

Missoula County Public Schools

High School String Department

2022-2023

Missoula Orchestra student,

Welcome back to another exciting year of school. I hope that everyone had a great summer break. I think this will prove to be a great year for orchestras in Missoula. It is my intention this year to give students a chance to experience music in many forms and venues. Our main focus is to enhance our own creativity and performance, always striving for excellence as we share our music with others and ourselves.

As an ensemble, it is important to maximize our short time together by striving for a high level of focus and effort. Concert attendance is of utmost importance. When we miss a concert for an unexcused reason, it lets down the other members of the orchestra that have worked hard to put on a successful concert. To help ensure perfect concert attendance, I have included a list of concert dates and events on page 19 of this handbook. Please mark all concert dates in your calendar as soon as possible. If these dates and times change for any reason, I will notify you as soon as possible. Any unexcused missed performance has a negative effect on the orchestra and will result in a lowered grade.

This handbook contains vital information about the orchestra program, and it is important that you read and understand it. After you have read the handbook, sign and return the sheet at the end of the book and put the rest of the book in a safe place so that you can refer to it throughout the year.

Feel free to come and talk with me about any questions or concerns you may have about the orchestra program or just life in general. I am available before and after orchestra class if you want to talk. I can also be reached by phone at 728-2400 ext. 6068 or by email at rsdavis@mcps.k12.mt.us. I look forward to an exciting year with you all.

Ryan Davis

Director of Orchestras
Hellgate and Sentinel High School

Missoula County Public Schools

High School String Department

Classroom Rules, Procedures, and Expectations 2022-2023

Rules:

As your orchestra director, it is my goal to give you a positive classroom experience. These rules are aimed at achieving this goal as well as upholding the strong tradition of the Missoula String Program. As you can see, this list is short and does not contain every expectation I have for you as a student. I will rely on your common sense and good judgment to make sure rehearsals run smoothly.

1. Be Kind, Respectful, and compassionate towards others. An important part of life is working with other people. One benefit of playing in a music ensemble is that we gain experience working with people that we may not agree with at all times. Being able to work with others successfully is important to your success later in life.
2. Listen attentively when the teacher is working. Our time in class should be focussed on the creation of art. It is important that we constantly strive to stay mindful of the teacher's guidance and the rehearsal process. Cell phones, homework from other classes, and mindless discussion all distract us from making music. It is important not to talk or distract others when the director is giving directions, and to be attentive to the creative process.
3. Take good care of your instrument and the orchestra facility. Put away all instruments and equipment you used when class is finished. Make sure you store everything in a place where you can find it easily and in a place where it is safe from damage. **Do not play instruments that do not belong to you without the permission of the person owning the instrument.**
4. Follow all directions given by the teacher. All directions are aimed at giving students a positive and enriching musical experience. In order to keep everyone safe and productive, it is important that everyone follows directions the first time they are given.

Failure to follow these rules may result in a lowered rehearsal techniques grade, students may be held after class, asked to leave class, referred to the dean, given detention, or their parents may be called. In extreme situations, student may be permanently removed from class.

STUDENTS ARE SUBJECT TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL RULES AND PROCEDURES!!!!

Standard Rehearsal Techniques:

Performing instrumental music ensembles generally adhere to established standards of behavior for public performances and for rehearsal efficiency. These standards date back to the 1400's, and have thus proved their worth by their longevity in a performing ensemble.

