

24-25

Indian Middle School 7/8 Orchestra

Handbook 2024-2025



Welcome to 7/8 Orchestra! Please read this handbook with your parents to make sure you understand the expectations in orchestra. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. My phone number is 642-0125 ext 18146, and my email is liacall@ircsd.org. I am excited to make music with you this year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Lia Call

Materials and Instruments

All students in orchestra need a pencil, music, and their instrument at every rehearsal. **Coming prepared to rehearsal is essential to success in the orchestra program!!** Cellos and basses will use school instruments; violins and violas should try to rent their own instruments but will be provided a school instrument if needed. Rental information is available from Ms Call.

Expectations

Everyone in orchestra (students and teachers) are expected to try their best, take ownership of their own learning, and have a positive attitude.

Concerts

Concerts are a unique and important opportunity to display our learning. Attendance is mandatory at scheduled concerts, and attendance automatically fulfills this grading requirement. Excusable absences for a concert are: death in the family, severe illness with a doctor's note, or other family emergency. **Conflicts with sporting or other extra-curricular organizations are not considered acceptable absences.** A concert make-up will be scheduled within a week of the missed performance for acceptable excuses. In marking periods where there is not a concert, this portion of the student's grade will be based on a performance or project grade. Concert dress is black pants and black top unless otherwise indicated.

Orchestra Night

Thursday October 24th

Winter Concert

Wednesday December 18th

Spring Concert

Monday May 12th

NYSSMA Majors*

Wednesday May 21st or Thursday May 22nd

*NYSSMA Majors is an ensemble evaluation that occurs during school hours

Lessons and missed lessons

Students have one lesson every week, usually amounting to eight to nine lessons in one marking period. Their lesson will be on the same day of the week (for example, every Tuesday) and rotate the period (for example, 1st period this week and 2nd period next week). Lesson schedules are posted in the Google Classroom, in the music wing, and on Ms. Call's website. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of scheduled lessons and make up any missing lessons.

Students will occasionally miss a lesson due to a conflict or forgetfulness. No points are taken if the student notifies Ms. Call in advance of missing a lesson or follows up on the same day. There is a five point penalty for missing a lesson without checking in with your teacher. **A missed lesson must be made up within one week of the scheduled date to avoid losing more points.** This helps students keep updated on important material on a consistent basis rather than making up several lessons near the end of the quarter. Lessons made up past that time will receive a lower grade. Lesson make ups can be scheduled for the same period on a different day or during study hall with Ms Call.

Learning an instrument can be a challenging process and lesson attendance is essential to making progress. Students who miss five or more lessons in one marking period may be switched from enrollment in Orchestra into Instrumental Lessons until lesson attendance improves.

Portfolio learning

Digital portfolios are used in orchestra to record a student's progress and allow them the opportunity to use their own observations to benefit their learning. The portfolios are connected to the school's email account and are not searchable by public search engines such as Google. There is ample computer access at school if home internet access is unavailable; any student with concerns should see Ms. Call for additional details.

Grading

- 50% Lessons- based on effort, materials, posture, rhythm, and intonation
- 20% Rehearsals- based on effort, participation, and coming prepared to rehearsal
- 20% Assignments- often completed during lessons or rehearsals
- 10% Concerts- based on attendance

7/8 Orchestra Important Dates

2024-2025

Here are the important dates for the orchestras at IRMS this year. Please mark your calendars and reach out to Ms. Call with questions or concerns!

More information will be sent home prior to each performance opportunity!

