

BHS Orchestra Handbook 2020–21

This year all letters, announcements and assignments will be shared electronically, so please promptly sign up for the following services:

Parents:

1. Check that **Powerschool** has your current, preferred email address.
<https://psbv.nccohio.org/public/home.html> I will be sending important parent updates to that email address.
2. Subscribe or update your **Bay Music Booster** profile to reflect the ensembles your child is currently enrolled in: <https://baymusicboosters.com/>

Students:

1. Sign up for **Google Classroom**. Go to www.classroom.google.com, sign in to your SCHOOL gmail account and click on the "+" sign to add a class.
 - a. Rocket Orchestra (meets 3C) - enter class code **hoqet3h**
 - b. Chamber Strings (meets 3A) - enter class code **idy7jpr**
 - c. Chamber Winds - enter class code **k7mpbi3**
2. Sign up for **Remind**. Text to **81010** (Remind Sign-up Number) and enter the following code into the message box:
 - a. Rocket Orchestra - text **@RocketOrch** (not case sensitive)
 - b. Chamber Strings - text **@ChOrchBHS** (not case sensitive)
 - c. Chamber Winds - text **@ChWndsBHS** (not case sensitive)
 - d. Honors Quintet - text **@Honors5tet** (not case sensitive)
 - e. Rocket Quartet - text **@Rocket4tet** (not case sensitive)
 - f. Section Leaders - text **@BHSOrchSL** (not case sensitive)

Find this info with active links and many more resources at

www.bayorchestra.com



Mrs. Carrie Singler, Director

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[twitter.com/@bayorchestra](https://twitter.com/bayorchestra) • facebook.com/bayorchestra.BayVillage

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The BHS Orchestra's mission is to foster a lifelong relationship with music among listeners and participants by developing individual musical artistry, pursuing ensemble excellence through mutual respect and collaboration, and performing music for diverse audiences in and around our community.

II. STUDENT CONDUCT

A. Expectations

1. Be on Time
2. Have Your Instrument, Music, and Accessories
3. Be Quiet and Attentive – NO CELL PHONE or other electronic device may be in use after the bell rings except when given specific permission by the teacher.
4. Show a Willingness to Try

B. Consequences

Well-disciplined and efficient rehearsals are crucial to our success. Inattentive behavior, disrespect to directors, and excessive talking during rehearsals contribute to negative results and wasted time. Therefore, these actions will result in a student-teacher conference and one or more of the following:

1. Musical Community Service. Failure to serve will result in a detention.
2. School Detention
3. Parent Conference

III. ATTENDANCE POLICIES

A. **Daily Attendance:** Be in the Music Wing by the bell. Be in your seat ready to begin one minute after the bell. If you arrive late, come in quietly, give your pass to the director, then take your seat and join the rehearsal. You **MUST** have permission before leaving the classroom.

B. **Reporting Illness:** Absences at rehearsals and performances affect the entire orchestra. With advance notice, directors can often adjust plans to accommodate an absence, minimizing the negative impact on the other students. If your child becomes ill the day of a performance, please let me know ASAP.

C. **Performances:** Orchestra is a performance-based class, meaning all classroom learning culminates in a live performance for an audience. All orchestra members are required to attend performances, and **concert performances make up 25% of every student's grade**. The only excuses for missing a required orchestra event are as follows:

1. **A court or legal case that cannot be changed.**
2. **Personal illness severe enough that the student cannot attend school.**
3. **Participation in another school event as determined by Administration.**
4. **A death in the family.**

5. Other extenuating circumstances *may* be excused at the discretion of Mrs. Singler.

Report any event conflicts to the director as soon as possible and no later than 30 days prior to any performance or required event.

D. Absence Make-up Assignments:

Although it is impossible to replicate the conditions of a live orchestra performance, even conscientious students will sometimes find themselves with an unavoidable conflict. It is therefore necessary to have makeup assignments. Excused absences can be made up for full credit. Unexcused absences can be made up for half credit.

1. Missed Orchestra Concert Assignments:
 - a. Compose a 1,000-word essay (2,000 words for State Contest) about a composer whose music we have performed in class. Be sure to include a Bibliography with your references listed correctly. The essay is due no later than two weeks after the concert you missed. Rubric on google classroom.
 - b. Submit a recording of your entire part for each piece to be performed at the missed performance & include a personal recording assessment along with it. Rubric on google classroom. State Contest absence also requires a live sight-reading performance.

