



2025-2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK

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General Information

Edmond North High School

Richard Inga , principal
215 West Danforth Road
Edmond, OK 73003
School Phone: (405) 340-2875

Orchestra Faculty & Staff

Justin Pourtorkan, director of orchestras
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Office Phone: (405) 726-7216
Brian Dunagan, assistant director of orchestras
E-mail: Brian.Dunagan@edmondschools.net
Allister Baca, Teaching Assistant
Gena Alexander, assistant director, Sequoyah Middle School vertical
Jeff Ketch, assistant director, Cheyenne Middle School vertical
Dr. Brad Coker, director of bands

Edmond North Orchestra Boosters: Board of Directors

Sarah Lucas, president
Melissa Darling, vice-president, membership
Cassie Papin, recording secretary
April Everhart, corresponding secretary
Amanda Wensel, treasurer
, publicity
Cara Pourtorkan, Gregory Zornes Christy Zhores, Ways & Means
Angelina Delgado, student representative

Edmond North Orchestra Student Council

Oliver White, president
Angelina Delgado, vice-president
Ethan Phan, secretary
Jiho Yoon, treasurer
Brinley Larsen and Blake Mueggenborg , historians
Abby Tai and Naiher Thomas, Philanthropy
Stephanie Hwang, social media

Social Media

Website	www.EdmondNorthOrchestra.org
Facebook Page	Facebook/EdmondNorthOrchestra
Facebook Closed Group	"Current ENO Students"
Instagram	@EdmondNorthOrch
Booster Instagram.....	@Eno_Boosters
Pourtorkan Instagram.....	@Pourtorkan
Mass Text Service	Remind101 (see below)

Remind101

Join the ENO's Remind texting service by texting
"@enosym" to 81010 for Symphony Orchestra
"@enophil" to 81010 for Philharmonic
"@enochamber" to 81010 for Chamber
"@enostring" to 81010 for String Orchestra.

Reminders of concerts, fundraisers, and deadlines will be sent throughout the year. Standard messaging rates may apply.

Only the director is able to send texts, subscribers cannot use the service to text each other or reply to texts, and phone numbers are kept confidential. Text reply "STOP" to unsubscribe.

Schedule

All classes will meet in the ENHS Orchestra Room (E901) unless otherwise announced.

1 st hour	7:30 to 8:45	Assist 8 th Grade Orchestra (Cheyenne, Sequoyah)
2 nd hour	9:20 to 10:15	Office Hours
3 rd hour	10:30 to 11:25	Symphony Orchestra
4 th hour	11:30 to 12:05	Lunch & Office Hours
	12:10 to 1:05	Chamber Orchestra
5 th hour	1:10 to 2:05	Philharmonic Orchestra
6 th hour	2:10 to 3:00	String Orchestra
7 th hour	3:00 to 4:00	Office Hours

Program Overview

Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline, and endurance. ***They get a beautiful heart.***

~Dr. Shinchi Suzuki, founder

Talent Education School (Japan)

Individual and Group Objectives

The greatest single factor determining success of an individual or organization is **attitude**. This positive attitude toward yourself, each other, and the orchestra as a unit will make the difference between a fine musical group and a mediocre group. Within this attitude, you must have **self-control** and acknowledgement of the **discipline** it takes to be a fine performer. **Respect** of adults, fellow students, and the instruments you hold and play is a beginning key to being a **mature** musician and a true **team player**.

By nature, instrumental music students are often on display and must constantly **focus** on the importance of good behavior and the **goals** of the orchestra. Students must always remember that they **represent** their organization, school, and community while in the public eye. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may well undo the good works of hundreds of loyal students. Act professionally, and you will be respected as a **professional**.

