

# Rolesville High School

## Orchestra Handbook



2018-19

Dear Orchestra students and families,

Welcome to a new school year at Rolesville High School! My name is Joshua Heaney and I am proud to be the orchestra director at Rolesville. I am excited for a new year of music-making! In orchestra we have the great opportunity to play a string instrument. However, orchestra is much more than that! Orchestra gives students the opportunity to be part of a team, express themselves, perform, and learn a universal language. Music exercises the brain in a way that involves critical thinking and problem solving skills which can be utilized in many aspects of their education and beyond.

Parents and families are an integral part of the orchestra community. I welcome any support and encourage you to become part of our fine arts boosters organization. Please let me know on the last page how you would be interested in helping this year! Thank you in advance for all your help! Communication is very important to the success of everyone involved. The fastest way to contact me is through email. You can also contact me on our orchestra website **[www.rolesvillehsorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.rolesvillehsorchestra.weebly.com)** by using the "contact me" page. I will also periodically email detailed information about performances/events.

**Please give me a current email on the form attached so that you will receive these.** Also, please check out the orchestra website, there is a parent tab with helpful links and documents about everything orchestra! The following pages will outline key aspects of orchestra class. Please review these pages carefully, sign the last page, and return it to me by no later than **Friday, August 31st.**

I look forward to getting to know and work with all of you this year!

Sincerely,

Joshua Heaney  
Orchestra Director  
Rolesville High School

(919) 554-6404 ext, 20340  
[heaneymusic@gmail.com](mailto:heaneymusic@gmail.com)  
(WCPSS email address forthcoming!)



## Course Descriptions

### **Orchestra 1**

This course is for students learning to play a string instrument for the first time. Emphasis is placed on developing basic technique, ensemble skills, musical literacy and notation, and proper instrument care. Students should expect an after school rehearsal and performance at the end of the semester.

### **Orchestra 2**

This course continues the development of basic instrumental and technical music skills from middle school or other prior study. Emphasis is placed on improvement in the areas of tuning, shifting, vibrato, bowing, and ensemble performance. Students should expect after school rehearsals and performances.

### **Intermediate/Advanced Orchestras (3, 4, honors)**

Students have demonstrated advanced skill level and serious commitment. Success requires rigorous study, excellence in performance, extensive knowledge of all areas of music including music theory, and an in-depth study of advanced music literature. Students should expect after school rehearsals and performances. Students will also be required to complete extra course work/projects. They will need to complete at least 2 extra projects per quarter. Due dates are **Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>**. **Late projects will be graded according to the late grading policies, please plan ahead!** Students may choose a project to complete from the following list:

- Attend a symphony/orchestra concert and write a detailed review. The review must be a minimum of 2 pages long (double spaced) and include an attached concert program or ticket.
- Perform an extra piece for a concert or work on a solo piece to be performed for the class. The repertoire for these must be approved by me in advance.
- Write a 2 page paper about the composer of a piece we are working on in class. This paper must be in MLA format and include a works-cited page. Please ask me if you need help with this.
- A 10 slide PowerPoint presentation on a composer with graphics, background music, and detailed information. You must include a works cited slide. Students will also need to present their PowerPoint to the class on or before the project due date.

***Students are highly encouraged to meet with me during the process of completing their project in order to ask questions.***

### **Auditions**

Auditions for orchestra 3,4 and seating will be held during the first week of class. Students will be given audition materials the first day of school and be given 3 days to prepare. This will not change their schedule, it will change the expectations in class and the credit they receive.

## Classroom Rules and Procedures

Please be familiar with the WCPSS student code of conduct and the Rolesville student handbook. In addition, my classroom will follow these rules and procedures.

### **Rules**

1. Students will be respectful of teachers, peers, and all classroom materials.
2. Students will be on time and prepared for class.
3. Students will listen quietly when others are speaking and raise his/her hand to speak.
4. Students will participate in all classroom activities within reason.

