



Stebbins High School

Orchestra Handbook



2023-2024

A handbook for the Stebbins High School Orchestra students and parents.

Stebbins High School
1900 Harshman Road
Riverside, OH
(937) 237-4250

Teaching Staff and Administration

Director: Mrs. Amy Hall
amy.hall@madriverschools.org

Stebbins High School Principal: Mrs. Tina Simpson

Music Department Chair: Mrs. Christina Smith

MISSION STATEMENT:

Learning life skills, one note at a time!

We are proud of the many honors the orchestra has received the last several years and are excited that you will be a part of the many more performances, awards, and recognitions to come. We know that you will be a valuable member of our orchestra family and that you will discover the pride and joy that comes from a fine performance of great music!

EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

1. Enter and leave the Orchestra Room in an orderly manner and a reasonable volume of voices.
2. Be seated in your chair with your instrument, music, and pencil when the bell rings.
3. **Refrain from talking or practicing during tuning time.**
4. Be courteous and respectful of your fellow orchestra members. This includes when you talk, what you say, and how you say it. Treat others as you would have them treat you!
5. Respect the property of other individuals. This includes personal instruments, school instruments, and music. You should be playing only on your instrument or the one which is assigned to you. Take special care of school property, music, or equipment which is in your possession.
6. **All students are expected to have assignments prepared for class. That means practicing your instrument daily!**
7. Violin and viola cases are stored beside your chair, or kept in your assigned orchestra lockers. Cellos and basses will have their end pins “in” when the instrument is not in use and all instruments and loosened bows will be returned to the lockers or instrument racks at the end of every rehearsal.
8. No food or drink is allowed in the Orchestra Room with the exception of water. If you bring food/drink into the orchestra room it *will* be disposed of. **This includes chewing gum.**
9. The orchestra room is NOT your personal closet or locker. Do not leave clothes, backpacks, **food**, assignments, or books in the orchestra room or your instrument locker for safekeeping.
10. **Orchestra rehearsal and class is for music studies only. Please do not ask to skip a rehearsal to finish any incomplete assignments in another class.**

PERFORMANCE DATES

- ♪ Evening of Strings Concert, October TBA
- ♪ Winter Concert, Monday, December 11, SHS, 7:00 PM
- ♪ SHS/MRMS Retention Performance (in-school), December, TBD
- ♪ Solo and Ensemble, Saturday, January 20, Location TBA
- ♪ String Symposium, Saturday, February 10, SHS, 9AM-8PM (concert at 7:00PM)
- ♪ State Orchestra Contest, Friday OR Saturday, March 1 OR 2, TBA
- ♪ MRLS Spaghetti Fest, March 6, SHS (Select Group)
- ♪ Cleveland and Cedar Point Trip, May 3-4
- ♪ Spring Concert Monday, May 6, SHS, 7:00 PM
- ♪ Music Awards, Thursday, May 9, SHS, 6:30

ATTENDANCE AND COMMITMENT

Orchestra activities are group events which require the participation of **ALL** members. All group performances require mandatory participation and attendance from each student. You need to mark your calendar and your family calendar with Orchestra activities and other non-school related events. Sectionals, extra rehearsals, concerts, and contests are considered an extension of the classroom instruction and therefore, co-curricular. Orchestra activities are planned so that the fewest other activities will conflict. All students are encouraged to participate in as many social or optional activities as they wish, but at the same time, Orchestra members are expected participate in all required Orchestra events, rehearsal and performances, remembering that a grade is given for each required event.

IMPORTANT

In the event of a conflict, the student has the responsibility of submitting a signed note from a parent or the appropriate teacher or sponsor stating the reason for the conflict. Notes must be received **TWO WEEKS** before the event to be considered. This note does not automatically excuse an absence. Each case will be considered individually and privately according to its circumstances. All absences of performances must be made up, or they will result in a zero. Only excused absences will be given full credit. Last minute excuses cause problems in scheduling and may not be excused. The only exception would be a student illness or death in the family. Again, a note needs to be provided the next day the students is in attendance at school.

PERFORMANCE MAKEUP PROCEDURE

In the event of an *excused absence*, the student will be required to perform all of their concert music for Mrs. Hall for full credit. The student will have until a week after the missed concert to schedule a makeup performance with Mrs. Hall. Failure to do so will result in a zero. In the event of an *unexcused absence*, students will earn a zero.

CONCERT DRESS CODE

For the majority of our concerts, students will be expected to dress professionally. Each student will be assigned a uniform (tuxedo for men and gowns for women), at the beginning of the year that they will wear for *ALL* concerts, unless otherwise noted. Men will provide their own white undershirt, white button long-sleeved dress shirt, black socks and dress shoes. Women will wear black socks or stockings, and black flat or low heel dress shoes. Tennis shoes are not permitted. If you are not dressed appropriately, you will not be allowed to perform, and will receive an unexcused absence for the concert. Please see Mrs. Hall if you have any questions.

