

Welcome to Orchestra! We are going to have a great year, learning how to play an instrument, read music, and perform songs for friends and family. Since orchestra class is new for most of you, I have made this handbook explaining some of the aspects of our orchestra program. Parents, please read this through and sign the final portion so that I know that you received this information. Thank you

**String Class**

 String class will meet twice a week for forty minutes during the school day. Students will bring their instrument to school two days a week for these classes. On other days, the students will have their instrument at home so they can practice at home. Students should not leave their instrument at school It does not allow for progress, since they can not practice their lessons at home. Also, it is not safe. Instruments can disappear from classrooms if they are left there for too long.

 Orchestra students will be provided with books and supplies (rosin, shoulder sponges, cello end pin straps) by the school. Since these items are bought by the school, some of these things will need to be returned at the end of the school year. Please take good care of these things, since our budget is limited. If your child loses his or her book, please write me a note and I will replace it.

**School Owned Instruments**

 At this point in the year, you have already gone through the school instrument distribution. We don’t always have enough instruments for all of the students who request them. Please take good care of the instrument. If your child breaks a school instrument, it will have to be sent to the repairman who fixes our school instruments. It can take weeks for an instrument to be fixed, and this is time your child can play in class. Our repair budget is also limited and sometimes we run out of funds to repair instruments. So please take good care of your instrument.

 If your child comes home without his or her instrument, please ask questions! You are responsible if the instrument is lost, so make sure that the instrument is with you or your child. Leaving it at school for long periods of time can be risky.



**Practice Records**

 Since students are in string class only twice per week, it is very important that they practice at home. Students can not make significant progress without practicing their playing and music reading skills. A beginning student should practice about 15 minutes a day, 3 to 4 days a week. Students can get extra credit for this home practice by filling out a practice record form. These forms are available in my classroom and on my website. Parents can also make their own chart if that is easier. Just write down the days and times that your child practiced, write their name at the top, and then sign and date it.

**Orchestra class rules**

 Students must bring their instrument and book/s to all classes

 Students will be careful with all instruments and supplies

 Students will get permission before touching another child’s instrument

 Students will treat the teacher and other students with respect

**Concerts**

 Orchestra students will participate in two or three concerts this year. Please make every effort to attend the concert with your young performer. I will include concert information in newsletters and fliers sent home at least a month or two prior to the concert. I will also try to post concert dates on my teacher website. If for some reason your child is unable to attend a concert, please write me a note or send me an email explaining the conflict.

*How to contact me:*

The easiest way to contact me is via email. I teach at multiple schools through out the day, so email is the fastest and most reliable method for reaching me. My email is atinklen@tempeschools.org. You can also call the school and leave me a voicemail, or send a written note to me via your child.

 You are always welcome to visit our class to observe us in action. Just double check with your child the day and time, then come to school and sign in as a visitor. You are always welcome in orchestra class.

I have read the Orchestra Handbook. I understand that my child and I are responsible for school owned items. We will try our best to attend the two scheduled concerts.

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Parent Signature Child’s Name