

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

2010-2011

ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK

DEREK DEAKINS, DIRECTOR

LUCY BECKHAM, PRINCIPAL



WWW.WANDOHIGH.COM/CLUBS/ORCHESTRA

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Dear Wando High School Orchestra members and parents,

Hello and welcome! I am so glad that you and your child will be with us to continue this musical journey of orchestra! Thank you for being an advocate of music education in your child's life. I am very excited to witness the development of musical skills and watch the students enjoy a wonderful string experience. We have a lot of exciting programs and events coming up this year.

I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I am originally from Kingsport, Tennessee and started playing the violin when I was six years old. Being exposed to many genres of music at a young age, I have grown to love and perform many different styles including classical, jazz, country, Celtic, and bluegrass music. In 2005, I graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Since graduating from college, I have worked professionally as a music teacher, studio musician, and stage performer. My wife is the orchestra director at Moultrie Middle School, and we are excited to work together to keep building this great orchestra program!

The handbook is for both students and parents. Please take time to read through the handbook and return the form located in the back of the book by Wednesday, August 25th and go to <http://www.wandohigh.com/clubs/orchestra/parents.htm> to fill out an electronic form. In this handbook I will discuss orchestra policies, supplies needed for class, grading policies, concert dress, schedules, and other important information.

Please remember that the success your child enjoys in string orchestra here at Wando is largely due to your support and encouragement. I hope that you will encourage your child to practice at home and help him/her be prepared for class and performances.

If you ever have any conflicts, concerns, or questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at derek_deakins@charleston.k12.sc.us or by calling me at 615-477-8110.



I hope everyone had a great and enjoyable summer. I am looking forward to getting to know all the new students, returning students, and parents.

Let's make it a great year!
Derek Deakins



Orchestra Philosophy

By choosing to participate in orchestra, students make the commitment to demonstrate behavior, attitude, and skills that contribute to the continued excellence of the group, as well as his/her own personal growth. Students entering the Wando High School string program will be expected to maintain and apply correct playing posture, appropriate and courteous rehearsal behavior, and consistent practice habits. Students are expected to continue these established practices and put forth their best effort each day because they have made a commitment to the development of the group and themselves.

Orchestra Policies

1. Respect the teacher, your fellow orchestra members, and all the musical equipment.
2. You are expected to bring the following materials **EVERY DAY** as part of your grade: Instrument, Rosin, Shoulder Rest (violins/violas), Rock Stop (cellos/basses), Music Notebook, and Pencil
3. **No eating, drinking, or chewing gum** allowed in the orchestra room. Water bottles with closed tops are acceptable.
4. Please be on time for class. Students not inside the classroom when the bell rings will be counted tardy and automatically receive an infraction. Students who are not unpacked and seated after the timer goes off will also receive an infraction.
5. Cell phones are strictly prohibited. If you are caught with your cell phone in sight, Mr. Deakins will confiscate it and turn it over to the administration. **No exceptions!**
6. There will be no talking when Mr. Deakins steps on to the podium. Be polite during rehearsals. Do not pluck or make other noises with your instrument during class rehearsals.
7. Keep fingernails at a short length to promote good performance technique.
8. Music that is issued to the students is property of the school orchestra and must be returned in good condition for use in future concerts. Students will be charged for damages or loss of music and a hold may be placed on the student's report card if the music is not returned.
9. Playing instruments other than your own without permission is not allowed. This policy applies to all instruments, including the cellos and basses.
10. Any intentional or accidental damage that occurs to an instrument will be paid for by the student responsible for such damage. This includes any damage that occurs in or out of the classroom, whether it is your instrument or someone else's.
11. If a string breaks on your instrument, you must bring it to class before school along with an extra string and place in front of the Orchestra Office. Mr. Deakins will repair the string before your class that day. Mr. Deakins will *not* repair any broken strings during class.
12. If your instrument is in the shop being repaired, you must bring in a note from a parent in order to receive participation credit and points.
13. Students are not allowed in Mr. Deakins' office. You must have his permission before entering.
14. Students are required to receive a recommendation and pass an audition in order to advance into the next grade's program each year. Students may not audition for next year's program if they have received a grade of below a 70 in any 2 nine weeks.