Musical Objectives

- Expand tone production
- Further develop an ear to sense and make pitch adjustment
- Increase left and right hand technical ability
- Increase musical language and sight-reading ability
- Develop habitual practice discipline
- Further develop performance ability and self-esteem
- Explore increasingly difficult music as ability allows
- Become involved in further study of one's instrument through private lessons, honor orchestra auditions, youth orchestra participation, solo and ensemble events, and social and/or professional musical engagements

Disciplinary Measures

Because there is much to accomplish during our orchestra rehearsals, there will be little time spent on discipline as we will all be growing together and feeling the success of becoming fine musicians and performers. However, should the need arise, the director's decisions regarding discipline will be **firm, fast, and fair**. If continuously disruptive, the student will receive:

1. a verbal and/or written warning and loss of participation points.
2. isolation from the established classroom setting.
3. a director and/or student phone call to a parent to explain the situation
4. a conference with the teacher, student, and parent(s)/guardian.
5. a referral to the disciplining principal.

The Ensembles

Symphony Orchestra

The Edmond North Symphony Orchestra is the highest level ensemble and is largely a performance oriented ensemble comprised of strings. As our organization is in demand to perform throughout the community, members will be expected to perform frequently outside of the regular season schedule, and every effort will be made to give ample notice for these additional engagements. Comprised of a majority of upper classmen, this ensemble is open to all grade levels by audition only, and students must re-audition every year. Students are expected to have high reading skills, and repertoire is selected from the standard masterworks for string orchestra, along with grade 4 to 6 educational string orchestra repertoire. Students in the Symphony Orchestra will also participate in a full orchestra setting, rehearsing outside the school day with members of the ENHS Band program to perform symphonic repertoire. A typical Symphony Orchestra student can expect frequent performance assessments in class, as well as at least five days of individual practice each week to maintain an appropriate performance level. All Symphony Orchestra students are required to take private lessons.

Philharmonic Orchestra

The Edmond North Philharmonic Orchestra is the second level ensemble of the ENO comprised of strings. This ensemble is open to all grade levels by audition only, but students do not have to re-audition each year to remain in the ensemble. Students are expected to have moderately high reading skills, and repertoire is selected from arrangements of standard masterworks, along with grade 3-5 educational string orchestra repertoire. Students in the Philharmonic Orchestra may also participate in a full orchestra setting when personnel from the ENHS Band program allows for appropriate instrumentation. A typical Philharmonic Orchestra student can expect at least two performance assessments per month in class, as well as at least four days of individual practice each week to maintain an appropriate performance level. All Philharmonic Orchestra students are strongly and seriously encouraged to take private lessons.

Chamber Orchestra

The Edmond North Chamber Orchestra is the third level ensemble of the ENO comprised of strings. This ensemble requires no audition and is open to students in grade levels 10-12 only. 10-12th grade students will automatically be placed in this ensemble if they choose not to audition for an upper level orchestra. Students are expected to have mastery of all middle school level skills, including memorization of all two-octave scales up to four sharps and flats, mastery of basic simple and compound rhythms, including clapping and counting skills, and mastery of basic bow techniques, including spiccato, staccato, hook-bowing, loured, and martelé. A basic understanding of shifting as it relates to scales is also expected. A typical Chamber Orchestra student can expect at least two performance assessments per month in class, as well as at least four days of individual practice each week to maintain an appropriate performance level. All Chamber Orchestra students are strongly and seriously encouraged to take private lessons.

String Orchestra

The Edmond North String Orchestra is the fourth level ensemble of the ENO. This ensemble requires no audition and is open to students in any grade level. 9th grade students will automatically be placed in this ensemble if they choose not to audition for an upper level orchestra. Students are expected to have a basic knowledge of all middle school level skills, with the understanding that these skills will continue to be developed both through technique exercises and new music. A typical String Orchestra student can expect at least one performance assessment per month in class, as well as at least four days of individual practice each week to maintain an

appropriate performance level. All String Orchestra students are strongly and seriously encouraged to take private lessons.

Pit Orchestra

Each spring, the ENHS Performing Arts Department stages a large-scale Broadway-style musical, and members of the ENHS Instrumental Music Department comprise the majority of the pit orchestra for these performances. This is entirely a volunteer activity that involves approximately 45 hours of rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day. A complete rehearsal schedule can be found on the orchestra online calendar, and attendance policies are outlined in the first rehearsal. Sign up for this opportunity occurs in November. In the event that more students sign up than there is room for in the pit, selection of pit members will be based upon band and orchestra director recommendation with regard to grade level, ability, and academic eligibility.

