

Park View Orchestra 7/8 Grade Orchestra - Course Expectations 2011/12

Welcome back to middle school orchestra! This letter is intended to outline your responsibilities as a member of the school orchestra and provide information about your program of study.

*****Important reminder: Next class bring your signed contract, a folder for your music and your instrument. Put your name on everything! *****

Classroom behavior: review the rules on the back of this contract with your parents.

Class Schedule: Each student will have 1 string music class during the school day. Those occur every Tuesday.

Ensemble: Due to program cuts, Orchestra Class no longer exists, however, there may be an after school orchestra on Tuesday/Thursday from 2:30 - 3:15. Please see the PV website for further information at the end of September. We hope everyone will participate.

Responsibilities: It is your job to have your instrument in school 1-3 times per week for string class and after school orchestra, if you are a member. Be sure to **put your name on your case** as well as on your folder. Instruments will be neatly stored on the shelves in the back of our room.

Music and materials: All students shall bring their orchestra folder/music to every lesson and ensemble rehearsal. If you lose your folder, you will be responsible for replacing it.

Cellos/Basses: You may, of course play on school instruments. That is one of your "perks" as a player of a larger instrument. You should rent your own (cello) and purchase a "rock stop" for home practice.

Concerts/Final Exams: We will perform at least 2 school concerts (final exams). The first will be in December or January and the second will be sometime in May or June. You are required to participate in these 2 concerts. Concerts are used for evaluation purposes and are the "final exam" for orchestra class. This final, of course, give us satisfaction and joy in our achievements. You will be graded on your participation in class and in the concert. Students who do not come to the concert will see their grade lowered by a full letter. Students who are home sick with an excused absence on concert day will make up the exam during class time.

How to get an "A":

- 1) Bring your instrument/folder to every class.
- 2) Practice and learn your assignments.
- 3) Be a cooperative and respectful member of the orchestra.
- 4) Work hard to do your best! Everyone learns at different rates. You should not compare yourself to anybody else - just strive to be the best musician you can.
- 5) Participate in all school concerts.

Show this letter to a parent/guardian. Both you and your parent/guardian should sign this letter indicating that you know and accept the rules of orchestra membership. Return the bottom with signatures to Miss Richardson by next class, Tuesday, September 6th, 1011. Questions? Send me an email! This is going to be a super year! Thank you all. Miss Richardson (nrichardson@cpsed.net)

-----cut here and return bottom portion-----
I have read/understand the course expectations for participation in the 7/8 gr. orchestra at PV, 2011 -12

Student signature: _____ Parent signature: _____

Ensemble Behavior/String class rules

Quietly enter the room.

Put books quietly under chair.

Instrument case goes on the rightside of chair.

Practice, don't talk, while you wait for rehearsal to begin.

When Miss R is at the podium, immediately stop what you are doing.

Lav passes first 5, last 5. Sign out, sign back in.

Clean up "minus one". Put all instruments on your shelf or in closet.

Key words: Polite, Attentive, Ready, Respectful