students are required to practice at home several times a week. Consistent, daily work is essential to improvement on your instrument. This year, we will again use the Smart Music computer program. Each student is highly encouraged to purchase a subscription and enroll in the Smart Music program. The cost for a one-year subscription is \$30.60. Periodic assignments and playing tests will need to be completed and submitted throughout the year. Students who do not have a subscription to Smart Music on a computer at home may submit their assignments at school any time from before, during or after school. If you already have a Smart Music subscription, make sure that you renew your license and enroll in Concert Orchestra online. If you are new to WCGS, or do not have a previous subscription, Google Smart Music for information.

## Renweb

Assignments and progress will be posted on Renweb. There are 4 main categories that determine the students' grade: Attitude, Responsibility, Concerts, and Smart Music Assignments. The Smart Music portion of the grade is the largest, and can be worth anywhere from 400 to 800 points. **Not all playing tests posted in Smart Music will be included in the quarter's grade. Students and parents can access the exact assignments, as well as grades for submitted assignments by clicking on the Smart Music Assignments category. Renweb is the best way to check a student's progress.**

## Instrument Care and Maintenance

All students must have instruments in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain proper care of their instruments throughout the school year.

## Rehearsal Schedule

Concert Orchestra rehearses twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays during last period. Always be on time. Rehearsals are mandatory and may not be missed for any reason other than absence from school. Attendance and punctuality are a part of your grading period average. A pass will be required if a student is late.

## Seating Auditions

In an effort to assign a part to each student that is within his or her range and technical ability, each student will play a private audition. Each student will be assigned an audition time at the beginning of the school year

On the basis of the results of the auditions in August, students will be assigned seats within the section. Playing test scores, as well as bowings, attitude and responsibility will determine concert seating.

## Concert Uniforms

Each student is required to purchase a uniform for performances. The mandatory concert dress code is:

**Boys:** White, oxford cloth, long-sleeve dress shirt with a buttoned-down collar (may be purchased through Lands End – see attached order information), a black tie (must be purchased through WCGS to insure uniformity), black dress slacks, black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes.

**Girls:** White blouse with three-quarter-length sleeve (must be purchased through Lands End – see attached order information), black skirt (knee length or longer) OR black dress pants, and black, low-heel dress shoes.

## Concerts and Important Dates

The concerts and events listed below are **mandatory**. These events are to be viewed as a final exam.

Christmas Orchestra Concert .....	7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 8, 2011
Yorktown Christmas Concert .....	(during school day) Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Rockford Ministry Tour .....	March 2,3, 2012
Spring Orchestra Concert.....	7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 20, 2012
Orchestra Field Trip .....	12.00-5:30, Thursday, May 17, 2012
Graduation (8 <sup>th</sup> grade only).....	7:00p.m., Tuesday, May 29, 2012

In addition to the above concerts, students may **choose** to be involved in the following events for extra credit:

IMEA Concert Orchestra Auditions ..... Saturday, October 1, 2011  
IMEA Music Festival..... Saturday, November 5, 2011  
IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest..... Saturday, February 11, 2012

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## Concert Orchestra Commitment Form

I have read the preceding information. I understand and accept the commitment and expectations of becoming a member of the Concert Orchestra. I also realize that I am making a one-year commitment for the 2011-2012 school year to the WCGS Concert Orchestra.

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Student's Signature

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Parent's Signature

**Please detach this form, sign and return to Mrs. Knosp by  
Friday, September 2.**