An excellent ensemble member:

- 1) Is on time to rehearsal- students are to be in their seats 3 minutes after the tardy bell rings. Before the teacher starts class, students should be warming up on their own by practicing scales or reviewing difficult passages.
- 2) Has all equipment needed with them before class starts.
- 3) Has music in the order listed on the board. Transitions should only take a couple of minutes.
- 4) Uses the pencil in their folder to write in music during rehearsal- ALWAYS have a pencil on your stand so that you can mark everything that is discussed during rehearsal. Remembering the details from rehearsal to rehearsal will save a TON of rehearsal time. If you miss it - mark it! Make your marking concise and meaningful. Avoid simply circling notes or problem areas. We always use pencil because it allows for different interpretations in future music uses without destroying it.
- 5) Is positive and cooperative about making music. An excellent ensemble member is focused on rehearsal and actively engaged at all times. Also their body language reflects a positive attitude as well as playing posture.
- 6) Is silent when the director is giving instructions of working with other players, and gets quiet before the countdown to begin class is finished. Finding ways to increase your concentration is expected, especially when I am addressing another section.
- 7) Comes to rehearsal with their part prepared. Rehearsal is intended to be a time where we learn how things fit together and how everyone else's part interconnects with our own. Remember that others are depending on you. EVERY part is important.
- 8) Has instrument in playing position immediately after the director puts arms up to begin conducting.
- 9) Cleans up after themselves when class is finished.

GRADING POLICY

Music performance courses are unique among curriculum classes in that they are performance organizations. Students in these classes must understand at the outset that each performance and rehearsal activity must be considered a necessary part of the class curriculum and will be treated as such. It is the philosophy of the department that each student is responsible not only for themselves, but is also responsible to the ensemble as a whole and to the other students in that ensemble. Therefore, participation in performances is not only expected, but is required.

In addition, each group is a year-long class (two semesters). Making the commitment to the full year is important for the individual as well as the group.

Grading Computation:	90% or higher = A
	80% to 89.9% = B
	70% to 79.9% = C
	60% to 69.9% = D
	Below 60% = F

The following will be used for grading purposes.

Tests: (50 pts. Each test)

- Formal, private performance evaluations, Scale Tests

Quizzes: (5-10 pts. Each quiz)

- Written evaluations
- Playing evaluations
- Musical terms and concepts
- Informal/in-class performance evaluations

Final Tests: (up to 100 pts. Each test)

- Comprehensive, written evaluation given at the end of the semester or quarter.
- Comprehensive performance evaluation given at the end of the semester or quarter.

Playing Technique (up to 50 points)

This is the informal or formal assessment by a teacher of a student's technical progress. The areas assessed are positions/posture, tone, intonation, articulation, ensemble skills, musicianship, and improvement in technique. These points may be awarded once a quarter.

Rehearsal Techniques (20 pts. weekly/4 points daily)

Students will receive a daily assessment of their ability to maintain the basic rehearsal techniques given on page 3 of this handbook. One point per day will be awarded for warm up activity before rehearsal starts, and two points will be awarded for a successful contribution to the ensemble during rehearsal. Points will be subtracted from this grade for the following distractions. Students may also lose points for not following standard rehearsal techniques listed on page 3.

Subtraction from rehearsal techniques grade:

1. **Late to class: Not in seat 4 minutes after the bell rings (1 pts)**
2. **No music, missing music, or music left out (2 pts)**
3. **No Instrument (2 pts)**
4. **Unexcused non-participation (at the discretion of director)**
5. **Listless and uninvolved (3 pts)**
6. **Rehearsal Disruption (at the discretion of director)**
7. **Folder not put away in cabinet or storage room (1 pt)**
8. **Instrument not put away (1 pt)**
9. **No pencil, not marking parts (1 pt)**

Students will be given two absences a quarter. After that, students will only get credit for days that they are in class.

Performances: 100 pts. each performance. Performance/Concert attendance is considered to equal a major test in music. Each student that satisfies the basic expectations of the performance(s) will be awarded Full Credit. These basic expectations are: arriving on time, in the proper attire and demonstrating proper performance and audience behavior. Students not meeting these basic expectations will lose points based on the infraction(s).

Loss of Points for your performance points include:

Improper dress, including but not limited to: See Dress Code at the end of this handbook.

Colored clothing other than "Concert Black" including:

- Non-Black Shoes and non-Black Socks for men, similarly improper shoes for women.
- Skirts/ Dresses above the knee.
- Inappropriate concert dress
- Colored accessorizing

Points are subtracted regardless of whether or not the Director provides you with a replacement item at the time of the performance.

