

Wheaton Christian Grammar School

Cadet  
Orchestra  
Handbook

2019-2020



# Wheaton Christian Grammar School

## Cadet Orchestra Handbook

2019/2020 School Year

Dear Orchestra Members and Parents,

Welcome to the 2019/2020 Cadet Orchestra Program at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. I look forward to being your conductor and teacher this year. In this handbook, you will find all the policies and procedures in order to make your orchestral experience positive, problem-free and great fun.

### **Parents**

Thank you for allowing your son or daughter to be in orchestra this year. They will have the opportunity to experience the joy of making music and mastering new skills. It is essential that we partner together to encourage each student to reach their potential through effective practice. I believe that students who use effective practice techniques become more enthused about playing music and progress more quickly. Let's work together on this!

Please take the time to read the following information carefully whether you are new to the orchestra here at WCGS or returning to the program. Students and parents must sign the commitment form and return it by **Thursday, August 29**.

I am looking forward to having a wonderful year together. Please feel free to contact me at school.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Petersons

630.668.1385 ext. 262

[dpetersons@wheatonchristian.org](mailto:dpetersons@wheatonchristian.org)

## Daily Rules and Procedures

The following rules are set in place to create an atmosphere of learning and success. Students who violate these rules reduce the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently hurt the entire orchestra.

1. Enter the orchestra room in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Quickly get your instrument and music and take your seat.
3. Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium and no further talking will be permitted.
4. Students will not play other students' instruments. **This includes all instruments including percussion instruments and keyboards.**
5. Orchestra members will have the following at every rehearsal:
  - a. INSTRUMENT (with necessary accessories)
  - b. ALL MUSIC
  - c. PENCIL (you supply your own)
6. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
7. Instruments **MUST** be stored in instrument lockers when not being played at school.  
**DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT IN HALLWAYS.**
8. Practicing is very important. More is accomplished in rehearsal when you have learned your music at home. Leaving your instrument at school overnight should be the exception rather than the rule. Practice logs will be checked weekly.
9. Students who do not have their instrument or music for rehearsals or sectionals will have points deducted from their grade.
10. Absolutely no gum, food, or drink in rehearsal. (water is OK)
11. Respect the rights, safety, and property of others.
12. Accept responsibility for yourself and your learning.

## Grades/Points

Grades are based on an average of Student participation and preparedness in Class and Sectionals, Concerts, and SmartMusic assignments.

This is the percentage break down of the students' orchestra grades:

40% - Playing in rehearsals

25% - SmartMusic assignments

20% - Playing in sectionals

15% - Playing in concerts

## Rehearsal Schedule

Cadet Orchestra rehearses twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11:48am – 12:23pm.

## Beneficial Experiences

**Concerts/Recitals** – Students are encouraged to attend concerts or recitals featuring their instrument. Concerts and recitals can be very inspirational.

**Private Lessons** – Every instrumentalist should consider taking private lessons on his/her instrument. Although not a requirement, private lessons can be extremely beneficial.

**IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest** – Solo and ensemble contest will be coming up in February. Now is a good time to begin thinking about your involvement in this contest. Information will be sent home when it is available.

**Fine Arts Solo Recital** – This recital held at WCGS in April is a great opportunity for solos to be played for fellow classmates.

## Sectionals

All students in Cadet Orchestra have a scheduled weekly sectional during the regular school day. Since academic classes will be missed for sectionals, **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK!** The only exception for missing a sectional is if a teacher is giving a test during that period in class and it cannot be made up at another time. **It is critical that every orchestra student attend these sectionals. They are vital to the progress of our orchestra's success.**

## SmartMusic Practicing System

All students are required to practice at home several times a week. Consistent, daily work is essential to improvement on your instrument. This year, we will again use the SmartMusic computer program. Each student is **required** to purchase a subscription and enroll in the SmartMusic program. The cost for a one-year subscription is \$40.00. Periodic assignments and playing tests will need to be completed and submitted throughout the year. We have several SmartMusic stations in the music department that are available for student use. Students who do not have access to a computer at home may submit their assignments at school either during orchestra rehearsal, during study hall, before school, or after school. If you already have a SmartMusic subscription, make sure that you renew your license and enroll in Cadet Orchestra online. If you are new to WCGS, or do not have a previous subscription, Google SmartMusic for information.

## Practicing

All students are required to practice at home. 100 minutes per week is suggested, but not required. Consistent, daily work is essential to improvement on your instrument. Practice is most effective when it is broken into smaller practice sessions. For instance, practicing 20 minutes, 5 days a week, or 25 minutes, 4 times a week is much more beneficial than 100 minutes at one time. However, instead of recording amounts of time on the practice sheet, students will be demonstrating their practice effectiveness on Smart Music tests. The goal is not quantity of practice, but quality of practice. Time will be spent in class discussing effective and efficient practice strategies.

## **Instrument Care and Maintenance**

All students must have instruments in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain proper care of their instruments throughout the school year. This year, Quinlan and Fabish will visit our school weekly and can be utilized for repairs.

## **ParentsWeb**

Assignments and progress will be posted on ParentsWeb. Grades are based on: Student participation and preparedness in Class and Sectionals, Concerts, and SmartMusic Assignments. **Students and parents can access the exact assignments, as well as grades for submitted assignments by checking ParentsWeb. ParentsWeb is the best way to check a student's progress.**

## **Class Materials/Curriculum**

Each student will be issued a new binder with copies of the music the orchestra will be playing. It is the student's responsibility to take good care of this binder and have it present at every rehearsal and sectional. Music and binders that are lost are subject to replacement fees.

## **Concert Uniforms**

The concert dress code for Cadet Orchestra is as follows:

**Girls:** White blouse, black skirt (see student handbook for appropriate length) or black dress pants, black shoes.

**Boys:** White, collared dress shirt, dark tie, black dress pants, black belt, black socks, black shoes (NO gym shoes).

## **Concerts and Important Dates**

The concerts and events listed below are mandatory. These events are to be viewed as a final exam.

Christmas Orchestra Concert.....7:00pm, Thursday, December 12, 2019  
Spring Orchestra Concert.....7:00pm, Thursday, May 7, 2020

In addition to the above concerts, students may choose to be involved in the following events:

IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest.....Saturday, February 29, 2020  
Fine Arts Solo Recital.....Monday, April 20, 2020

## Cadet Orchestra Commitment Form

I have read the preceding information. I understand and accept the commitment and expectations of becoming a member of the Cadet Orchestra. I also realize that I am making a one-year commitment for the 2019-2020 school year to the WCGS Cadet Orchestra.

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Student's Name (print)

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Student's Signature

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Parent's Signature

Please detach this form, sign and return to Mr. Petersons by **Thursday, August 29**.