

**NORTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**2011-2012**

**Craig Ghormley, Director**



**ORCHESTRA  
HANDBOOK**

**[WWW.NORTHCENTRALORCHESTRAS.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHCENTRALORCHESTRAS.ORG)**

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(Student name)

***We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. - Aristotle***

Welcome to North Central Orchestra. I look forward to working with such a talented group of young people such a supportive group of parents. Intelligent and hard working students with high expectations put upon them achieve great things. This has worked in the past and will work in the future. Every student will be given the opportunity to learn and perform. The contents of this booklet will help you understand how to succeed in this program. I look forward to meeting all of you. If any questions or concerns arise, do not hesitate to contact me. Now, LET'S PLAY MUSIC!

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### **Course Materials**

#### **“Everyday” Materials**

Instrument, PERSONAL COPY of music, pencil, rosin, extra strings, rock stop, etc. These items will be checked periodically throughout the school year for a grade.

#### **Cassette Tape/ MP3 Recorder**

Every member of **Symphony Orchestra** will be required to have a recorder of some sort. This is for playing tests done at home and then turned in at school. This can also be useful to ALL orchestra students so they can listen to themselves perform and practice.

#### **Tuner/ Metronome**

All string students are STRONGLY encouraged to have a tuner. For a string instrument to function at even the most basic level, it must first be in tune. A metronome is required for all cassette tape recordings and is an indispensable practice tool. Metronome/ Tuner combos can be purchased at a reasonable price. **All Symphony Orchestra students must have a metronome/ tuner. This will be checked on Monday, August 22, 2011 during class.**

#### **Concert Uniforms**

Tuxes and/or dresses are afforded to orchestra students. Students are expected to treat assigned clothing with the utmost care. *Any added expenses resulting from damage to these issued items beyond normal wear and tear will be passed on to the student.* A student will be issued these items at the beginning of the fall semester and promptly collected at the end of the spring semester. Men will be held accountable for a tux coat and pants, and women will be held accountable for a dress and related parts. **It will be the responsibility of the men to buy their black bow tie and tux shirt.** We will not be issuing any of these parts. All clothing items are to be kept at home, in the issued uniform bag, when not in use. The school's clothing closet is not to be used as a personal storage area; there simply is not enough room in there for everything.

***Fittings for all of Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Orchestra Ladies will be on August 31, 2011 6- 8 PM. Enter Door 11.***

***Fittings for Philharmonic Orchestra Men and all of Concert Orchestra will be on September 1, 2011 6-8 PM. Enter Door 11.***

## **CLASSROOM RULES AND PROCEDURES**

1. **Students will come to class prepared to learn.** Each orchestra member will be allowed **three minutes after the bell** to be in their seats, instruments out of its case, and have all materials needed for class (music, pencil, rosin, tuners, etc). **Three minutes** will be timed, if you're not in your seats **and** ready, disciplinary action will be taken. From time to time, Mr. Ghormley will check to make sure everyone has all materials needed for class if you do not have class materials, points will be taken from your daily class participation grade. Non- orchestra materials must be kept in the designated area for the entire class period. In addition, you will also be held accountable towards the NCHS tardy policy (see NCHS student handbook for details).
2. **Students will be attentive and respectful.** When the conductor or his designee is at the podium there will be **no talking** except by the conductor. Students should raise their hand and address all major questions to the conductor instead of discussing things among themselves. If there is a minor problem, check it out with your section principal. When the conductor works with one section, an individual or any other situation not involving you personally, your focus of attention should remain on the conductor because concepts worked out with that section or individual may apply to you as well.
3. **Students will refrain from eating, drinking and chewing gum in the orchestra area.** There will be NO eating or drinking during class.
4. **Complete participation is expected in class.** There will be no books allowed during rehearsal. In addition, homework, reading or other activities not related to the rehearsal will not be permitted. When you have a rest, or do not play in a specific selection, you are expected to stay 'engaged' to what is happening in class. You may miss something that could apply to you later or be tested on at a later date. When you are not playing you should be in 'rest' position.
5. **Cell Phones** should not be visible during class. This is a North Central rule and will be strictly enforced in the Orchestra Room. Texting/ Playing on your phone is extremely rude to the teacher and to the rest of class. Visible cell phones during rehearsal will be taken without warning.
6. **Passes out of class** will not be permitted during class time unless it is an emergency. This is because we need everyone present to work as an ensemble.
7. **Music and Music folders.** It is the responsibility of each student to care for the folder and the music issued to them. Students who lose or abuse music will be assessed the replacement cost for each item.