Leaving a concert early:

All intermediate orchestra students are expected to stay for the entire concert.

Intermediate orchestra roll will be taken at the end of the concert. Students that leave early will lose 10 points on their concert grade.

The ability to make up points for missing a concert for unexcused reasons will be at the discretion of the director.

Missing a performance will be excused for the following reasons:

1. Death in the family
2. Severe illness on part of the Orchestra Member or of his/her immediate family.
3. Severe Acts of Nature (Severe weather conditions, earthquakes, etc...)
4. School Activities notified **AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE**. This is excused at the discretion of the director.

A written note from the parent or guardian must verify excused absences. Excused absences must be made up with a makeup assignment given by the director. The student is responsible for making up all points. Work not done within the time limit and unexcused absences will result in zero points for that performance. Students that miss a concert for an excused reason will be able to make up the performance points for the concert.

Making up Points

Students may make up lost points through any of the following methods(If valuable material was missed, students may be asked to come in during office hours to make up that material):

Practice time 5 points per 30 minutes (limit 35 points)

Private Lessons 5 points per lesson (lessons used for makeup points cannot be used for lettering).

Listening evaluations 3 points per evaluation (limit 10 points)

Attendance at other string concert as a listener 10 points (Please turn in program to conductor).

Performances outside school performance(approved by director): 5 points

Performances of approved scales, arpeggios rhythms and other concepts at discretion of teacher (limit 150 points)

Meeting with the teacher to go over concert passage 10 points per passage

Concert Play through 75 points possible (will be graded on: intonation, tone, rhythm, and expressiveness). 75 points will be awarded for a perfect performance, students will earn less points if their recording contains wrong notes or rhythms.

Composer report 15 points per page (limit 65 points)

Music Worksheet 5 points per worksheet (limit 50 points)

Section Leader: 30 points

Solo at music festival(If a student uses these points for makeup, they cannot be used for lettering):

Superior 40 points

Excellent 20 points

Orchestra Duty Roll Taker- 1 pt per day

Room Setup- 2 pts per day

Chair stacker- 2 pts per day

Score order: one piece- 5 pts

Stage Crew- 10 pts

Prepare Concert Program- 20 pts

Uniform Manager- 20 pts

Other Assignments or duties at the discretion of the director.

Chairing Assignments

1. String players are not, nor will they ever be, arranged hierarchically according to audition results. Music making should always be a collaborative, never competitive, endeavor. This is the policy used in all school Orchestras.
2. Therefore:
 1. seating placement tells nothing about your audition, except that you have been partnered with someone whose strengths complement yours.
 2. stronger players are positioned throughout the section, often placed furthest away from the conductor.
 3. There may be 2-3 different versions of string seating over the course of the season. We switch arrangements at least for each concert, sometimes by piece.
 4. Stand partners may rotate forward at certain points during the rehearsal so everyone has a chance to sit farthest away from the conductor.
 5. I won't necessarily review this seating information often but expect this to be an issue that only contributes, never detracts from the nature of the musical experiences we are going to provide each other during our upcoming season.
 6. I will fine tune the first seating of each semester over the course of the first 2-3 weeks of that semester in order to maximize sound projection and the efficiency of player pairings.
3. Each section will have one section leader, decided upon by audition.

Required Accessories:

Make sure that you have all of these items. Remember that coming to class prepared is part of your daily grade:

- School Accessories:
 1. Pencils: Students are required to have pencils at all rehearsals to mark their music. It is very important that we do not waste time by making the director repeat himself or practicing passages wrong. Marking directions in your music will help cut down on wasted time.
- Instrumental Accessories: Contact director if you are unable to purchase any of these accessories:
 1. An instrument- Instruments should be in working condition. There are instruments available for rental. Notify the director if you need a school owned instrument.
 2. A bow- School bows are also available for student use.
 3. A clean cloth for removing rosin from the strings.
 4. A mute
 5. Rosin
 6. Endpin holder (cellos and basses)- Some rehearsal areas are carpeted and do not require an endpin holder. Most of our performances take

place on wood floors. It is important that cellos and basses are not sliding all over the floor. It is also important that sharp endpins do not scratch stage floors.