Auditions

Orchestra placement auditions take place twice a year in May and December. Audition music and complete information is published on the orchestra website and in class approximately six weeks before the audition deadline. Auditions are recorded and submitted through a google form that is also posted on the orchestra website. Auditions in May are adjudicated blindly, meaning the director knows the student only by an audition number.

The Programs

Weekly Section Coaching

Each week from September through April, professionals from the community come into the classroom to work with individual sections of the orchestra. A flagship program of the ENO Boosters, the weekly sectional coaching program allows for each section to spend an entire class period dedicated solely on addressing new techniques and issues specific to just their instrument or musical part. A list of sectional coaches can be found under Faculty and Staff at the beginning of this handbook.

New Student Mentor Program

A flagship program of the ENO Student Council, the Mentor Program pairs an upper classman with a new student within the first month of school. This mentorship program is designed to help new students feel comfortable and welcome to the ENO. In supporting a new student, mentors are encouraged to offer rides to social events, help new students with orchestra music or questions, give small welcome gifts, and plan other small events such as going to the movies, out to eat, or just spend time together. Both new students and upper classmen interested in becoming a mentor will receive an application/questionnaire in the first week of school so that the orchestra council can help form the best match possible. A fun announcement celebration takes place at the end of the second week of school during which new students meet their new mentor!

Chamber Music Program

Chamber music is considered by many musicians to demonstrate the highest form of musicianship, requiring the greatest individual preparation and utmost form of communication available in music. Beginning in the fall semester, members of the Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Orchestra will form chamber groups and will be responsible for selecting and preparing enough music for a thirty-minute program. Time will be spent during class each week in chamber music rehearsal, and throughout each semester, students will present their music for the class and for director evaluation. Complete grade policies will be distributed in class when the program begins. Ensembles are strongly encouraged to perform competitively in the OSSAA District Ensemble Competition in March. Entry information and deadlines occur at the beginning of January, immediately following winter break. Performance in a district or state ensemble achieves partial fulfillment toward an orchestra lettermen's certificate.

Edmond North Orchestra Boosters

The ENO Boosters support and assist the Edmond North Orchestra in many ways. Among these opportunities, the ENO is provided with supplies and equipment, private lesson and music camp scholarships, funding for special events, professional development for the faculty, and sectional coaching conducted by professionals from our community. **Members are encouraged to participate in our monthly meetings whenever possible, held in the orchestra room at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month throughout the school year.** By completing the **membership application** (available online), members support the ENO and receive notification reminders and updates about upcoming orchestra events as well as an electronic copy of the ENO newsletters. Booster members will be listed in each of the concert programs and will also receive discounted guest admission to the ENO Celebration of Excellence Awards Banquet. Members are also eligible to apply for the Private Lesson and/or Summer Music Camp Scholarships. Each membership expires at the close of the school year.

Private Lesson Scholarships

All orchestra members are strongly encouraged to attend lessons with a private teacher to supplement their school instruction and receive the one-on-one attention needed to truly excel on a musical instrument. However, for many families this is a prohibitive additional cost. The ENO Boosters address this need by offering lesson subsidies. This scholarship is for students currently enrolled in the Edmond North High School Orchestra and is for study on their primary instrument played in the ENO. The scholarship will cover up to \$8.00 or 50% of the lesson tuition (the lesser amount) and will last through August of the following school year. The Edmond North Orchestra Boosters take very seriously their commitment to each student, and in turn, ask the student and family to consider carefully their participation and the time commitments required. A complete application, including necessary recipient requirements, can be found on the orchestra website under Parent Boosters.

Private lessons may be offered during the school day, based upon teacher availability and access to a lesson within the student's school schedule. Interested students should turn in a Private Lesson Parent Permission Form, available on the website. Requests will be fulfilled in the order that they are received and based upon teacher availability.

