

Cedar Middle School Orchestra

Course Disclosure

The orchestra curriculum is based on the **The Utah Core Standards** which can be found online.

Grading Policy

The Orchestra will be piloting Standards Based Grading this year. You can check your child's progress on Mastery Connect. One of the great things about Standards Based Grading is that it encourages all students to achieve proficiency or mastery on all areas – students are encouraged to practice, improve, and redo assignments to demonstrate they have learned the material. Here are some of the big areas assessed throughout the year:

Rehearsal Skills:

An important part of being a member of a musical group is rehearsing. Some key elements of good rehearsal skills are: Punctuality, focus, only talking at appropriate times, marking the part, having all required materials (students are expected to have their music folder, sheet music, method book, instrument, pencil, and music notebook every day of class). Students are not to **eat, drink** (other than water), or **chew gum** in class.

Notational Literacy:

This standard refers to reading and understanding music notation. Students will have rhythm and note name quizzes throughout the year. Students should keep their music notebooks IN the classroom so they are always ready for use to practice these skills and for smaller assessments. Students should always have a pencil handy. Graded work will be returned to the students' assigned slots.

Fluency on Technical Performance Skills – Note and rhythm accuracy, intonation, etc.

Students will be given both announced and unannounced playing tests and quizzes to demonstrate their proficiency on our in-class music. We will have scale pass-offs as our end of year assessment.

Instrument Position/Posture

This will be assessed frequently during regular in-class playing as well as during playing tests. Good position/posture is essential to creating a beautiful tone on an instrument.

Evaluating music performances- Concert attendance project:

It is important for music students to experience the thrill of live performance from the perspective of the audience. For this reason, students are expected to attend ONE (1) concert per QUARTER (four a year) and to write a concert evaluation. The concert evaluation form is available on the website or in class. While at the concert, students should demonstrate good concert etiquette and stay for the whole performance, not play on their phones, and be quietly attentive other than writing down their observations for the observation form.

Concert Performances:

Students are expected to attend every concert that our orchestra puts on. Each person is important to the success of the orchestra. Everyone depends on each student who rehearses with us to be present at concerts. An absence leaves a hole in time which can never be filled. Therefore, attendance at all scheduled concerts is **mandatory**. Absences can only be excused for emergencies beyond the student's

control such as an illness (hospitalization) or death in the family. If your child will miss due to a medical emergency, please send Ms. Carrigan an email, leave a message at the office, or have your child bring a note to school explaining the situation. Unexcused absences (games, practices, relatives in town, parties) from concerts will result in a zero for the performance (which can impact the grade up to two grades lower). Please understand that nothing can make up for a missed performance and for not having all our students present on concert days. We need everyone in order to perform at our best! In addition, students are expected to wear the concert **uniform of Orchestra Polo Shirt, Khaki Pants, Black Shoes, and Black Socks. Short shorts/skirts are not appropriate for concerts. Concerts are the culminating event of each quarter.**

Practice = Responsibility

Playing a string instrument is a very physical endeavor. Just as a student who wishes to be good at basketball must spend hours practicing the movements and building the muscles needed to make free throws accurately, string student must practice diligently in order to build the muscle memory needed to be successful in music. Students should practice between **20-45 minutes daily**. Each practice session should have a **goal** to improve something specific about the string playing and should include working on small sections of the music that are difficult. Playing through easy music one time is NOT practicing. We will discuss **practice strategies** during class – counting and clapping rhythms, saying the note names, pizzicing and saying the note names, counting and airbowing, saying the note names and airbowing, isolating small sections (sometimes as small as only 2-4 notes!), linking small practiced sections together, etc. Students are encouraged to practice until they have played the selection more times correctly than incorrectly – “practice until you can’t get it wrong, not until you get it right once.”

Practice is not optional. Every student needs to practice and improve in order to best learn and contribute to the orchestra.

Extra Credit:

Since we are doing Standards Based Grading this year, there is no extra credit. There are opportunities for students to demonstrate their mastery of the material and opportunities for redos.

Supplies - Required

- 1. Instrument and bow. A quality instrument.** Please make sure your child's instrument is purchased or rented from an actual music store and it not purchased from a place where you can also buy shoes and crockpots and snacks and toys. All instruments must have at least four (4) working fine tuners. Exceptions will be made for students who demonstrate the ability to tune their instruments without help. All violin and viola players must have a **SHOULDER REST**. Cellists/bassists need a **ROCK STOP**.
- 2. Blank Notebook.** Students will be need a blank notebook. Students may leave their notebooks in their assigned slots in the orchestra room.
- 3. Two pencils with erasers.** Bring these to class (or leave them in your folder) EVERY day!
- 4. Method Book.** All students are required to purchase a method book (available in both local music stores). Be sure to check that the correct instrument is labeled on the book!
Beginning orchestra will be using *Essential Elements for Strings, vol. 1 (orange)*
Intermediate orchestra will be using *Essential Elements for Strings, vol. 2 (purple)*
Advanced orchestra will be using *Essential Technique for Strings, vol. 3 (green)*
- 5. Orchestra Shirt.** All students will purchase a beautiful CMS orchestra shirt to be worn at all concerts. The purchase price of the CMS orchestra polo shirt is \$20. Students will also need khaki pants or skirts to complete their concert uniform.
- 6. Rosin.** Every student should have their own rosin. Please label the rosin case with name.

Supplies - Recommended

- 1. Digital tuner.** This can be used for at-home tuning with help from a parent. Apps work too.
- 2. Metronome.** This helps students practice at a steady tempo at home. Apps work too.
- 3. Music Stand.** Music stands allow for easier at-home practice. Students play with better posture when they can see their music on a stand instead of a table or chair.
- 4. Extra set of strings.** Strings sometimes break because of age, tuning, or accidents. If you do not keep an extra set on hand, please be ready to purchase additional strings should one break.