7. Shoulder rests or shoulder pads- These are required for all violin and viola players. Playing with a shoulder rest or pads help reduce playing tension and promote better playing habits and good tone.

You should be able to find all required instrumental accessories from Morgenroth Music. I can also order materials for you to buy.

Use of School-Owned Instruments

- If renting a school-owned instrument to use throughout or part of the school year, it is necessary to fill out an instrument rental form and pay an instrumental rental fee of \$75.
- Students borrowing an instrument are responsible for its care, maintenance, and for replacing broken strings with an approved string.
- Damages caused by negligence will be charged to the student.

Instrument Care and Repairs

- Occasionally an instrument is out of adjustment, needs new strings or becomes damaged. The student cannot make progress if the instrument doesn't play. I can make small bridge adjustments or change strings. If there is a problem with an instrument that needs attention from a certified repairman, I will send home a note with the student or contact the parent of the student.

Qualified String Instrument Repair in Missoula

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| - John Sporman | 1027 ½ Pullman Street | 241-8488 |
| -Ali Levesque | | 1(860)999-3415 |
| - Mark Hollinger | 5075 Lupine Road | 542-2012 |

Sheet Music Checkout

- Students may checkout instrumental works for solo and ensemble use with the director's permission.
- Students will be charged replacement value for lost or damaged music.

Private Lesson

- Private lessons are highly recommended for all orchestra students. A good private instructor can enhance musical enjoyment and improvement with one-on-one instruction on various performance problems. Ask your director for private teacher recommendations. Private lessons also help you earn points towards lettering. I may have some scholarship opportunities for students that can not afford private lessons. Contact me if you are interested.



FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISING POLICY

The Missoula County Public Schools funds music student travel of a direct curricular nature such as AA Invitational Music Festivals, Training Ensemble Festivals, and participation in MENC Northwest Division Honor Groups. The District generally does not fund major concert tours. Those funds are raised through school sponsored and approved fund raising projects. The following policy will clarify the use and limitations of student fund raised money.

1. All funds raised through school-sponsored student fund raising projects shall be deposited and expended by check through a bank account maintained by the school district in accordance with Board policy and Student Fund Accounting practices developed by MTSBA and OPI. The fund-raised money is not a checking or savings account that can be spent at will by the student. Any disbursement of extra-curricular funds will be made through the School Business Office in accordance with established procedures. Students who do not raise the amount of money to fund their portion of a musical tour are expected to make up the difference between individual tour costs and money fund-raised by that student.
2. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the establishment and management of student extra-curricular funds. Fundraising projects that are school-sponsored involve participation of MCPS students, staff or faculty, or are conducted on school grounds. The purpose of student extra-curricular funds shall be to account for the revenue and expenditures of those funds raised by students through student body organizations and activities. No other funds can be co-mingled with the student extra-curricular funds, and use of the funds is limited to uses for the benefit of the students. Historically, student/school fund raised money has been spent for student participation in major concert tours. Student fund raised funds have also been used for travel expenditures related to participation in honor groups sponsored by MENC, ADCA, State Solo and Ensemble Festival or the State Jazz Band Festival. Students may not spend excess funds they have raised for personal use.
3. Student fund-raised funds expended for travel purposes must be expended on behalf of students enrolled in a major performing ensemble in their high school. Students must intend to continue that enrollment for the remainder of the current year and for the coming year.
4. Transfer of Funds Between Ensembles or Schools.
 - a. Student fund-raised money will be credited to that student regardless of the musical ensemble or music department in which they are enrolled.
 - b. Fund-raised money raised under the auspices of the music department may not be transferred out of the music department.

