



John Hancock

Orchestra Program
Handbook

2019 – 2020

Margie Looney
Director of Orchestras

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 school year! I am looking forward to a great year of learning and music-making. New students, I want to get to know each of you and continuing students, welcome back! Parents, I encourage you to stop by the orchestra room and say hello!

I believe that participation in orchestra will be a rewarding experience for you and your child. My goal is to provide a positive, successful musical experience for every student through learning a stringed instrument. Please let me know what I can do to make your musical journey the best experience it can be. I am here to help you in any way I can.

This handbook outlines the JHCS Orchestra policies and procedures for the 2019 – 2020 school year, with the orchestra schedule at the bottom of the handbook. I am really looking forward to working with you in the John Hancock Orchestra Program. Its going to be a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Margie Looney
Director of Orchestras
National Rural Teacher of the Year Finalist
Arizona's Rural Teacher of the Year
AEF Ambassador for Excellence
Cochise County Teacher of the Year

JHCS Orchestra Program

2019 - 2020 Orchestra Handbook

(Please keep for your reference.)

I. MATERIALS

A. SUPPLIES NEEDED

Students are encouraged to rent or purchase their instrument, however, students who are unable to do so are welcome to use a school instrument/ supplies. Students will need their instrument and all supplies each day they come to orchestra. Points may be deducted from the student's grade for missing supplies. If your child's instrument is being repaired, then please send a note so their grade will not be lowered.

***Students in Kindergarten will be given the needed supplies to initially begin orchestra. They will not be using real instruments until later in the year, therefore, the supplies listed won't be needed until later.**

*** School instruments are limited and some students may need to share if there are not enough instruments for each child. All students who use a school instrument in class or outside of class are liable for any loss or damages to the instrument.**

Needed Supplies:

1. Instrument **WITH AN ID TAG**
2. Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (**3rd grade only**)
3. Rosin
4. Shoulder rest; Mucco, Kun, or like-brand preferred (**violins and violas only**)
5. Rock stop or strap (**cellos and basses only**)
6. Soft cloth or clean rag (can even be cut up old fabric)
7. Folder
8. Pencil

B. DATE SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED

It is crucial that students have their instrument and all supplies by Monday, August 19th, as from this date forward instruments will be used in each class (grades 1 - 6). Students who do not have their supplies after we begin using Monday, August 19th are encouraged to bring them to class ASAP. School instruments are limited.

II. INSTRUMENTS

A. REPAIRS

All repairs and costs associated are the responsibility of the student/parent. Students/parents should contact a music store immediately if a repair is needed. Please do not

attempt to fix an instrument yourself, as it can damage the instrument and create a more costly repair in the end.

B. SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

If you have a circumstance which prevents you from renting or purchasing an instrument, the school has some instruments that students can use. School instruments and instrument sizes are limited.

III. GRADING PROCEDURES

A student's report card grade may be constructed in the following manner:

A. MUSICIANSHIP

1. Rehearsal Grade: Students will receive a rehearsal grade which is a reflection of each student's attitude, attention, cooperation, participation in all aspects of the class, ability to be on time, and meeting of the lesson's objectives.
2. Supplies: If a student does not bring all necessary supplies to class, points may be deducted from the Rehearsal Grade, as they cannot participate in all aspects of the lesson without their supplies. If your child's instrument is being repaired, please send a note so their grade is not lowered.

B. PERFORMANCE TESTS

1. Students will be asked to perform excerpts from the music being learned in class for a grade.
2. Musical scales, rhythm drills, and sight reading can also be tested each quarter.
3. Performance tests will be graded on but not limited to the following: tone, intonation, rhythm, bowings, dynamics, and posture.
4. Each student will begin their playing test with 100 points and will lose points when pitches or rhythms are played incorrectly, when tone is inferior, posture is incorrect, when bowings are wrong, or there is no attempt to play musically.

C. WRITTEN WORK

Students may be given written work to supplement the objectives from daily lessons.

D. CONCERT ATTENDANCE

The JHCS Orchestras are performing groups. Each student is needed at every concert for the orchestras to sound their best. Consequently, ***all performances are mandatory.*** Each performance will count as three grades. Students will only be excused from a performance if they have a severe personal illness, a death in the immediate family, or other circumstances at the discretion of the orchestra director. A grade of zero (counting three times in the gradebook) will be recorded if a student is absent and has not notified and obtained permission from the orchestra director for an excused absence prior to the performance.

IV. REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Good behavior is essential for the JHCS Orchestras to maintain a standard of excellence and to remain a successful organization. Appropriate conduct is expected of all members. This conduct is maintained through an established set of rules and consequences for orchestra rehearsals. Most rules are in place to ensure the safety of the students and instruments.

Classroom Rules:

- A. Be ready.
- B. Be responsible.
- C. Be respectful.
- D. Be awesome.

Consequences:

- A. Verbal warnings.
- B. Rehearsal grade lowered.
- C. Think Time
- D. Calls or emails home and/or parent and teacher conferences.
- E. Office referrals.

Learning Incentives:

- A. Positive notes, email, or phone calls to parents.
- B. Special class activities.
- C. Individual and class rewards.

V. FUNDRAISING

The JHCS Orchestra Program is supported mainly from the PTO fundraisers. Please do your best to participate in the PTO fundraisers so the Orchestra Program can maintain the supplies and music needed to function at our best.

VI. CONCERT DRESS

Learning how to dress properly for the concert stage is an important part of being a member of a performing musical ensemble. Part of a successful concert performance is looking sharp and professional. Students will need to provide their own concert attire, however, Ms. Looney is happy to help students who need assistance in acquiring the proper attire. It is recommended to find these items early so there is no rush before a concert.

“BLACK AND WHITE DRESS”

1. Boys: Wear pressed black pants, black belt, black socks, black dress shoes, solid white pressed dress shirt, and a dark, solid-colored or simple-patterned neck tie.
2. Girls: Wear ankle-length black skirt, black hose, black dress shoes, and a solid white pressed shirt. All shirts must have sleeves.

VII. PRACTICE TIME

Individual practice time is necessary to successfully play any instrument. Orchestra students grades 3 are expected to practice at least 80 minutes per week. Students in grades 4 – 6 are expected to practice at least 100 minutes per week. Practice records will be sent home with your child and are to be filled out by the student/ parent, signed by a parent, and turned in on the last

class of the week.

Please encourage your child to practice routinely. Without consistent practice, the proper skills needed to play a stringed instrument cannot be developed. Students who come to class prepared are more likely to be successful playing with a group.

Please assist your child to find a consistent, set-aside time to practice each day. This should be a time when they are alert and undistracted. Students are most successful when they make a routine time and place for practice.

Instruments need to be taken home routinely for home practice. All students need to take their instrument home over holidays and weekends. Students who share school instruments are expected to coordinate with their share partner for take-home days.

VIII. TEACHER CONTACT

Please keep communication open at all times. I understand the importance of building good relationships with students and parents. Be assured that I welcome open and honest discussion of any concern that you may encounter. I want to make every musical experience for your child a positive one. If your child is unable to have the needed supplies and/ or concert attire, please let me know and I will be happy to help in any way I can. If you wish to have a parent/teacher conference, please notify me at looney@johnhancockcs.org (or call the school) and I will be happy to arrange a time.

2019 - 2020 Orchestra Schedule

Kindergarten: M/W group (half class); T/Th group (half class)
(Kindergarten starts Monday, September 9th)

1st: Mondays & Fridays

2nd: Mondays & Thursdays

3rd: Mondays, Tuesdays, & Fridays

4th/ 5th/ 6th: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays