

Questions and Answers for the Start of the 2020-2021 School Orchestra Year

What are we doing in Orchestra this year?

- All students are expected to perform on an instrument. There will be no "alternate assignments." We are a performance-based class, this is the number one National and State Standard for music education in orchestra.

-Students will have live orchestra sessions during class times. Many of these will be split into instrument areas, ex: high strings/low strings with each director to give more personal attention and instruction. In addition, small groups will be assigned for smaller group lessons as well as individual time options.

-Curriculum: As of right now, we are mostly focused on work out of EE Books 1 & 2. In addition, we are incorporating solo pieces, scales, and planning on daily warm-ups: YouTube, Vocab, rhythms, etc.

How do we get our instruments tuned and get new finger tapes?

-Be sure you have an instrument. I have already reached out to cello and bass students.

- If you need tuning, an instrument, a bigger size instrument, finger tapes, etc.: please stop into a music store. They are more than willing to help right now. Also, you may make an appointment with us during book distribution next week. We can tune and tape your instrument while wearing a mask and sanitizing. Just let us know you're coming in advance and bring your instrument!

-How do you get materials?

We organized books that were left at school and are ready to distribute at materials pick-up (Thursday, August 13th-8th Grade, Friday, August 14th-7th Grade). We will be posting additional materials in CTLS once we get closer to start time.

Will there be morning ensembles? (Chamber, wire choir, viola choir, bass choir)

-Our extracurricular ensembles will not start at the beginning of the school year. They will need to wait until we are back in school face to face. Hopefully, we can start them 2nd semester.

Will there be All-State, Honor Orchestra and Large Group Performance Evaluation?

-GMEA (Georgia Music Educators Association) is still working out plans for these events and many ideas have been proposed to continue these events in some form. There is a possibility that honor group (All-State and Honor Orchestra) may happen later than usual, or may adopt a different format. LGPE is a more locally controlled event and we will have to wait and see how that will happen.

Will there be concerts this year?

We are not sure what performance will look like this year. Our Fall concerts for 7th and 8th grade may not look like a traditional concert. Students will definitely have the opportunity to perform throughout the school year.

Will there be Field Trips this year?

-Currently CCSD has suspended all field trips. If and when that policy is changed, we will explore all possibilities to make field trips happen.

6th Grade Info: Students are participating in a Music Appreciation/Introduction to Music Ensembles rotation during the first weeks of school. Each week, they will learn music from a different music instructor at Hightower, receiving music education and receiving grades. We are hoping to offer music class selection towards the end of the first quarter as we are still working this out. Please note, each middle school is doing this part differently.

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