Definitions:

1. Extra-Curricular Fund: Extra-curricular fund activities are those organized student activities that do not fall within the scope of the regular district discretionary general funds. Funds that are raised by students through participation in school sponsored and approved fund raising projects shall be accounted for through the School Business Office in accordance with established procedures and policies of the Board.
2. Student In Good Standing: A student that is a registered member of a major MCPS music department performing ensemble with no outstanding fines. Continuance in the performing ensemble is also a key part of this definition.

SENIOR CONCERTOS

Senior string players are eligible to perform a concerto in the spring Senior Concerto Concert with the following guidelines:

The accompanying ensemble will be the senior's home school string orchestra with piano as needed. It is up to the senior to arrange for their pianist to be at a minimum of 2 rehearsals and the performance.

Intention to perform in the concert must be made known to the Director no later than the end of first semester at which time the appropriate music must have been chosen and made available to the Director for approval and the ordering of orchestral parts. The selected music must be no greater in length than eight minutes, and great care should be taken that the orchestral accompaniment parts are not too difficult. It is best to have the Conductor work directly with the private teacher when making this selection.

The concerto should be selected and prepared carefully, often with the aid of a private teacher, and approved by Mr. Davis. If the student performer earns a rating of "Excellent", or wants to perform a different piece of similar difficulty, the student may petition the Director for a rehearing and reconsideration by the Director.



EXPLANATION OF YEARLY ORCHESTRA EVENTS

The Montana All-State Orchestra is made up of the top High School Orchestra students across the state of Montana. It meets and rehearses for two days under a distinguished guest conductor, culminating in a concert for the public. This event takes place the third Thursday/Friday of October. Auditions take place at the end of May in the previous school year, and are open to all orchestra students who are academically eligible. The event coincides with the fall teachers' convention and rotates between the cities of Missoula, Billings, Bozeman and Great Falls. There is no cost to the student, if accepted, as long as they have paid the school activity fee. Missoula students travel together with instructors and are housed in a hotel or by students in the host city. Selective.

All-Northwest Orchestra is held in February in odd numbered years in a city in the northwest. Audition time coincides with All-State audition schedule. Very Selective.

Montana AA High School Orchestra Festival(Advanced and MYS Orchestra Only) takes place the first Monday and Tuesday of February each year in a site rotated between a number of Montana cities. When out of town, travel is on Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening after the final concert. Housing and meals are with students from the host orchestra, but students do have the option to purchase a hotel room to share with students in their group. This is a required and graded event for orchestra students. Orchestras from across the state are combined into super-sized symphonic orchestras. A guest conductor rehearses and works with the students in these orchestras during the two days, culminating in a final performance Tuesday evening.

District II Music Festival is a three-day event that takes place in April. The first two days are for the major performing groups and piano solos. Each group performs two or three selections for several adjudicators and receives written and verbal comments. This event is open to the public. These performances are required performances as they are graded part of the curriculum. The third day is for solos, duets, and small ensembles up to 16 musicians. Each entry performs a prepared selection for an adjudicator who gives written and verbal comments. Students are strongly encouraged to participate on this day, but not required, although participation can help to improve their class grade. There is no cost to the student for this event and it is open to the public.

Unlike middle school, **high school students must find their own accompanists for their solos.** This is because in most instances the accompaniments for high school level music is often not easily sight-readable and therefore it would be unrealistic for one pianist to be responsible for 20 or more accompaniments. Accompanists normally charge for their services **and it is the responsibility of each student soloist to negotiate and pay for the accompanist's fee.**

MHSA State music regulations are such that if a solo has an accompaniment part, it must be performed with accompaniment, or the student will be docked a single numerical score and thus be made ineligible for state festival even with an otherwise perfect score. The way around this requirement is for the student to perform a piece that is written as a solo WITHOUT accompaniment, such as the Bach Cello Suites or the Bach Violin Partitas.