Date	Title	Description
10/24/24	Orchestra Night	Mandatory ; informal performance at MS gym (costumes encouraged!)
12/5/24	Festival of Trees	Optional; small groups perform at the mall for the Festival of Trees.
12/17/24	6th Winter Concert	Beginner students from 7/8 orchestra participate.
12/18/24	7/8 Winter Concert	Mandatory ; formal concert at IRHS.
12/19/24	Holiday Tour	Field trip during the school day to perform at local elementary schools.
1/10- 1/11/25	All County	Select students participate by teacher recommendation.
3/1/25	Arts Celebration Day	Optional informal performance at IRHS.
3/26/25	Kaleidoscope Concert (Small Ensembles)	Optional; 7/8 orchestra performs with other IRMS groups.
5/2- 5/3/25	NYSSMA Solo Festival	Optional; students can prepare a solo and perform for an adjudicator.
5/12/25	7/8 Spring Concert	Mandatory ; formal concert at IRHS.
5/21- 5/22/25	NYSSMA Majors	Mandatory ; the 7/8 orchestra gets evaluated by adjudicators at IRHS.
6/4/25	6th Spring Concert	Beginner students from 7/8 orchestra participate.
6/11/25	Spring Recital	Optional; solos and small groups perform at IRMS

INDIAN RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
7/8 ORCHESTRA PROGRAM
2024-2025
HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

Student Name _____

I have read and understand the 2024- 2025 Indian River Middle School Orchestra Handbook Contract.

I understand that the Orchestra Handbook is intended to be in addition to any and all school policies set forth for this school year.

I understand that attendance at rehearsals, lessons, and concerts is mandatory for participation in the Middle School Orchestra Program.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Please Sign and Return by
September 27th 2024



25-26

Indian Middle School 7/8 Orchestra Handbook 2025-2026



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Expectations

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Concerts are a unique and important opportunity to display our learning. Attendance is mandatory at scheduled concerts, and attendance automatically fulfills this grading requirement. Excusable absences for a concert are: death in the family, severe illness with a doctor's note, or other family emergency. **Conflicts with sporting or other extra-curricular organizations are not considered acceptable absences.** A concert make-up will be scheduled within a week of the missed performance for acceptable excuses. In marking periods where there is not a concert, this portion of the student's grade will be based on a performance or project grade. Concert dress is black pants and black top unless otherwise indicated.

Orchestra Night

Thursday October 30th

Winter Concert

Wednesday December 10th

Spring Concert

Thursday May 7th

NYSSMA Majors*

Wednesday May 13th or Thursday May 14th

*NYSSMA Majors is an ensemble evaluation that occurs during school hours

Lessons and missed lessons

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Grading

20% Lessons- based on effort and attendance

20% Rehearsals- based on effort and participation

50% Assignments- usually completed in student portfolios; work time is given during class

10% Concerts- based on effort and attendance

7/8 Orchestra Important Dates

2025-2026

Here are the important dates for the orchestras at IRMS this year. Please mark your calendars and reach out to Ms. Call with questions or concerns!

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Date	Title	Description
10/30/25	Orchestra Night	Mandatory ; informal performance at MS gym (pajamas or costumes encouraged!)
11/12 or 11/13	HS Meet and Greet	8th graders tour the HS orchestra
11/14-11/15	Area All State	Optional; select students participate by teacher recommendation.
11/22/25	Craft Fair	Optional; small groups perform at IRMS for the IR Backpack Program Craft Fair.
12/10/25	7/8 Winter Concert	Mandatory ; formal concert at IRHS.
12/11/25	6th Winter Concert	Beginner students from 7/8 orchestra participate.
12/18/25	Holiday Tour	Field trip during the school day to perform at local elementary schools.
1/9- 1/10/26	All County	Select students participate by teacher recommendation.
2/28/26	Arts Celebration Day	Optional informal performance at IRHS.
3/26/26	Kaleidoscope Concert (Small Ensembles)	Optional; Honors Orchestra and Fiddle Orchestra perform with other IRMS groups.
5/1- 5/2/26	NYSSMA Solo Festival	Optional; students can choose to prepare a solo and perform for an adjudicator.
5/7/26	7/8 Spring Concert	Mandatory ; formal concert at IRHS.
5/13/26	NYSSMA Majors	Mandatory ; the 7/8 orchestra gets evaluated by adjudicators at IRHS.
5/20/26	6th Spring Concert	Beginner students from 7/8 orchestra participate.
6/4/26	Spring Recital	Optional; solos and small groups perform at The Strand Theater in Watertown

INDIAN RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
7/8 ORCHESTRA PROGRAM
2025-2026
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Student Name _____

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Please Sign and Return by
September 12th 2025