When and where is class?

Orchestra class will meet every day in room A113.

The schedule is as follows:

Chamber Orchestra- 3rd block (embedded)

Concert Orchestra- 4th block



What do I need?

Required Class Materials:

1. Instrument
2. Shoulder Rest (Violin/Viola)
End Pin Belt or Rock Stop (Cello and Bass)
3. Rosin
4. Extra set of strings
5. Pencil
6. Music Notebook (3-ring) with required inserts (see next page)
7. SmartMusic student kit (see next page)

Where should I rent/buy these things?

Music & Arts Center 975 Savannah Highway 852-0900

Pecknel Music Co. 1660 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. 766-7660

Gawlik Violin Company office: 252-353-7142 cell: 252-531-2315
gawlikviolins@embarqmail.com (violin, viola, cello)



School Instrument Rentals

Some students, especially cellists and bassists, choose to rent a school instrument to keep in the classroom each day so that they do not have to bring their instruments to and from school. If you are interested in renting one of these instruments, please contact me directly. Limited instruments are available, and I will take rental requests on a first come, first served basis. The fee for the entire year is only \$50, but the instrument must stay at school and not be taken home. (Students must have their own instrument at home for practicing, SmartMusic assignments, concerts, etc.)

Finances

The class fee for orchestra is \$100. This helps pay for:

- Music for rehearsals and performances
- Musical supplies (music stands, storage, awards, & certificates)
- Classroom equipment (shelves, hooks, electronics)
- All-Region, festival, and competition fees
- Transportation for SC Concert Festival
- SmartMusic Computer Software Program
- Orchestra T-shirts

The \$100.00 class fee will be due on August 25. Please make the check payable to Wando High School Orchestra. This will be the first grade your child will receive in orchestra class.

* *If you need financial assistance or would like to set up a payment plan, I would be happy to work with you. Please call me: 615-477-8110.* *



Procedures for Entering the Orchestra Room and Tuning

1. When you enter the orchestra room, bring your instrument case and notebook to your chair and begin unpacking.
 2. Watch the timer for the beginning of instruction. While students are unpacking, you may turn in assignments, sharpen your pencil, warm up at your seat, and check the board for the day's rehearsal schedule. You may *not* play your instrument when you are out of your seat.
3. After the timer goes off, sit in ready position and follow the concert master for instructions.

Behavior Guidelines

1. Be on time.

Be at your place and ready to tune at the start of class.

2. Be prepared.

Have your instrument, music folder, and pencil with you for every class.

3. Be attentive.

Give Mr. Deakins your full attention at all times.

4. Be respectful.

Respect yourself, others, and your instrument.

There is a zero tolerance policy for disrespect to the director and other students.

You will automatically pack up for the day and lose your daily points.

5. Be positive.

Your success in this class, and in life, is up to you.

If you believe you can, you will!

Failure to follow any of these policies may result in the following consequences:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1st infraction: | Verbal warning/name on board |
| 2nd infraction: | Participation points lost (Check next to name on board) |
| 3rd infraction: | Phone call to parents and/or student chair demotion (Points lost) |
| 4th infraction: | Parent/student conference or administrative referral (Points lost) |

*Extreme disruptions and bad behavior warrant an immediate administrative referral

Grade Scale and Points



93-100	A
85-92	B
77-84	C
70-76	D
69 and below	F

Grades will be determined by a points system, which includes participation, SmartMusic assignments, written assignments and tests, concert reviews and composer papers, notebook completeness, and concert attendance. At the beginning of each of the 4 grading periods, your child will receive a points chart to be placed in his/her notebook. Each student will keep track of his/her own grades throughout the nine weeks and know exactly what grade he/she has at all times.