State Solo and Ensemble Festival -- All students who participated at District Music Festival on the day for solos and ensembles and received a “superior” rating are eligible to perform at this event. It is a two-day festival that takes place the first Friday/Saturday in May. The festival site rotates between Missoula and Helena in alternating years. The 2023 festival will be in Missoula. Students must bear the cost for festival participation, and students and their parents/guardians must sign a waiver form in order to participate. (There may be a cost incurred to the student.) This event is open to the public. Again, students must provide their own accompanists.

School Orchestra Concerts occur in the fall, winter and spring with both orchestras participating, and at times, the middle school orchestras as well. No admission is charged; the public is invited. These are required, graded events.

U of M Music Days take place in February at the University of Montana for all juniors and seniors. It is a daylong event featuring concerts, side-by-side rehearsals, master classes, and scholarship auditions. It is held at the UM Music Building and there is no cost to participants. Participation is encouraged but not required.

The Senior Concertos are presented at the Spring Concert and provides an opportunity for seniors who are capable, have earned a rating of “1” at District Festival and/or with the consent of the Director and who desire to perform a solo with the orchestra. This concert is held in May shortly before graduation. See elsewhere in the booklet for specific requirements.

ADVANCING TO ADVANCED ORCHESTRA

1. Rehearsal Behavior and Maturity

Students must demonstrate that they regularly comply with classroom expectations, are courteous, display a positive attitude, and are regularly on time and prepared for class.

2. Performance and Musical Skills

Included below are the expected skill achievements:

- o Good upright posture
- o Attentiveness in musical listening
- o Attentiveness in instructional listening
- o Proper instrument position and bow grip
- o Bowing varieties
 - The ability to execute various bowings
 - The concern and ability to bow correctly as an individual
 - The concern and ability to bow correctly within the section
- o Good intonation
- o Ability to shift to and from various positions
- o Vibrato
 - Good skill or a demonstrated attempt to learn
- o Key signatures/tonality
 - Good working knowledge of Bb, F, C, G, D, A Major and relative minor keys
 - Ability to demonstrate through scale and arpeggios
- o The demonstrated ability to play with musical expression

Incoming Freshmen may audition for Advanced Orchestra by auditioning with the orchestra director before the school year begins. Freshmen must be able to exhibit the criteria listed and demonstrate musical talent above and beyond their grade level. Freshmen may be placed according to instrumentation needs as well. Students that have completed a year of intermediate orchestra do not need to audition for the advanced orchestra. The director will inform you if you do not meet the requirements for advanced orchestra.

MCHS ORCHESTRAS
DRESS INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Reminder: Deviation from the Uniform Dress code may result in loss of grade points.

- Option 1: Advanced Orchestra: Men will be issued a Tuxedo Coat for the year. Men should supply their own white shirt, black dress shoes, black pants and black socks. Due to a shortage of tux jackets men that own their own tuxedo should wear them. Students may purchase a bow tie from the teacher or purchase their own.
 Intermediate Orchestra: Men should wear all black dress clothes. This includes black socks, black shoes, black dress pants and a black dress shirt. Wearing a tie is optional.
- Option 2: COLOR: All Black
 STYLE: Dress or skirt and blouse*
 LENGTH: Tea length (calf) or Floor length (NOTHING ABOVE THE KNEE)
 SLEEVES: Must have sleeves. NO SLEEVELESS (Must cover shoulder and upper arm.)
 SKIRT: "A" line or full; NO TIGHT, STRAIGHT SKIRTS
 NECKLINE: Reasonable, comfortable, and modestly high
 STOCKINGS: Black
 SHOES: Black "dress" shoes
- UNACCEPTABLE: Colored Accessorizing
 White stockings or shoes
 Sleeveless
 Off the shoulder tops
 Cleavage
 Midriff exposed
 Short skirts (anything above the knee)

*Note: Females may wear black dress slacks with a black blouse with black hose and black dress shoes.