**\*Please remember that to be successful in playing a string instrument, students must trim their nails frequently. Please do not purchase/apply artificial nails.**

### **BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)**

We will abide by the school's BYOD rules and procedures in my class as follows:

*BYOD means students bring their own devices to school for educational purposes. In the classroom, students will use devices responsibly, and only with the permission and direction of the teacher or other staff member. The increased use of technology in RHS classrooms will "power up" student success today, and for the future. Just like tardy table, violations accumulate by each individual class over the course of each quarter. Violations restart each quarter.*

*First violation: Verbal warning.*

*Second violation: Final verbal warning.*

*Third violation: Student will be verbally directed to select one of two options:*

*A: Student will shut down the device and place it in a secure location in the classroom as designated by instructor.*

*B: Student will shut down the device and place it in their own personal belongings for the remainder of the class.*

*Fourth and subsequent violations:*

*Student will be escorted to ISS for the remainder of the period. Device is confiscated by administrator. Loss of BYOD privilege may be revoked by administrator.*

### **Grading**

#### **Performances 40%**

Public performance is one of the most effective means of performing arts education assessment. **Because chorus, band, orchestra, guitar, theatre and dance are considered academic classes, grades are assigned for participation in all scheduled performances. Unexcused absences from any of these events will result in a failing performance grade.** Regularly scheduled performances are graded events, counting 40% of the student's quarter grade assessed on the following criteria:

- Proper preparation: Correct outfit, on-time, present for warm ups with group
- Playing with appropriate energy/attitude
- Focus and teamwork ethic (especially before concert and between songs)

- Off-stage etiquette
- Performance Assessment and Reflection

All reasons for absences will be considered excused or unexcused at the discretion of the director. **Effort must be made to notify the director by 30 days BEFORE the concert date concert if a student must miss a required performance opportunity.** Acceptable forms of notification will be parental/ guardian phone call or written note.

If a student is **absent from school** (due to illness) on the day of a concert, he/she is encouraged (if feeling better) to attend the concert as an audience member and write a critique of the performance due the next day that the student is in school. A signed note from a parent, stating that his/her child was sick is necessary to allow the grade substitution. **Otherwise, students who miss concerts due to illness must bring in a signed note from a parent (stating illness) and complete a report to make up the considerable grade.**

***\*\*According to WCPSS Board Policy, students in OSS, ISS or are not in school a FULL day on the day of a concert (or other performance) are prohibited from participating in that performance. Such students will have to make the grade up through an individually assigned activity (usually a large research paper) or take a zero.\*\****

### **Skills and Artistic Work Habits 30%**

Students will learn and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal etiquette. This includes being on time, having necessary music, having a pencil on your stand, having nails the appropriate length to play your instrument successfully, playing/speaking at appropriate times, and having your part learned in the requested time frame. Students will receive 20 points per day for demonstrating these skills. Students who are absent for class must make-up the missed rehearsal by recording themselves playing an hour of practice time and turn in to Ms. Zimmerman following the make-up work policies.

### **Tests/Projects 15%**

Students will complete a cumulative final exam.

### **Quizzes 10%**

Students will periodically be given written or playing quizzes.

### **Classwork/Homework 5%**

Effective and consistent practice is essential for the success of all musicians. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 120 minutes per week. Students will complete a weekly practice journal to be turned in through canvas every Friday.

### **Grading Scale**

- A: 90-100 = 4.0
- B: 80-89 = 3.0
- C: 70-79 = 2.0
- D: 60-69 = 1.0
- F: < 59 = 0.0

## **Required Materials**

Students must provide:

- A working instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass)
- Rosin
- Cleaning cloth
- Backup set of strings
- Any given music
- Pencil
- Violin and viola students must have a shoulder rest and cello and bass students must have a rock stop.
- Beginning orchestra students must provide Hal Leonard Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1 and Hal Leonard Essential Elements Book 2.
- Violin/Viola players will also be required to use some type of shoulder rest. I would recommend a **Kun**, but I understand that everyone is different and requires different levels of support. However, not having a shoulder rest is **not** an option.
- Cello/Bass players will also need a rock stop. If your student uses a school cello or bass, they will still need to bring in a cleaning cloth, rock stop, and rosin.