IV. EQUIPMENT

- A. **Instruments** You are responsible for securing and maintaining a musical instrument and the necessary accessories for it. Orchestral musicians are responsible for their own mutes, rosin, strings, cleaning cloths, and an instrument in optimal working condition. **Your name must be on your case.**
- B. **School Instruments** A student using school-owned equipment outside of school must fill out an instrument loan contract and maintain the equipment properly. The board of education and music department has invested thousands of dollars for the instrument you are borrowing. While the school district will absorb the cost to maintain the instrument, any negligent damage (dropping, unwarranted abuse, etc.) will be the responsibility of the student and parent.
- C. **Music Care** Music is very expensive and must be preserved for many years to come. Under no circumstance should it be bent, folded, rolled, or marked on with any form of ink. Music returned in poor condition or not returned at all must be paid for by the student.
- D. **Lockers** You will be assigned an instrument locker or shelf slot at the beginning of the school year. All instruments must be stored in their assigned spot. If you have a locker the lock should be locked at all times as the locker room itself will remain unlocked throughout the day. Do not leave your locker unlocked **ever**, even during rehearsals. At the end of the year your lock must be returned and the locker must be as clean as when it was first assigned. You will be charged for missing locks.

V. UNIFORMS

Our uniforms are generously provided and maintained by the Bay Music Boosters. Just as athletes do not play out of uniform, INAPPROPRIATELY DRESSED STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM and will have to change. **See the calendar for tux and dress issue dates.**

- A. **Gentlemen** A \$10 tuxedo dry-cleaning fee will be collected at the start of the school year (Checks should be made out to Bay Music Boosters, or you can pay using “Pay For It” on the Bay Schools website). Tuxedos will be issued at uniform night and collected at the end of the year. In the interim, it is the student’s responsibility to store and care for the garment. **Men supply their own white tuxedo shirts, black socks and black dress shoes.** Tuxedo Junction will make shirts available for purchase at uniform distribution.
- B. **Ladies** Black Concert Dresses will be issued to ladies at uniform night. Once you have been assigned a dress you will keep it until graduation unless you need a different size. These concert dresses can be machine washed (carefully follow the instructions on the label). **Ladies supply their own black dress shoes--no flip-flops.**
- C. **Orchestra Polos** An orchestra polo will be assigned to each member to be used at outdoor and informal orchestra events throughout the year. Once you have been assigned a polo you will keep it until graduation unless you need a different size. These shirts can (and SHOULD) be machine washed.

VI. GRADES

- A. Grading is designed to give a multi-faceted picture of a student’s mastery of musical knowledge, technical skills, ensemble rehearsal procedures and large group performance.
 - 1. **Rehearsal Participation (50%):** Prepare for class by practicing your music, arriving on time and having your music and instrument ready at the start of class Put forth your best effort in class and get involved with what we are doing. Have a positive attitude—it’s contagious! Support your peers.
 - 2. **Performances (25%):** Those who come to performances ready to collaborate with his or her section, harness the expressive elements of the literature, and channel classroom learning for the purpose of creating meaningful group expression will receive high marks.
 - 3. **Summative Quizzes & Tests (25%):** Students will be tested to assess their growth as musicians on specific material studied in class and assigned for home practice.
 - 4. **Extra Help** is *always* available. See me to arrange a time.

VII. SEATING

- A. **The Twelve-Tier System** is designed to track student progress and provide step-by-step goals for advancement. Tier Twelve is the most advanced level while Tier One is least advanced. Students are seated according to their tier ranking and by seniority within each tier group—however all Freshmen Violinists will be seated by tier within the Second Violin Section.
- B. **Section Leader** assignments are made for the whole year. In some cases the section leaders change from concert to concert because of the many strong auditions I heard. These positions are not subject to change except by director discretion.
- C. **Tier Challenges** Section seating (*does not apply to section leaders*) is subject to change by way of Tier Challenges. Tier Challenges give students the opportunity to retake their seating exam for a higher score. Tier Challenges will be taken using the same excerpts used for your final exam.
- D. **Rehearsal Variations** The seating listed is not necessarily what we will use in every rehearsal. Students will be rotated around in their sections to give everyone experience playing in all areas of their section. You learn different things in different spots! I also reserve the right to alter seating assignments if someone cannot act professionally in a seat or next to another individual.

VIII. MUSIC BOOSTERS

The Bay Music Boosters is the adult support group designed to provide financial and volunteer assistance to the band, orchestra, choir and auxiliary music programs in the Bay Village Schools. The group is governed by a board of parents and directors. We urge every parent to attend these meetings to learn about upcoming events and ways to support your student, our program and its directors.

For more information, check our music booster website:

www.baymusicboosters.com

Parents, please fill out an online [BHS Membership Agreement Form](#)