MUSIC

All music performed by the Stebbins High School Orchestra will be provided by the school district. Any music used for solo or ensemble purposes will usually be provided by the student. When originals are used, they will remain the property of the Mad River Local Schools. Students are expected to take good care of all music. Each student is expected to have his or her own personal copy of the music at every class and/or rehearsal.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

There are very few school-owned instruments. Students using school-owned violins, violas, cellos, or basses at school/home are responsible for the care of those instruments and are to pay the appropriate rental fee (\$60 a school-year). Any student who does not take appropriate care of a school-owned instrument may lose privileges on that instrument and will be responsible for any damages.

PRACTICE

Individual home practice is an integral part of any musician's learning process. It is very important to the state of the orchestra that effort is being made by **each** student to be responsible for learning individual parts outside of the classroom. ***Ideally, class meetings and rehearsals are not to be used as a practice session, but as time for working out ensemble concerns.*** The Stebbins Orchestra is a great ensemble because of you and the work you have put into your art thus far! It becomes a superior orchestra when all of its members continue putting in that hard work. Practice until the music sounds better or until the technique is better. As Dr. Shinichi Suzuki said, "Practice only on the days you eat".

SUPPLIES

- Students will be given a **folio** at the beginning of the year to keep all music and materials in. This will be used daily in class.
- Students must have a **pencil** every day in class to make appropriate markings on their music.
- Students must also have a **tuning app** on their phone to use daily in class. If a student does not have a phone, a school-owned tuner will be provided.
- Violin and Viola students must have a **quality shoulder rest**, no sponges.
- All students should have access to quality **rosin**.
- **All students must purchase the *Essential Technique Book* (for their specific instrument), to use in and out of the classroom.** Please see the information below on any purchasing requirements:



Kincaid's Music: 937-325-7071, <https://www.kincaidsmusic.com/?aff=7>

There will also be a \$45 fee for String Symposium in February. This will cover the cost of the teachers' fees, lunch, dinner and the custom t-shirt.

This will be due before Thanksgiving break.

GRADING POLICY

Students will be graded on Participation, Performances and Tests/Quizzes:

Attendance/Participation: 40%

Performances: 40%

Quizzes/Tests: 20%

In class assignments:

Students will be given some in class assignments, playing tests, and participation grades, in addition to practicing daily.

Types of possible assignments:

- **Participation Grades-** Students will automatically be given 10 participation points every day. Any talking, playing when not instructed to, other disruptions, or coming to class late will result in points being taken away. Students receiving four or more unexcused tardies in a grading period will receive an automatic 5 point reduction for the day for each additional unexcused tardy.
- **Playing Tests-** Mrs. Hall may assign playing tests several times throughout the year. Students will be told which section the test will be over at least two week before each test. Playing tests will be done during class time.
- **Practice Logs-** Students are expected to practice on their own every day. If Mrs. Hall notices that students do not seem to be practicing on their own, she reserves the right to assign weekly practice logs that students will need to have signed by a parent or guardian, to turn in for credit.
- **Written Tests-** These will be few and far between. Students will be given at least two weeks' notice for written tests.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ENSMEBLES AND COMPETITIONS

All students are encouraged to participate in competition outside of the classroom. The Stebbins Orchestra has been represented well in these types of groups, and has enjoyed the successes of individual and collective performances. The Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings and Orchestra ensembles, are excellent groups that have auditions in May. There are also several competitions in the area, opportunities with local colleges and universities, as well as OMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest opportunities that will be announced as the information becomes available.

**Please fill out the following information and return it to Mrs. Hall by
Friday, September 15, 2023.**

Student Name: _____

Student Grade: _____

Student Instrument: _____

Primary Guardian Name: _____

Primary Guardian Phone #: _____

Primary Guardian E-mail Address: _____

Secondary Guardian Name: _____

Secondary Guardian Phone #: _____

Secondary Guardian E-mail Address: _____

**I received, reviewed, and understand the policies and guidelines in the 2023/2024 Stebbins
Orchestra Handbook. I agree to abide by the procedures set forth.**

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

**I received, reviewed, and understand the policies and guidelines in the 2023/2024 Stebbins
Orchestra Handbook. I agree to abide by the procedures set forth.**

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Survey to help during the year – events and activities

Would you be interested in participating in our Music Booster Organization?

YES NO

What capacity would you be interested in lending help to the Stebbins Orchestra Program this year?

(Please circle all that apply):

- Dayton Dragons Concessions for music department fundraising (Spring/Summer)
- Hemming/Altering Orchestra gowns or tux pants
- Chaperoning Evening of Strings rehearsals (September and October)
- Stebbins Sports Concessions for music department fundraising (Winter)
- String Symposium, February 10, 2024, SHS
- Chaperoning OMEA State Orchestra Contest, March 1 OR 2, 2024, TBA
- Chaperoning the Cleveland/Sandusky Trip, May 3-4, 2024
- End-of-Year Awards

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE
STEBBINS ORCHESTRA PROGRAM THIS YEAR!
EVERYTHING YOU DO HELPS THE STUDENTS IN
OUR PROGRAM!