OBJECT OF DRESS CODE: WE ARE A GROUP AND THIS IS A GROUP UNIFORM. THE APPAREL SHOULD NOT VISUALLY DETRACT FROM OUR MUSIC. PEOPLE OFTEN JUDGE PERFORMING ENSEMBLES BEFORE THEY PLAY A SINGLE NOTE BY HOW THEY LOOK. AS ONE OF THE PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL STRING ENSEMBLES IN THE STATE, WE SHOULD CONVEY THAT WE TAKE WHAT WE DO SERIOUSLY. THE CHOICE OF APPAREL IS NOT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL FASHION STATEMENTS.

Orchestra wear mail order catalogues are available. If you would like to order something simple and functional, please see Mr. Davis for a catalogue. Also, do not wear fragrances/perfume/cologne as other students may have allergies to scents.

ORCHESTRA LETTER AWARDS

Because of the great amount of time and effort exerted by many MCPS Orchestra students in their musical activities associated with the Orchestra program but beyond basic classroom requirements for which grades are given, a letter award is given to afford these students due recognition and incentive.

STUDENTS AMASSING 300 LETTER POINTS EARN THESE AWARDS. LETTER POINTS MAY BE GIVEN ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCALE, AND ARE CUMULATIVE ONLY TO THE END OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

_____ Missoula Youth Symphony Rehearsals.....	120 per semester with less than 3 missed rehearsals
	100 per semester with more than 3 missed rehearsals
_____ Missoula Youth Symphony Concert	20 per concert
_____ District Festival Solo Superior	100
_____ District Festival Ensemble Superior.....	50 or 100 (see director)
_____ State Festival Solo Superior	100
_____ State Festival Ensemble Superior.....	50 or 100 (see director)
_____ Membership in All State Orchestra.....	200
_____ Membership in All Northwest Orchestra	250
_____ Missoula Symphony Orchestra (1 set rehearsals & concert) ..	50
_____ UM Orchestra (one semester participation)	100
_____ Private lessons	5 per ½ hour lesson
_____ Other performance or orchestra related activity (Confer with director)	TBA
_____ Work Duty	20 per hours worked
_____ TOTAL	

When a student has accumulated 300 or more points and wishes to be awarded the letter, the letter request form (available from the director) should be filled out and turned in. This form will document in detail the various points earned.

The award for lettering the first time for a string player will be a letter; the second, third and fourth times the award will be a pin to attach to the letter. The award for lettering for a wind player will be a pin each time, unless they have not already earned a music letter in band.

Students who miss a concert for an unexcused reason are ineligible to letter.

THE MISSOULA YOUTH SYMPHONY

The Missoula Youth Symphony Orchestra is made up of students from various schools that were selected by audition, and rehearses as a full group on a weekly basis, and as sections in the various classes to prepare for its concerts and performances. The MYS string section is largely selected from students in MCHS string classes; wind players (mostly) from MCHS band classes. Missoula City High School students and students from other districts in the Missoula area may audition and be selected for the MYS; however, they must be a member of their own school's orchestra. Membership in Band or Choir may be substituted if there is no orchestra in their school.

The Missoula Youth Symphony is considered to be a community service, sponsored by MCPS and as such is subject to rules and regulations such as the Code of Conduct Agreement. Students participating in MYS are required to pay the participation fee of \$75 and sign a participation and attendance membership.

Full rehearsals are normally held on Tuesday evenings from 6:15 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. at Sentinel High School with some variations, and sectional rehearsals may be held during the various classes. MYS members must attend rehearsals if they intend to be a part of the group, and should note correct site and time. Students who miss rehearsals will be subject to displacement or dismissal from the orchestra. The 6:15 P.M. rehearsal starts at 6:15, so it is imperative that the musicians are in place to warm-up and tune by 6:10 P.M.

The Missoula Youth Symphony Orchestra has a rich history of excellence dating back a number of decades. The Orchestra has, during these years, been known throughout the region as a superb musical group of high school musicians who are dedicated to their art. As the new school year begins, it is imperative that prospective members and their parents become cognizant of the effort and dedication needed to produce such a superb ensemble and to uphold the fine tradition in which we have.

