Kennedy High School Orchestra

 2017-2018 Syllabus

Instructor: Lindsay Dechert ldechert@isd271.org

Welcome to the Kennedy Orchestras!

We are excited to have you as a valued musician in our music program, and we look forward to a great year, with many wonderful musical times and memories! This syllabus will provide information you need to know to be successful this year, from classroom expectations to our school wide grading system.

***Calendar of Events***

Sept. 16 Fri Orchestra packet signed and returned

Sept. 23 Fri School instrument contracts and fees are due

Sept. 26 Tues Metro West All-Conf. Music Festival (Concert Orch) Chanhassen HS

Nov. 2 Thurs 7:00 pm Fall Orchestra Concert with Jefferson (Kennedy High School)

Jan. TBA All-State Application (9th-11th grade)

Feb. 7 TBA Metro West Orchestra Festival (Concert Orch) Benilde St. Margarets

Feb. 8 Mon 7:00 pm Orchestra Masterworks Concert

March 4 Sun TBA BSO joint rehearsal (Concert Orch) Christ the King, 8600 Fremont Ave S

March 5 Mon 7:00 pm Bloomington Orchestra Festival (Concert Orchestra)

May TBA Kennedy High School Band and Orchestra Banquet

May 24 Thurs 7:00 pm Orchestra Pops Concert

June TBA Kennedy High School Graduation (Concert Orchestra)

**Essential Outcomes/Course Standards**

The Kennedy Orchestra Program maintains the following objectives:

1. Provide each student with the opportunity to develop their musical potential to its fullest;

2. Provide opportunities for each student to perform, create, analyze, and listen to a wide spectrum of historically and culturally significant music;

3. Foster and develop a life-long appreciation, understanding, and love for music as a means of self-expression and communication.

In order to meet its stated objectives, the Kennedy Orchestra Program has adapted a comprehensive approach to music education.  This approach includes a well-balanced curriculum of large and small group performances, solo performance opportunities, studies in music theory, unique listening experiences, cultural and historical perspectives, and continuous evaluation of progress.

**Expectations**

Participation in daily work is focused and consistent throughout the rehearsal. All directions are attended to promptly and with a positive attitude. The group is continually put first and all actions promote the success of the entire class. Respectfulness, responsibility, and safe conduct are shown at all times.

**Attendance Policy**

Because of the performance nature of this department, daily attendance is extremely important. It is your responsibility to check with the instructor to receive any work you may have missed due to an absence.

Rehearsals begin 2 minutes after the sound of the bell. This gives you plenty of time to get instrument, music, and materials ready.

**JFK ATTENDANCE POLICY**

* **Per TERM- A student who has accumulated four or more unexcused absences in a class will not earn credit for that class unless the student makes up the academic time. Absences can be recovered after school on Tuesday in the media center or by appointment with your teacher.**

**Concert/Performance:**

* ***Excused Absences:*** Participation in Orchestra requires a commitment to be present, not only for classroom activities, but for out of class performances as well.  Not only does missing a concert affect your grade, it also affects the other members of the ensemble.  In the event that a conflict should arise that coincides with a performance, please notify Ms. Schultz as soon as possible **PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE**.  Students with excused absences from a performance will be allowed to complete make-up work and gain the points lost from the performance with an assignment designated by the instructor.  The following extenuating circumstances can be honored as approved absences from a performance:  Personal Illness, Family Emergency, other commitments as agreed upon by the director.
* ***Unexcused Absences:*** All unexcused absences (those absences that do not fit into any of the previously mentioned three categories) will result in a grade of zero, and the student will lose all points from the performance.

**Lessons:** Lessons are an opportunity for each student to receive individual help in developing instrumental music skills, knowledge and understanding.  Orchestra rehearsals are an opportunity for you to apply those skills in an ensemble setting.  Practicing is your homework for Orchestra.  You are responsible for being able to perform your assigned lesson material and Orchestra music to the best of your abilities.  You decide how much practicing is necessary for you to accomplish this and earn the grade you want, but your lesson grade is based on how well you play the material.

Each student is required to sign up for 3 lessons per trimester.  You will be assigned a piece of music to be performed at the end of the trimester for the class.  Each lesson, you will be assessed on your preparedness of this music.  Emphasis in orchestra and lessons will be placed on how to practice, so each student will have a plan for improvement with each practice session.

**End of Trimester Jury:**

At the end of each trimester, our Final Exam consists of a jury performance.  Each student plays a piece of music selected at the first lesson of the trimester.  Each trimester a different format is used for the jury performance.  At the end of Trimester 1, each student will perform a solo with or without SmartMusic accompaniment.  The Trimester 2 performance involves an ensemble of 2 or more students.  For the Trimester 3 performance, students choose either a solo or an ensemble.  Students who participate in Solo/Ensemble Contest in the spring and earn a Superior rating are exempt from Trimester 3 jury performance.

**Performance attire:**

Students are responsible for acquiring concert attire.

Women wear either black dress pants or a long black skirt, with a black blouse- shirt must have at least a short sleeve, no cap sleeves. Accessorize with blue (scarf, belt, etc…)

Men wear black shirts, pants, socks, and shoes with a blue tie.

**Grading Policy:**

On your report card, you will receive a letter grade for your final grade, as well as scores for attendance, behavior, and work completeness. Your grade will be determined by your preparedness in the following weighted categories:

**SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS - 80%**

These are the final evaluations of each trimester. This category is broken down into these subcategories- 35% Concert Performance, 35% Ensemble Skills, 10% Jury (Final Performance Test).

**FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS - 20%**

These are ongoing throughout the trimester and lead up to our final, Summative Assessments. This category is broken down into these subcategories- 6% Mid-Trimester Ensemble Skills, 6% Lessons, 6% Mid-Trimester Performance Test, and 2% Written Work.

All Scores in the achievement category will be given on a 4-point scale, and correspond with the following levels of achievement:

4. Exhibits mastery of specific skill: virtually no errors.

3: Exhibits proficiency in skill; occasional/isolated errors.

2: Exhibits need for improvement; frequent/consistent errors.

1: Exhibits major need for improvement; little or no proficiency.

0: Student did not participate in or turn in assignment.

By the end of the trimester, all individual scores will be calculated and averaged into the following grades:

In each of the categories for attendance, behavior, and work completeness, you will receive a final score of a 3 (Exceeds Expectations), a 2 (Meets Expectations), or a 1 (Does Not Meet Expectations). The following describes the criteria for scores in each of the categories:

Attendance:

 3: Student has 2 or fewer absences over the trimester.

 2: Student has 3-5 absences over the trimester.

 1: Student has more than 5 absences over the trimester.

Behavior:

 3: Student is focused and ready before directions are given.

 2: Student is usually focused and follows directions when given.

 1: Student is often off-task and/or needs reminders/repetitions of directions.

Work Completion:

 3: Assignments are completed and on time, without exceptions.

 2: Assignments are completed and on time.

 1: Some assignments are missing and/or late.

Please return completed form to Mrs. Dechert by Friday, September 15, 2017

I have read and understand the 2017-2018 Kennedy Orchestra Syllabus and accompanying calendar (available on the HUB and Google Classroom) and have contacted Mrs. Dechert regarding any questions or conflicts that needed to be resolved.

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PRINTED student name

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Student Signature Date

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PRINTED Parent/Guardian name Parent/Guardian daytime contact phone number

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Parent/Guardian Signature Parent/Guardian email address

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