**2016-2017 DIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS**

**Esther Judd, director**

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**https://sites.google.com/site/mrsjuddsorchestras/home**

**Welcome to Orchestra!**

We have a fun year ahead of us of learning, growing, and performing together! This year you will be able to…

* Journey towards mastery of your stringed instrument, both as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble
* Stretch your musicianship and citizenship skills as a member of this orchestra
* Make important connections among music, other school subjects, and your life outside of Dixon Middle School

Your progress and grade depend on you! Keep reading to find out how can succeed in this class!

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

* Working instrument, bow, case, and cleaning cloth
* Shoulder rest (violin and viola)
* 2 pencils (not pens)
* Metronome and tuner – These can be purchased at any music store, but there are also many free apps available for electronic devices and online
* Orchestra Folder: This is a hardcover, BLACK 1” 3-ring binder with pockets. All theory pages, scales, grading sheets, music, and homework should be kept in this folder and brought to school EVERY DAY.
* String Explorer, book 1 – Beginning Orchestra
* String Explorer, book 2 – Concert Orchestra
* Each student will also need their appropriate-level Suzuki solo book

**GRADING POLICY:**

* Personal practice (20 points/week)
* Class attendance and participation (10 points/day)
* Concert attendance (200 points each concert)
* Concert and listening reports (20 points/week)
* Playing and written tests (30-60 points)

**Personal practice (20 points/week): Practice makes permanent!**

Regular, consistent practice is essential to skill development. Beginning Orchestra students are required to practice 20 minutes per day, 5 days each week for a total of 100 minutes per week. Concert Orchestra students are required to practice 30 minutes per day, 5 days each week for a total of 150 minutes per week. In addition to the required minutes of practicing, students will log their weekly goals, successes, and struggles. You have the option of breaking up the total week’s practice minutes however you want. **If you do not know what to practice, please see me and I will suggest appropriate materials.** I will also write the daily practice assignment on the board before the end of class every day.

**Class Attendance & Participation (10 points/day):**

Attendance, participation, and appropriate behavior are mandatory to receive full participation points. Students are expected to have all the required materials each day and be in your seats with instruments out 2 minutes after the bell rings. Roll will be taken at that time. You will be marked tardy if you are not ready to rehearse promptly. In addition to being prepared each day, students are expected to follow our class code of conduct. Go over these rules with your parent/guardian:

**SELF**

Am I doing my best?

 Yes No

Good job! Keep it up! Try a little harder!

**TEACHER**

Is Mrs. J. engaged in teaching?

Yes No

Listen, learn, and try! Ask her for instruction!

**OTHERS**

Am I helping them feel safe?

Yes No

Keep being kind! Encourage your peers!

**PROPERTY**

Is it mine?

Yes No

Great! Treat it well. Don’t touch it!

Our class must be a safe place where everyone is willing to take risks in order to grow as individual players as well as an ensemble. Thus, you are expected treat your fellow classmates and Mrs. Judd with respect.

**Concert Attendance (200 points each concert):**

Attendance is **MANDATORY** at all concerts, festivals, and assemblies. Call time is 45 minutes before the concert start time. Students must wear concert black:

 Dressy black pants or skirt that goes past the knee (no jeans!)

 White dress shirt or blouse (no sleeveless shirts)

 Black tie (boys)

 Black socks (with pants)

 Black stockings or tights (with skirt)

 Black shoes

Attached is a performance and events schedule – please put these dates into your calendar and notify Mrs. Judd ASAP if there is a conflict.

**Concert/listening reports (20 points):**

Students will be required to attend 1 concert per term in which they do not perform. You must write a concert report and hand it in before the last week of the term. Additional concert reports will be worth 20 points extra credit. I accept up to 2 extra concert reports per term. You will be graded on a rubric.

**Playing and Written Tests (30-60 points):**

Playing and written tests will be given in class, with or without advance notice. Tests can be retaken as many times as necessary for full credit until 3 weeks before the end of term. Up to 3 attempts can be done in class. After that, students may come in during lunch or after school. Written tests will be given on music theory, notation, and vocabulary. Playing tests will be graded on a rubric.

Grading scale

94-100 A 73-76 C

90-93 A- 70-72 C-

87-89 B+ 67-69 D+

83-86 B 63-66 D

80-82 B- 60-62 D-

77-79 C+ 59 and below F

**ABSENCE & LATE WORK POLICY:**

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the “Daily Work” file folder for the day you missed. Music, worksheets, journal prompts, and other assignments will be in the file folder. Clarify questions with Mrs. Judd.

Unexcused absences in excess of 4 per term will result in a maximum participation grade of 6 points per missed day.

All concert and listening reports, practice logs, and playing and written tests must be completed and handed in 3 weeks before the end of the term. Assignments handed in after this time will be receive a maximum grade of 80% of points possible.

**COMMUNICATION:**

Parents, my primary means of communication will be email. If you do not use email or prefer another mode of communication, please make note of that below in the “Return to Mrs. Judd” portion of the document. Because I work at both Dixon Middle School and Provo High School, I will only be available during lunch and after school. If you cannot come at either of those times, please contact me and we will arrange a time to meet.

**RELIGIOUS MUSIC DISCLAIMER:**

Because music reflects culture, some music performed during the year will have religious themes. No particular religion will be preached or promoted, but we will discuss the religious significance of pieces of music that we perform.

**DISCLOSURE FORM**

This is an assignment worth 10 points due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, (**student name**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood the expectations and policies for Mrs. Judd’s orchestra. I have reviewed this document with my parent/guardian and take responsibility for my learning, growth, and progress in this class.

**Student Signature**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Date**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, (**parent/guardian name**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood Mrs. Judd’s expectations in her orchestra. I have reviewed this document with my child, checked for performance conflicts, and danced for joy that the responsibility is on my son/daughter to take charge of his/her learning, growth, and progress in this class. Thank you for supporting my parental efforts!

**Parent Signature**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Date**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Involvement**

Parent/Guardian,

If you have a skill that you would like to share with our class, please list it/them below.

Examples: help tuning before concert, careers in music, etc.