Class Participation

Class participation is a large part of playing in an orchestra. When a student misses class, there is no way to fully recreate what was learned during the missed rehearsal. Successful rehearsals as an ensemble depend on having all musicians in rehearsal whenever possible. Each day of class is worth 10 points. A student who comes to class and puts forth his/her best effort will receive full credit. If a student forgets his/her instrument or notebook, 5 points will be deducted. If a student receives a 2nd infraction (after name on board), 5 points will be deducted. (maximum 100 points every nine weeks)

SmartMusic Assignments

Just like any other class at Wando High School, the orchestra has work that must be completed beyond school time. Students will be assigned approximately 10 SmartMusic assignments each grading period to be completed at home and submitted online using the SmartMusic program. Each assignment is worth 30 points.

Composer/Performer Papers and Concert Reviews

Each nine weeks, students are required to write four one-page papers. Two papers will be about a composer or performer of the students' choice from a provided list, and two papers will be concert reviews of string performances the students have attended. The directions, rubric, and composer/performer list are posted on the Wando High website: www.wandohigh.com/clubs/orchestra Click on *students*. If a paper is late, the student will lose 10 points the first day. On the second day, the student will lose another 10 points. If the paper is not turned in by the third day, the student will not receive any points.

Performances

Performances are an important part of the orchestra experience, and each member is expected to be in attendance with his/her music and instrument (see dates below). Performances are worth 100 points each, and total points vary based on the amount of performances each quarter. Please refer to specific call times for individual concerts.

Regional Performance Opportunities and Grading Exemptions

Students who participate in outside strings activities will receive credit each nine weeks for their involvement. You must submit a form provided on the Wando website and secure appropriate signatures. www.wandohigh.com/clubs/orchestra (Click on “students”)

Activities include:

1. Weekly private instruction
 - 1 Composer/Performer Paper (75 points)
 - 1 Concert Review (75 points)
 - 2 SmartMusic Assignments (30 points each)
2. CCSD District Orchestra or Youth Orchestra of the Low Country
 - 1 Concert Review (75 points)
3. All-Region and All-State Orchestra Weekend and Performance
(One nine-weeks exemption per event)
 - 1 Test (75 points)
 - 1 Composer/Performer Paper (75 points)
 - 2 SmartMusic Assignments (30 points each)

***** A new form must be submitted every nine weeks in order to receive credit. (except All-Region and All-State)**

Concert Dress

Students are required to have the appropriate concert dress for every performance. Students will not be permitted to perform and will receive a 0 if their attire is not deemed appropriate by the director. Attire is as follows:

Boys: Tuxedo shirt, tuxedo pants, black shoes, black socks, cummerbund, bowtie

Items may be purchased at *The Black Tie*

1492 N Highway 17 Ste C
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
843-884-4349

(They will provide a \$20 discount on the purchase of a shirt, pants, cummerbund, bowtie, and cuff links)

***Please note: A tuxedo jacket is **REQUIRED**

Girls: Black dress, black pants or black skirt, black shirt, black shoes

Pants must be loose-fitting (no skin-tight pants) and skirts/dresses must be knee-length or longer.

Excused Absences: The only possible excused absences involve student illness or a family emergency. Due to the fact that concerts are scheduled with advanced notice, church

activities will not be considered excused absences. Please review the dates for the 2010-2011 school year and mark them on your calendar.

How You Can Be A Great Orchestra Parent

Your decision to provide your child with a quality musical education is an investment in his/her future. You are assisting with his/her self-expression, creativity, and achievement. Numerous studies suggest that students who have experience in the arts have increased brain development, higher test scores, higher academic development, and work better as a team. These suggestions are to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his/her musical growth.

What to do

- Remind your child to bring his or her instrument and music notebook to class every day.
- Make sure your child's instrument is well maintained and the instrument case contains an extra set of strings.
- Encourage students to perform for family and friends.
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of musical experiences, including concerts and recitals.
- Listen to your child practice and acknowledge improvement.
- Encourage your child to make a commitment to their music studies.
- Attend every concert with enthusiasm!

Encourage quality practicing

- Provide a music stand in a quiet place for your child to practice.
- Remain nearby during practice times as often as possible.
- Assist with scheduling a consistent practice time each day. For example, always practice after dinner, immediately after school, etc...
- Praise your child's efforts and achievements.

