

LEE'S SUMMIT WEST HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA GRADING POLICY

2017-2018

Director: Mrs. Stephanie Hill

Office Hours: By appointment

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Grading Philosophy:

The Lee's Summit West High School Orchestras are performance organizations. Grading is based upon a student's participation, cooperation, and contribution to the success of the organization.

Grading System:

Students earn points for positive and cooperative participation in activities.

Grades will be assigned by percentage of the points possible.

Points:	Class Rehearsal	35% of grade
	Playing Quizzes/Tests	15% of grade
	Performances	50% of grade

(Students are required to stay for the entire performance and sit with their class to earn full credit.)

Class Rehearsal: This will be determined by behaviors which contribute to or interfere with the overall learning process of the orchestra as a whole. These are behaviors which we have determined to be necessary for being successful in a music ensemble and are ones which affect the orchestra as a whole. These behaviors are monitored and assessed every day in class and are reported as class rehearsal points in the grade book. The student earns 0-5 points per class rehearsal for completing/not completing all required tasks.

Some examples of behaviors that would affect these points are:

- *not being ready to begin class by the time we start tuning
- *participating properly for all or a portion of the activity
- *cell phone or electronic device out during class
- *poor playing posture for any portion of the class when playing
- *behavior which interrupts or delays the instruction of the class
- *has to be asked to stop inappropriately timed conversations
- *unwilling to follow an instruction or alter a behavior as requested
- *missing instrument or music
- *chewing gum

Please check Power School regularly for grade updates

Concert grades are earned based on the following:

<i>Stage Performance (38%)</i>	You do what you are supposed to do while warming up and while onstage.
<i>Audience Etiquette (38%)</i>	You are present for the entire concert. You are a quiet, polite, and attentive listener. You do what you are supposed to do and do not have any discipline issues. Cell phones are not to be used during concerts. Phones will be turned off and out of sight for the entirety of the warm-up and concert.
<i>Concert Attire (12%)</i>	You wear what you are supposed to wear to the concert.
<i>Punctuality (12%)</i>	You arrive at the scheduled "call" on time.

Symphony Orchestra

The Symphony Orchestra is the top performing orchestra at Lee's Summit West High School. This orchestra performs the highest-level literature at numerous concerts during the year including MSHSAA state large ensemble festival in the spring. Symphony Orchestra members are chosen from an audition using the same music from the All-District Orchestra audition. Members of the Symphony Orchestra are highly encouraged to audition for the KC Metro All-District Honor Orchestras, take private lessons on their instrument, and participate in Solo and Ensemble (more information below). These students are very serious about improving their musical abilities; therefore, are highly encouraged to invest in intermediate or professional quality musical instruments. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12 and meets during 4th hour.

Philharmonic Orchestra

The Philharmonic Orchestra is the second orchestra at Lee's Summit West High School. This orchestra performs challenging literature at numerous concerts during the year including MSHSAA state large ensemble festival in the spring. Philharmonic Orchestra members are chosen from an audition using the same music from the All-District Orchestra audition. Members of the Philharmonic Orchestra should also consider taking private lessons on their instrument and may participate in Solo and Ensemble (more information below). These students should be playing on quality musical instruments. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12 and meets during 6th or 7th hour.

Concert Orchestra

The Concert Orchestra is the third orchestra at Lee's Summit West High School. This orchestra performs challenging literature at numerous concerts during the year including MSHSAA state large ensemble festival in the spring. Concert Orchestra members are chosen from an audition using the same music from the All-District Orchestra audition. Members of the Concert Orchestra should also consider taking private lessons on their instrument and may participate in Solo and Ensemble (more information below). These students should be playing on quality musical instruments. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12 and meets during 5th hour.

Solo and Ensemble

During the spring semester, students have the opportunity to participate in District and State Solo and Ensemble. Students may work on individual solos and with other students in small ensembles. These are all student lead and provide an unparalleled chance for individual growth on their instrument. Almost always, students who choose to work individually on solos also take private lessons on their instrument. Combining these activities will provide students with the most direct path to success in their individual playing.

KC Metro #3 All-District Honor Orchestras/ Missouri All-State Orchestra

All band students in the program have the opportunity to audition for the All-District Honor Orchestras. Students compete with other orchestra students from around the KC Metro area. The top students are selected to perform with the orchestras in January. Students selected to the All-District orchestras are eligible to audition for the Missouri All-State orchestra, which performs at the MMEA State Convention in January. These groups are the highest honor for an orchestra student and private lessons are always highly recommended for students pursuing these groups.

Private Lessons

All students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. While directors are skilled instructors on most instruments in the orchestra, there is simply no substitution for private instruction received from someone who is considered to be a professional performer on a particular instrument. We are extremely fortunate in Kansas City to have numerous professional private lesson teachers available to help students reach that "next level" of performance. Many of the private teachers are or have been affiliated with professional performing groups in the area. The directors will

assist orchestra students in finding qualified teachers (see attached list); however, we suggest you be aggressive finding the best teacher as soon as possible. Private lessons are a must for serious orchestra students. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist on an individual musical instrument can make all the difference in a student's progress on their musical instrument, thus making for a more enjoyable experience in orchestra and music.

Uniforms

Ladies will need the black dress to match those worn by other students. Uniform fitting will be announced shortly and payment is due when ordered. Please let me know if you need assistance with fees. Ladies will provide their own **black hose and black dress shoes. No flip-flops or casual sandals will be allowed.**

Gentlemen will check-out a tuxedo coat, slacks, and cummerbund. White pleated tux shirts and black bow ties must also be worn with the uniform and purchasing information will be on the rental sheet. Uniform checkout will be announced shortly and rental/cleaning fees of \$22 per year will be due when check out occurs. Please let me know if you need assistance with fees. Gentlemen provide their own **black dress shoes and black socks.** Students must pay the replacement cost of any item that is lost or damaged while in their possession.

REMIND

Please make sure all students are subscribed to REMIND for the class you are in, as well as a parent, if possible. This is the fastest way to send reminders and links!

Smartphones: Download the Remind app, sign up, join the class with the code @lsworch

Non-smartphones: Text @lsworch to 81010

Email: Go to rmd.at/@lsworch and sign up!

Auditions/Seating

Students will play a seating audition test in August to set initial seating for the orchestras. All students will play a portion of the All-District Orchestra Audition material for initial seating. The portion of music assigned will be in line with the level of the ensemble of which they are a member. Students who wish to be considered for a leadership role (first two stands of each section) will submit a written statement on leadership qualifications. The guidelines are attached. Written statements are due on **Monday, August 21** and playing auditions will start this day as well. Consideration for leadership will be given using the written

statement AND the playing audition. Seating behind the leaders will be ranked by playing auditions and may rotate after the first concert.

Absences

1. Students will not lose any daily class points until they have been excused for more than 7 class periods in a quarter (unless in ISS or OSS).
2. Students in ISS or OSS will be required to complete make-up work to earn all points missed.
3. A student's school sport practice/game is not an excused absence from a required event UNLESS we have worked out a sharing solution between the coach and the orchestra director. **Students are responsible for communicating IN ADVANCE with both the coach and the orchestra director to work out a sharing solution.**
4. A student's job is NOT an excused absence from a scheduled activity. Please **communicate and give a copy of your orchestra schedule to your employer.**
5. Make-up work will only be accepted for missed events due to illness, family emergency, or school activity conflict that has been approved.
6. Parents must email or call if illness or emergency has occurred.

Make-up Work

1. Students should state **name, date of recording** and **selection being performed** before each piece.
2. Students will be assigned full or partial credit based on the quality of the student's performance on the recording.
3. Students must record a performance of all the music being learned in the concert period.
4. If the excused absence occurs during a performance when other orchestras from our school district are performing, the student will watch/listen to ALL performances and fill out a reflection worksheet in addition to recording their own performance of their parts.
5. Make-up work is due within 2 weeks of the performance date. Please communicate if you need additional time.

Eligibility for MSHSAA Events

A student must earn a minimum of 3 credits to participate in MSHSAA sponsored activities. Each student must have passed a minimum of 3.0 credits or 6 classes during the previous semester of participation in order to be eligible. A student must currently be enrolled in a minimum of 3 credits (6 classes) during his/her semester of participation. MSHSAA eligibility policies affect orchestra members in the following ways:

- ALL Orchestra members and the parent/guardian must attend the "MSHSAA Parent Meeting" and complete the required paperwork per MSHSAA policy. This meeting is held Oct. 17 at 6:45 p.m. following the 6:00 Fall Choir Concert. All Orchestra students must also pay the required LSSD R-7 Activity Fee (\$50) to be MSHSAA eligible.
- Any orchestra member who was not currently enrolled in 6 classes or did not pass 6 classes in the previous semester, will be considered academically ineligible. Ineligible students may not participate at any MSHSAA sponsored Contest/Event.
- Ineligible students may not audition or participate in honor ensembles or in LSW extracurricular instrumental/vocal events. Examples include but are not limited to KC Metro All-District Orchestra, Missouri All-State Orchestra, Solo-Ensemble Festival, etc.
- Ineligible students are required to attend rehearsals leading up to a MSHSAA event.
- Make-Up assignments will be assigned accordingly if a student is ineligible to perform at MSHSAA events that are a part of the grade.

Leadership Expectations and Essay Guidelines

Music, at its best, brings people together. Negative attitudes and selfish behavior make it impossible to experience music at its best. Never settle for less than excellence!

Type an essay addressing each of the following topics and submit electronically or physically by **Monday, August 21**.

1. Why do you want a leadership position in your orchestra this year?
2. What qualities do you have that would make you a good and effective leader?
3. What weaknesses would you have to work on to be a good and effective leader?
4. Share anything helpful that I should know about you.
5. If you have to ask me how long this essay should be, you have missed the point.

Expectations for Leadership

Positive, respectful interactions with all directors and orchestra members at all times- seek to understand and encourage!

Commitment to excellence in all rehearsals and performances- set the example, show continuous self-improvement, instill in others a respect for and pride in the LSW Orchestra tradition!

Be on time to every rehearsal and performance!

Step up and do what needs to be done- be organized, help clean up the room, be first to volunteer!

Communicate effectively with orchestra members- get to know all members of your section; make them feel important.....because they are!

Communicate effectively with the director- come and visit the office, ask to help out, be an example!