**Students must have all materials in class by:**

**Orchestra 1: Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Orchestra 2, 3, 4, honors: Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

### **Instrument Rental**

An instrument in working condition is required for this class. My website has links to several websites that can help you find an option that meets your needs. Please rent/purchase from a reputable string instrument store. There are many tempting options online that are very low quality but are difficult to keep in tune and play. Please contact me if you need help securing an instrument or have questions about this process.

### **Fundraising**

Fundraising is a necessary part of our program. We need to fundraise to offset the cost of trips like MPA, be able to order music, more instruments and repairs, etc. We will participate in several fundraisers during the year. If you would rather not do a fundraiser and you would like to donate instead, you can write a check to RHS Fine Arts Boosters with Orchestra in the memo line. The same works for if you would rather get a donation(s) for instead of fundraise. We will have our first fundraiser soon!

### **Volunteering**

All volunteers must be registered for each school year in WCPSS. In order for a family member to chaperone a field trip or volunteer at school they must be registered. We have a computer dedicated to this in our school media center on Mondays of every week.

Thanks for your support

## Concert/Event Dates

**\*\*This is not a comprehensive list of opportunities. All dates listed are subject to change. I will give as much notice as possible of any changes. There will be more performance opportunities that will be shared as they arise. I will give as much notice as possible.\*\***

**+ denotes an extra activity or opportunity that I would encourage.**

September 25<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm- Dress rehearsal for Encore!

September 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm- Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra, Encore! (RHS Auditorium)

October 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm- Advanced Orchestra/Concert Band Concert (RHS Auditorium)

November 3<sup>rd</sup>- Advanced Orchestra, Reindeer Day (RHS)

+November TBD- Solo and Ensemble

December 17<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm- Concert dress rehearsal

December 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm- Beginning/Advanced Orchestra and Guitar Concert (RHS Auditorium)

+January 12<sup>th</sup> - Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions

+February TBD - Senior Regional Orchestra Clinic

February 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm- Advanced Orchestra Concert (RHS Auditorium)

March TBD- Music Performance Adjudication

May 20<sup>th</sup> 2:30- Orchestras/Guitar Concert dress rehearsal

May 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm- Beginning/Advanced Orchestra and Guitar Concert (RHS Auditorium)

June TBD- Advanced Orchestra Graduation

## Concert Dress

All dress must follow school dress code.

All gentlemen will be required to wear a solid black dress shirt, solid black dress pants, and solid black dress socks and shoes.

All ladies must wear either a solid black formal dress (following the dress code), or a black dress shirt, solid black dress pants/skirt with solid black dress shoes. No skirts/dresses can be shorter than the knee.

If there is an issue with this or you would like to check that an outfit is appropriate please contact me immediately so that we can get the issue resolved.

# Return this page by Friday, September 1st

We have read and understood the Rolesville HS Orchestra Handbook and are willing to follow the rules and procedures stated in it.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (Please write very clearly)

Student Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in volunteering for orchestra events this year? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

Circle any events/opportunities you would be interested in helping with:

Concerts

Fundraisers

Field Trips

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Si necesita servicios de traducción gratuitos para comprender los procesos escolares, llame al (919) 852-3303

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمات الترجمة المجانية للتعرف على سير العمليات بالمدرسة، اتصل بالرقم (919) 852-3303

Si vous avez besoin de services de traduction gratuits pour comprendre les procédures scolaires, appelez le (919) 852-3303

यदि आपको विद्यालय की प्रक्रियाओं को समझने के लिए निःशुल्क अनुवाद सेवाएँ चाहिए, तो (919) 852-3303 पर कॉल करें

학교/교육 과정에 관한 무료 번역 서비스가 필요하시면 다음 번호로 연락하여 주십시오 (919)852-3303

Nếu quý vị cần sự thông dịch miễn phí để hiểu phương pháp trường học, xin vui lòng gọi số điện thoại, 919-852-3303

如果您需要免费翻译服务来了解学校流程，请致电 (919) 852-3303