

**Revere Middle School Orchestra
Guidelines and Expectations
2023 - 2024**

After reading the handbook, please go to Google Classroom to complete both the STUDENT and PARENT Signature Forms.
Please do this no later than September 1, 2023

Teacher Contact Information

Mr. Bowman - jbowman@revereschools.org

What you can expect from the teacher:

- An enthusiastic, well-prepared teacher with a high level of musicianship and a positive attitude.
- High expectations for student learning.
- A willingness to address individual student needs.
- Reasonable rules for the class.
- Good communication between school and home.

What is expected from each student:

- A cooperative, well-prepared student with a positive attitude and desire to work.
- A willingness to be challenged personally and be a vital part of the orchestra.
- Respect for self, teacher, other students, and all property of the school, staff, and other students.
- A strong commitment to playing, caring for your instrument, and concert attendance.
- Required materials to be brought to class daily.

Concert Dress:

- Revere T-shirt
- Black pants or long black skirt (no sweatpants or shorts)
- Black shoes and socks (no flip flops, slides, or crocs)

Required Supplies:

- An instrument in good working condition
 - Rosin, dust cloth, shoulder rest (violins/violas), and endpin rest (celli/basses)
 - Pencil with eraser
 - Class method book
 - Books needed for class:(Can be purchased at any music store or online)
 - 6th Grade- Essential Elements Book 2
 - 7th Grade- Essential Elements Book 3
 - 8th Grade- Essential Elements Book 3
- *make sure you buy the book for the correct instrument!

Suggested Supplies for home use:

- Music stand
- Tuner/metronome -plenty of free apps for these
- Quiet, well-lit practice space
- Established practice times

Behavior Expectations:

Students must abide by the following classroom rules at all times to reach maximum success and have a positive rehearsal experience!

1. Participate positively in all class activities with 100% effort.
2. Be prepared with all materials and arrive at class *on time!*
3. Respect all people (teacher, students) and objects/equipment (instruments, music, stands) in the room.
4. Follow all directions the *first time they are given.*
5. **NO** food, candy, gum, or drinks during class. Keep the room clean!
6. No talking while tuning or when a teacher is on the podium.

Consequences for not adhering to these expectations are as follows:

First daily offense: Verbal warning

Second daily offense: Behavior Notification/loss of participation points

Third daily offense: Communication home with parents, detention, and/or office referral

Severe Clause: In the event that a student's behavior is potentially dangerous to self or to others, the student will be sent to their grade-level principal's office immediately.

Grading Procedures:

Grades will be earned in the following areas:

30% Participation

- Class Participation (posture, has needed supplies, engaged in rehearsal)
- Daily classroom work and assignments
- Homework (including google classroom assignments)

70% Content Mastery

- Concerts
- Concert Reflection writing assignments
- Individual playing quizzes and tests (sometimes played live, sometimes recorded and submitted on google classroom)
- Writing assignments and written tests and quizzes
- Composition and other music assignments
- Music vocabulary quizzes

RMS Concert Attendance Policy:

Since orchestra is a performance-based class, concert attendance is **MANDATORY**, and can be seen as important as a final exam or test. Our concerts display all the hard work we do in class and serve as an opportunity to share our success with the community and each other.

Concerts are worth 30 points in the 70% Content Mastery.

Excused Absence: Make-up up to 100% of the concert grade. Known absences should be communicated to directors two weeks in advance of the concert performance. If a two-week advance is not given, the absence will be unexcused, except for cases of illness or family emergency.

Unexcused Absence: Make-up up to 80% of the concert grade. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Make-up Assignments must be completed within one week of the concert performance.

It is also the student's responsibility to complete the make-up assignment to make up the grade within ONE WEEK of the missed concert date.

Instruments:

- In the morning when students get to school, they must put their instrument in the **assigned locker**.
- ***Students are not permitted to keep instruments in their school lockers.***
- Each case must have an ID tag with your full name on the outside of the case. It must be legible.
- If the instrument breaks, please show the orchestra teacher ASAP. It may be able to be fixed on the spot, if not it needs to be sent to the music store for repairs. Parents should communicate with the teacher about when and where the instrument was taken in for repairs.

Homework:

Most of the homework in orchestra is *practicing*. There are no shortcuts to the development of young musicians. A student's success is a direct result of his/her commitment to learning the instrument. Your child is not only learning to play an instrument when they practice but also learning the discipline of preparing for class. *Self-discipline is something parents can help their children learn.* Just as parents can help their child with scheduling academic homework, sports, and other activities, parents need to assist with practicing.

Private Lessons

There are many teachers for private instruction in the area. See Mr. Bowman for a list of private teachers. Lessons are given once a week usually for 30 to 45 minutes. Working one on one with a person who is a master of your instrument is one of the greatest encouragement tools we have in music education. Private lessons give students the opportunity to learn solo music on their instrument. Students who take private lessons almost always progress more rapidly.

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Orchestra website:

<https://sites.google.com/revereschools.org/revere-orchestras/home>

2023 - 2024 Concert Dates

Thursday, December 7

All Strings Concert - RHS Auditorium 7:00

Thursday, February 29

All Strings Concert - RHS Auditorium 7:00

Thursday, May 16

All Strings Concert - RHS Auditorium 7:00

If other performance opportunities arise, you will be notified as soon as possible and with plenty of notice.