Summer Music Camp Scholarships

The ENO Boosters encourage all orchestra members to continue developing their skills through the summer months and are proud to offer summer orchestra scholarships to support Edmond North Orchestra students interested in attending an orchestra camp. Students are invited to apply by completing the Summer Music Camp Scholarship Application found online under "Parent Boosters." Applications are due in mid-April, and a list of suggested summer camp programs can be found on the orchestra website. These scholarships are intended to partially fund the student's participation in one summer orchestra program. The student is expected to cover any remaining cost of the orchestra program. The Edmond North Orchestra Boosters will award the scholarship check in September following the student's successful completion of the summer music program and continuing enrollment in the Edmond North Orchestra for the following school year.

Edmond North Orchestra Student Council

The ENO Student Council is comprised of a board of elected officers as well as two representatives from each ensemble. Officer elections are held at the end of the year for the following year, and representative elections take place in August. Among their many responsibilities, the student council organizes social events, charity events and donation drives, and assists with the regular administrative operations of ENO. Members of the council must remain academically eligible throughout the school year, and must maintain a "B" or higher average in orchestra. Council members are expected to be an active part in the success of the orchestra and be positive role models for the ENO. This includes but is not limited to demonstration of rehearsal leadership, attendance at social events, willingly offering assistance to classmates, and fulfilling duties assigned by the director.

Required Classroom Materials & Books

In addition to having an operable instrument, all students must have these materials every day. Absence of a needed supply could result in a lowered participation grade. If you need assistance in acquiring these supplies, please contact the director immediately.

- Violins and Violas:
 - Kun, Wolf, or similar brand shoulder rest
 - Dominant brand or higher quality strings.
- Cellos and Bases: rock stop
- Rosin - recommended high quality brands are:
 - violin, viola, & cello: Hill dark, AB dark, Pirastro
 - double bass: Carlsson or Neiman
- Pencil that always has a sharp point and good eraser; a mechanical pencil is recommended
- A soft cloth for cleaning your instrument after each use
- Music and music folder, provided by the director

Method Books

All students will be given a method book to use in class. If they would like to purchase one to have at home to practice they are \$10.00 and can be bought from the director. The method book used is *Habits of a Successful String Musician*, by Christopher Selby, Rush, & Moon, published by GIA Publishing.

The following method books will be referenced in the ENO curriculum, and classroom sets are provided. Students do not have to purchase the following materials but are welcome to do so:

Provided for all orchestras – no purchase necessary:

- *Essentials for Strings*, by Gerald Anderson, published by Neil A. Kjos Music Company
- *Advanced Technique for Strings*, by Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, and Pamela Tellejohn Hayes, published by Hal Leonard Corporation
- *Superior Strings in Sixteen Weeks*, by Peggy Wheeler and Carrie Lane Gruselle, published by FJH Music Company, Inc.
- *Bach and Before for Strings*, by David Newell, published by Neil A. Kjos Music Company
- *Orchestral Bowing: Style and Function WORKBOOK*, by James Kjelland, published by Alfred Publishing Company, Inc.
- *String Techniques for Superior Musical Performance*, by Robert Frost, published by Neil A. Kjos Music Company

Orchestra Fees

An orchestra participation fee in the amount of \$65.00 is due from all orchestra students. This amount may be paid by cash, check, or through fundraising. Please discuss with the director any needs for financial assistance. Along with the district appropriated money and parent booster support to the orchestra, the fee will help to cover the following operating expenses related to all things orchestra including: sheet music, instrument repairs & maintenance, contest fees (including one district/state ensemble entry), large group entry fees, contest day lunches, and clinician stipends, charter buses. See **Orchestra Fee Outline** under **Forms and Documents** on the orchestra website for a complete list of fees that can be paid at the beginning of the year, including honor orchestra audition entries, orchestra gear, and other supply items.

Grading Procedure

Points are earned for the following categories. The total points earned will then fit into the 100-point scale adopted by the school district (i.e. 90-100=A, etc.). Grade weight percentages are given below.

Class Participation (40%): Class participation includes punctuality, behavior, attitude, preparation of music, making classroom notes in your music, and having all needed materials with you, including music or the replacement of lost music, and having an operable instrument. Also within this participation, no food or drink will

be allowed in the classroom or any rehearsal space. Excess talking or inappropriate playing will not be permitted. Each student will receive sixty participation points during every six week period. For every count of poor participation, including tardiness or unexcused absence, the student will lose ten points from the allotted sixty points. A student can lose more than sixty points in a six week period.