You must participate in your school's orchestra program to be eligible for the Missoula Youth Symphony.

THE MISSOULA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA ORCHESTRA

Each year a few MYS students audition for membership in the Missoula Symphony Orchestra or the University of Montana Orchestra, and often several are selected. This is a distinct honor and a most valuable experience for a young musician; making the attempt is highly encouraged.

With any such honor goes responsibility. MYS members interested should be aware that the MSO and the University Orchestra rehearse on a regular schedule, and attendance is mandatory in both groups. The MSO performs about ten concerts per year, and the UMO about five. Check with Mr. Davis at the beginning of the year for audition information. Also, please be aware of this quote from MSO policy regarding high school student members of the Missoula Symphony: (The UMO maintains the same policy)

“Membership in the Missoula Symphony Orchestra is a special honor and experience for high school students who have proven themselves to be leaders in their school orchestras. Just as high school musicians can benefit greatly from the experience, knowledge, and abilities of the more mature musician/leaders in the MSO, they must be aware of the similar responsibilities they in turn have to provide the same fine musical example to their high school orchestra colleagues. To this end, the MSO has maintained from its inception the policy that its high school members are concurrently members of their high school orchestra and the Missoula Youth Symphony.”

Students participating in either the Missoula Symphony or the U of M Symphony Orchestra must participate in their school’s orchestra.

**HELLGATE STRING ORCHESTRAS
2022-2023 Calendar**

PLEASE STORE IN A SAFE PLACE

September	27	Tuesday	MYS begins—first rehearsal	SENTINEL BAND ROOM	6:15 p.m.
OCTOBER	12	Wednesday	Hellgate Advanced Orchestra w/ MSU Symphony Orchestra	Hellgate Auditorium	7:00 P.M.
	26	Thursday	Sentinel Advanced Orchestra w/ Hellgate and Sentinel Intermediate Orchestras	Hellgate Auditorium (Rothwell Theater)	7:00 PM
	19-21	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	All-State Orchestra	Bozeman	TBA
December	7	Wednesday	Missoula Youth Symphony Concert	Hellgate Auditorium (Rothwell Theater)	7:00 PM
	12	Monday	Hellgate Orchestras Concert	Hellgate Auditorium (Rothwell Theater)	7:00 P.M.
	21	Wednesday	Hellgate Holiday Assembly(Advanced Orchestra Only)	Gym	TBA
February	6	Monday	Montana State AA Orchestra Festival	Missoula	TBA(we need to start some time after 1:00)
	7	Tuesday	Montana State AA Orchestra Festival	Missoula	All Day
April	3	Wednesday	Hellgate/Sentinel Orchestras Pre-Festival Concert	Hellgate Auditorium (Rothwell Theater)	7:00 P.M.
	13	Thursday	District Music Festival – All Orchestras	Missoula, TBA	TBA
	14	Friday	District Music Festival – Solo and Ens.	Missoula, TBA	TBA
	26	Wednesday	Missoula Youth Symphony Concert	Hellgate Auditorium (Rothwell Theater)	7:00 P.M.
May	17	Wednesday	Hellgate “Pops” concert	HG Upper Gym	7:00 P.M.
	23	Tuesday	Hellgate Intermediate and Adv. Orchestra w/Senior Solos	Hellgate Auditorium	7:00 P.M.

Store in a safe place!!!
Dates and times subject to change!!!

Return this page to the Director by Friday, September 9th

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name _____

Parent/ Guardian's E-mail _____

Student's Printed Name _____

Student's Email _____

My signature indicates that (student name)
downloaded home the Missoula County High School String Orchestras Handbook for the 2022-2023 school year. I have read the information and understand that he/she is responsible for the same, and that there are performances and rehearsals outside the regular school day for which attendance is required. I have read the concert schedule and understand that these are mandatory obligations. I also understand that this information was distributed on the first day of school and this completed form is due no later than Friday, September 9th.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date