What to avoid

- Using practice as a punishment
- Insisting your child perform for others if he/she doesn't feel comfortable
- Ridiculing or making fun of mistakes

Wando High School Orchestra Booster Club

PARENTS...

If you are interested in assisting with the Orchestra Boosters this year, please contact me by phone or email. The parent committee will assist with concerts, fundraisers, awards day celebrations, trips, and other activities. I would love to have your help as we make the Wando Orchestra the best it can be!

Private Lessons

Private lessons provide students with a level of individual instruction that cannot be given during orchestra rehearsals. Orchestra class is for working to blend each part with the entire sound of the group, whereas private lessons focus on an individual's part and specific technique. Students who take private lessons generally have higher acceptance into All-Region orchestra, All-State orchestra, and Youth Orchestra of the Low Country.

Recommended Private Instructors:

Violin:

Lisa Deakins (Mt. Pleasant)
615-406-1173 lisa_deakins@charleston.k12.sc.us

Carolyn Tackett (Mt Pleasant)
828-664-9419 carotackett@gmail.com

DeAnndra Glenn (North Charleston)
843-991-3564 deanndra@charlestonviolin.com



Viola:

Cathy Arthur (Mt. Pleasant)
843-971-1928 cathyarthur@gmail.com

Ruth Goldsmith (downtown)
843-795-5789

DeAnndra Glenn (North Charleston)
843-991-3564 deanndra@charlestonviolin.com

Charleston Academy of Music (downtown)
843-805-7794 cam746@yahoo.com www.charlestonmusic.org



Cello:

Nancy Cross (Mt Pleasant)
843-881-2930 nancy_cross@charleston.k12.sc.us

Charleston Academy of Music (downtown)
843-805-7794 cam746@yahoo.com www.charlestonmusic.org



Bass:

Tom Bresnick (North Charleston)
843-209-1187 kabirdas@bellsouth.net

Wando High School 2010-2011 Orchestra Calendar

2010

August 23	Materials due: instrument, notebook and dividers	
August 25	Handbook form and \$100 class fee due (extra credit: by August 20 th)	
September 9	Orchestra Booster Meeting: Wando orchestra room A113, 7:00 pm	
October 9	All-Region Orchestra auditions	Place TBA
October 26	Wando Orchestra Fall Concert	Moultrie Cafeteria 7:00 pm
Nov. 19-20	All-Region Orchestra Weekend	Cane Bay High School, Summerville
Dec. 14	Holiday Concert w/ Moultrie Orchestra: Wando High Auditorium 7:00 pm	

2011

January 8	All-State Orchestra Auditions	University of South Carolina
Feb. 25-27	All-State Orchestra Weekend	Furman University, Greenville SC
Date TBA	Concert Festival Preview Concert	Wando High Auditorium 7:00 pm
March 23-25	SC Concert Festival	Place TBA
Date TBA	Solo & Ensemble Festival	Place TBA
April 14 th	Mt. Pleasant District Orchestra Concert	Cario Middle School Gym 7:00 pm
May 24	Wando Spring Concert	Wando High PAC 7:00 pm
May 27-29	Busch Gardens/Williamsburg Orchestra Trip	
Date TBA	End-of-Year Awards Banquet	Place TBA



Handbook Agreement Form

Student Name (Please Print): _____

I have thoroughly read and agree to the policies and responsibilities of the Wando High School Orchestra as stated in this handbook and agree to support the "Tradition of Excellence" to the best of my ability. As a member of the Wando High School Orchestra, I understand that I am expected to perform at my highest ability level. I agree to respect all of the members of this organization at all times, and I look forward to celebrating the achievements of our orchestra!

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____



For parents:

I have thoroughly read and agree to the event dates, policies and responsibilities of my child's commitment to the Wando High School Orchestra as stated in this handbook. I agree to support him/her emotionally and financially to the best of my ability. I will encourage my child to perform at his/her very best at all times.

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Email Address _____

Parent's Primary Phone _____

Student's Home Address _____

Does your child take private lessons? _____

If so, with who? _____