Performance Assessment and Extra Rehearsals (30%): Most playing tests will be announced at least one day before the test is given and will be taken from classroom work. The graded factors will include correct pitches, rhythm, tempo, articulations and style, bowings, tone quality, and musicality or expression. Playing tests may be conducted during class on a recorder provided by the director, at home on a recorder provided by the student, or live in front of other class members to further develop performance experience. Playing tests may periodically be used to determine chair placement. Chair placement is at the complete discretion of the director and is not always reflective of performance tests.

Extra rehearsals will be scheduled only when necessary before and after school and during the lunch hour (students will switch lunch schedules and will still be allowed a full lunch period). All extra rehearsals are required. The director will give ample warning as to the date and location of each rehearsal so that arrangements can be made to attend. If a student must be late or leave early, he or she must have a written excuse note from a parent or another teacher. Unexcused tardiness will result in a loss of 15% to 30% of the available points for that rehearsal. Excuses will be accepted for missing an extra rehearsal only if notification is received *prior* to the rehearsal. For more attendance information, consult the performance policies.

Performance (30%): Because orchestra is a performance art as well as a musical art, a large part of what we work on in class culminates with concerts. Please make arrangements in your schedule to be present for all performances. A list of required performances, including large group and small ensemble contest performances, can be found at www.EdmondNorthOrchestra.com under the "Calendar" link. Complete performance policies are included in this handbook.

Extra Credit: The student can receive bonus points by attending any artistic musical event that offers a concert program. Such concerts, many which are free, are given right here in the metro by our numerous local universities, high schools, and of course, the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. The student must present a program from the performance, signed by the parent to receive the credit. Each event is worth ten participation points, with a maximum of fifty points accepted per semester.

Performance Policies

Every orchestra member plays a vital role in the success of the Edmond North High School Orchestra Program. All orchestra students are permitted and expected to participate in all school events in which the orchestra participates. **Attendance by all members, at all performances, is required** unless individually notified by the director. Regardless, by the time we reach a performance date, students will not want to miss the thrill of performing in front of a large, live audience. For any excused absence consideration to be made, **notification of any absence must be made at least three days prior to the performance, both verbally and with a handwritten/e-mailed note from a parent and student.** Family vacations, work related activities, missing uniform or instrument parts, and/or not having a ride will not excuse a student from a performance. Emergencies outside of human control will be considered on an individual basis, and the student is responsible for following up with the director within one school day of an emergency absence for any consideration to be made.

Any change or addition to performance dates will be announced well in advance so that individual plans can be made accordingly. **Any unexcused absence from a required performance will negatively affect the student's grade.** A second unexcused absence from a required performance could result in the student receiving a failing grade for that semester and the student being removed from the performing organization. Recognized religious holidays and school related activities, **approved in advance by the director**, will be recognized as excused absences and no penalty will be incurred.

In setting up concert dates, care has been taken to avoid any other school events. However, should a conflict arise, any school *event* will take precedence over a *practice* or *rehearsal*. Should two events occur simultaneously, the student may choose which event to attend, without grade penalty, but both organizations' directors must be notified at least three days in advance. Without proper notification, the student will not be excused from the orchestra event and grade penalties will be incurred. The student may also lose the privilege to earn a letterman certificate.

When bus transportation is provided, **ALL** students will ride buses to the event. Upon permission, a student may leave with his or her parent after the orchestra has been dismissed from the event, but return transportation will also be provided. All students must complete and hand in the **Medical Release Form** distributed in class and found under **Forms and Documents** on the orchestra website. Failure to have this document on file will result in an unexcused absence from the performance event that requires travel, and grade penalties will be incurred.

****Academic Eligibility**** All instrumental music students must be academically eligible to travel and perform with the orchestra at competitive events. The school policy states that a student is considered academically eligible if he or she is passing (60% minimum grade) all classes by the close of school on the Wednesday that precedes the Monday beginning the week of the competitive event. For the first week of infraction, a student is placed on probation with one week to bring that grade to passing while also maintaining a passing grade in all other classes. The director will follow school procedures in these matters, regardless of the student's awareness or notification of his or her grade situation.