Sheet Music

Sheet music is like a library book. It is checked out to each student for the duration of use at home and at school between concerts. It is loaned to the student and must be returned to the school in the same condition in which it was received. Students will be provided with a music folder to keep the music safe. Please use the folder provided. Each student is responsible for keeping this music safe, wrinkle-free, and tear-free. Music is NOT to be CUT or FOLDED to fit into binders. Students should use ONLY pencil when marking music so that it can be easily erased before being turned in. Students are also responsible for bringing their own music to class every day. This is part of being prepared for class.

If a student loses, damages, or destroys a piece of music, the student will owe the orchestra and school the replacement cost of the music

School Instruments

There are a limited number of school instruments available for use. Students who choose to rent a school instrument (\$50/year) will be responsible for maintaining it. This includes replacement of broken strings and any repairs due to student negligence. Parents, please note that these repairs can run anywhere from \$45 to rehair a bow to \$300 to seal cracks and replace broken bridges. If an instrument should become damaged beyond repair while in the student's custody, providing an approved replacement instrument is the responsibility of the students and his/her legal guardians. Students must be careful!

Cellists and bassists with instruments at home will be able to rent a school cello just for use at school so that an instrument does not need to be transported each day. Violinists and violists should bring their instrument to and from school each day.

Renting/Buying an Instrument

Parents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to only rent or purchase string instruments from actual music stores. If you can also buy socks or crock pots or snacks from a store or website then it's a good indication that you might be buying a toy and not an instrument. Students who play on high quality instruments will have more success because they are easier to play and sound **MUCH** better. Also, poor quality instruments are usually extremely difficult to tune – if an instrument won't stay in tune, Ms. Carrigan will ask you to take it to the shop to see if it can be fixed (however, very low quality instruments often cannot be fixed).

Music Stores

Whittlesticks	Cedar Music Store	The Music Store	Music Works
111 S Main St Suite 2B	602 South Main St	929 W Sunset Blvd #4	188 E 300 S
Cedar City, UT 84720	Cedar City, UT 84720	St. George, UT 84770	St. George, UT
435-867-4424	435-586-8742	(435) 673-6000	(435) 215-4808

Listed above are four local music stores. If you would prefer to rent/buy online here are some possible websites:

MusicArts.com SharMusic.com Summerhayes

If you need to get your string instrument repaired, Whittlesticks is owned and operated by Luke Heaton, a professionally trained, licensed luthier (the only one in the area) and is the best at what he does. He will **repair** your stringed instrument for very fair prices, and will often finish the repair in less than two days. Common repairs are for broken bridges, strings, and bows; loose pegs; and cracks in the instrument. Please note that Ms. Carrigan will often adjust students' instruments at school at their request, which sometimes causes a string or bridge to break (a normal occurrence). Ms. Carrigan will **not** be held responsible in such instances. 😊

Concert Dates for 2019-2020 CMS Orchestras

- October 8, 2019 6:00pm in the CMS Gym – All Orchestras
- November 23, 2019 Intermediate/Advanced trip to the Southern Utah String Festival @ Pine View HS – All day, load buses at 7:30am, return around 3:00pm.
- December 10, 2019 6:00pm in the CMS Gym – All Orchestras
- January 27, 2020 Advanced Orchestra to tour the elementary schools – during school all day.
- March 3, 2020 6:00pm in the CMS Gym – All Orchestras
- March 11 or 12 2020 State Middle School Orchestra (if we qualify)
- April 6, 2019 SUU MS Music Festival - maybe
- May 5, 2020 6:00pm in the CMS Gym – All Orchestras
- May 13, 2020 Advanced performs for CMS Open House

Please put these concerts on your calendar TODAY (in your phone, your planner, your computer, your google calendar, etc.) We need ALL of the students present to be a successful group! Thank you!!

You can contact Ms. Carrigan at Christina.Carrigan@ironmail.org

You can also find orchestra info at cmsorch.weebly.com

Sign up for Orchestra Text Reminders by texting [@cmsorch6](https://www.instagram.com/cmsorch6) to 81010

Cedar Middle School Orchestra Course Disclosure

I understand that my child's grades are based on their proficiency/mastery of the Utah Orchestra Standards. Observation during class, Written Assignments/Quizzes, Playing Tests, Pass-offs, Attending Outside Concerts, and Attending the CMS Orchestra concerts are some of the methods that will be used to assess proficiency. Parents are encouraged to check their student's progress on Mastery Connect.

I understand that concert attendance is mandatory and have taken steps to ensure my child's attendance for the October 8, November 23 (Int. and Adv. only), December 10, January 27 (Adv. only), March 3, March 11/12 (Adv only, maybe), April 6, and May 7 performances.

I have read the Orchestra Course Disclosure.

Parent's Name (printed) Parent's Signature Date

Student's Name (printed) Student's Signature Date

Orchestra updates, information about assignments and concerts, and more will be sent via E-mail. Please make sure your email address is correct in PowerSchool.

Parent/Guardian Information

Parents and guardians, I especially thank **you** for taking the time to fill out this section!

Name(s): _____ Relationship to student: _____

Preferred contact number _____ Name of contact _____

Are you an awesome pianist? Would you be willing to help accompany the orchestras on their concerts?

Are there any special skills you'd be willing to share with our class? Are you good at tuning string instruments?

If you know right now that your student will be unable to attend one of the concerts, please let me know now so that he or she can be excused.

Please share any special information about your child that will help me to better meet his or her needs.