## GRADING CRITERIA

Students will be assessed through playing exams, written exams, homework, performance/major rehearsal attendance, “music maintenance”, and class participation. Mr. Ghormley will post student grades every Friday by 4 PM.

*Grades for each 9 weeks and semesters will be determined using a ‘total point’ system, NOT a ‘weighted’ system.*

### **Homework**

Homework assignments may include items such as practice logs, returning paperwork, and practice tapes. All assignments will be posted on the orchestra web page.

### **Playing exams**

Throughout the year, Mr. Ghormley will assess the students’ ability to perform scales, etudes, and orchestra music. At Mr. Ghormley’s discretion, this assessment may be live or cassette recorded at home. There will be at least 2 playing tests per grading period.

### **Written exams**

Students will be assessed on their knowledge of music theory and/or classroom lecture materials discussed during class. Students are responsible for taking good notes during rehearsals/lectures in order to successfully pass the written exams. These exams *will not* be open book exams!

### **Performance/ Major rehearsal attendance**

Unexcused absences from these major events will result in a grade of “F” for the current nine-week grading period. Excused absences are based on the North Central absence policy. Appropriate documentation will be required to substantiate and excuse absence. Also, in accordance with North Central policy, a student is ineligible from participation in a performance if he/she is absent from school on that particular day. There will be other rehearsals, sectionals and performances scheduled for each ensemble throughout the year. An unexcused absence from one of these activities, or tardiness to, will result in the lowering of one letter grade for the current nine-week period. Excused absences are the same as for major rehearsals and performances. Regardless of reason for the absence(s), the student is responsible for notifying the director as soon as possible. Numerous absences from rehearsals and performances for any reason will result in the corresponding lowering of a grade for the nine-week period and chair/position in orchestra. **ONLY EXCUSED ABSENCES CAN BE MADE UP by submitting an audiotape of the performance music by a date specified by Mr. Ghormley.** See attached NCHS Performing Arts guidelines.

**(Grading criteria continued)**

**“Music Maintenance”**

Students will be graded on the condition of their sheet music and other handouts (physical shape of music, written rehearsal notes, etc.). Students will also receive a grade for handing in their music after each concert. THIS MEANS STUDENT MUST HAVE THEIR COPY OF THEIR MUSIC EACH DAY, WRITE IN REHEARSAL NOTES, AND TAKE CARE OF THEIR MUSIC!

**Ensemble Member Grade**

Students will earn 100 points per week as a weekly Ensemble Member Grade. This includes. Obeying all classroom rules and procedures, having all materials and being mentally and musically prepared for class.

**LOCKERS**

Instrument lockers are provided for instrument and accessory storage only. Unlike student hall lockers, the directors assign and will have access to instrument lockers. Students will only keep band/orchestra equipment in these lockers. Lockers will be checked and monitored throughout the school year. Students should put books and personal belongings in their instrument locker during rehearsals only. Lockers should be locked AT ALL TIMES. Do not leave your locker unlocked during class. If a lock is lost a \$10.00 lock replacement fee will be assessed. Lockers are issued as a courtesy to students. If a student is unable to keep lockers LOCKED and in good overall shape they will lose the privilege of locker use.

**COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Ghormley is best reached via e-mail at [cghormley@msdwt.k12.in.us](mailto:cghormley@msdwt.k12.in.us). You can also leave a voice mail at 259-5301 Ext 45212

**[www.northcentralorchestras.org](http://www.northcentralorchestras.org)**

-Due on/before Monday, August 22, 2011 for 100 points.

**I have read and agree to the terms presented in this document.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_