Concert Dress

Young men will wear black dress shoes with long black socks; a well-pressed, white, long-sleeved, dress shirt or tuxedo shirt with either a plain or pleated front; black dress slacks or tuxedo pants; a black bow tie.

Provided*: a black tuxedo blazer will be checked out from the orchestra program. If lost, stolen, or damaged, replacement cost of the blazer is \$100.00.

Young women will wear black dress shoes with a low heel with black socks or hosiery. Small, inconspicuous jewelry is acceptable. Open-toed sandals or shoes are not acceptable.

Provided*: a black orchestra uniform dress will be checked out to students new to the orchestra. If lost, stolen, or damaged, replacement cost of the dress is \$100.00.

All students are responsible for maintaining a professional, uniform appearance for all performances. Deviation from this concert dress may result in the student being unable to participate in the performance or removal from his or her chair placement to a less conspicuous chair. The concert performance grade will be lowered by as much as 30%.

Students are expected to be in concert dress reporting to the director at least thirty minutes prior to the beginning of the concert unless otherwise notified.

***NOTE** Acquire any non-school provided concert attire pieces now so that you are sure to be dressed appropriately at our first performance and/or orchestra formal pictures. Families needing financial assistance to acquire uniform parts should contact the director.

Competitive Events

Large Group Orchestra Contest

All academically eligible members of the Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras will participate in the OSSAA String Ensemble contest in November and the OSSAA Full Orchestra and String Orchestra contests in February. The Chamber and String Orchestra may compete on a case by case basis dependent on instrumentation, preparedness, and size of the ensemble. *If a student has more than two unexcused absences or more than three total absences from an extra rehearsal during contest season, then that student will not be a part of the contest*

orchestra. If a student has more than five absences within ten days before a contest performance, then that student may not be a part of the contest orchestra, or may be required to pass a series of performance assessments individually for the director. In the event of poor preparedness or attitude, or excessive absences or tardiness, a student may be dismissed from the contest orchestra. Such decision will be made by the orchestra director.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

While a competitive atmosphere is not usually the intent of making music, it is often beneficial for a performer to receive objective adjudication and constructive criticism to help guide their playing. In this regard, students are strongly encouraged to enter the OSSAA District Solo & Ensemble competition, held in late February or early March (see calendar). Entry information and deadlines occur at the beginning of January, immediately following winter break. Ensemble performance in a district or state solo or ensemble achieves partial fulfillment toward an orchestra lettermen's certificate. Students entering a district solo must be eligible for state competition, and piano accompaniment is required. A list of piano accompanists is provided in class, and students are responsible for paying the extra cost of the accompanist. Students passing on to state competition will not need to pay for the entry fee. This will be covered by the North Orchestra.

Honor Orchestra Auditions

Two honor orchestra opportunities are available for interested students to audition, the North Central Honor Orchestra (auditions the first Saturday of October), and the Oklahoma Music Educators Association All-State Honor Orchestra (auditions the first Saturday of December). Audition music is available in the spring of the preceding school year, and applications and entry information are available at the beginning of the school year with the deadline to enter both auditions during the second week of September. Students interested in auditioning for NCHO must be able to attend the entirety of the clinic and concert dates as there are no alternates selected for this orchestra.

Parents are encouraged to attend all contest events, including solos and ensembles.** An enthusiastic, appropriate, and supportive audience is always appreciated, and applause is welcome. It is not appropriate to bring small children (under four-years-old) to a contest event. **Parents may not enter the audition room during an honor orchestra audition.

Concert Etiquette

1. **Refrain from talking.** This is the first and greatest rule. This rule includes whispering to or disciplining your other children in attendance. Please hold all comments, positive or otherwise, for a break in the music.
2. **Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy or cough drop wrappers during the performance.** The crinkle paper noises aren't quite what the composer had in mind when he/she composed the piece. We recommend wax-paper wrapped lozenges if necessary.
3. **Turn off all electronic devices.** While many phones and pagers now have very symphonic-like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score. Also, remember that text messaging, while silent, creates a distracting glow for your neighbors behind you, and it limits your ability to take in the performance.
4. **Please do not wave to your student during the concert.** After all, they do know who you are already, and they know you are there. Before the concert, it's no problem.
5. **Please do not take flash photography.** You don't want your child to walk off the edge of the stage from flash blindness, and the students already have plenty of little black dots to worry about.
6. **Please do not walk down the aisle with your video camera.** Video cameras are best used at the back of the auditorium or balcony if available.
7. **Plan to stay for the entire concert, not just your student's portion.** All of the students deserve a full audience for their performances. Remember, the next time your child's song could be last!
8. **Applaud at appropriate times...some music has several sections.** The best indicator that a song is complete is that the conductor lowers his/her arms and addresses the audience. When you applaud, loud shouts and hoots generally aren't appropriate for this type of concert.

9. **Please do not leave or enter the auditorium during the music.** Wait for a break in the concert to visit the restroom or return to your seat. The only exception is if you are carrying a fussy child, in which case you should leave immediately, please! If you do plan to attend with a young child, please seat yourself appropriately near the end of a row and toward the back of the auditorium, in case you need to make a quick get-away.
10. **Go to the concert expecting the best!** You will be surprised at the great quality of sound that your student produces when joined by the rest of the orchestra.

Orchestra Seating

Orchestra seating is determined by the director. If a student or parent has a concern or question about chair placement, please talk with the director, and please be candid. Seating is based upon numerous factors including but not limited to an average of the student's performance evaluation grades, leadership qualities or potential, rehearsal discipline, what is best for the student, and equally important, what is best for our orchestra. While this is a mixture of objective and subjective factors, it is always best to talk with the director, especially if a student feels s/he has a unique skill set that could be better maximized in a different chair placement.

Lettering in Orchestra

See **Lettermen Certificate Application** found under **Forms and Documents** on the orchestra website for a complete check list of how a student can "letter" in orchestra. This privilege is reserved for students who participate in all required events, maintain an appropriate grade in orchestra and participate in non-required orchestra-related events outside of the regular orchestra curriculum. Excused absences due to academic ineligibility will be regarded as non-participation in a required event, and the student may not count that event toward the minimum required points. The deadline to fulfill the minimum point requirements and turn in a completed form is May 1st of each school year.

Travel

An important and very specific opportunity to our students' orchestra education is the chance to travel. The Edmond North Orchestra is fortunate that the school administration and community continually support this experience, and our students must recognize that it is a privilege to represent Edmond North High School outside of our community. Great efforts are made to plan a detailed, safe, cultural performance experience for interested students. Past performance trips have been to Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Chicago Symphony Center, The Midwest Clinic in Chicago, the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, the Strathmore Center in Baltimore, Prudential Hall in New Jersey, and under the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. The travel experience is typically done in the spring with students receiving two to three excused-activity school absences. A school administrator usually attends the trip, and parent chaperones are needed and welcome for these trips to be possible. A minimum one-to-six chaperone-to-student ratio is desired and always met. Students and/or parents are responsible for funding the entirety of their trip through individual payments, fundraising, or a combination of both. Limited needs-based scholarships are available upon request. More information about each year's trip can be found on the orchestra website and by attending the informational meeting that happens in the first month of school.

Fundraising

Throughout the year, a student will have fundraising opportunities to help offset the cost of participation in the orchestra trip. The schedule of each fundraiser will be announced in class and can also be found on the orchestra website under the "Calendar" link. A profit margin (shown below) will be placed into a student's trip account for each fundraiser. In the event that a student receives more than is needed to fund a trip, no fundraised money will be refunded to the student/parent. S/he can choose to donate that money to the orchestra, another student, or carry the balance over for future trips or orchestra expenses. Donations will be attributed to student accounts only if specified at the time of the donation.

Instrument Check-Out

All cello and double bass players will be issued a school instrument for use at school and may also check out an additional instrument for use at home, based upon instrument availability, request priority, and student need. Violin and viola players may check out a school instrument, also based upon instrument availability and need. Students checking out a school instrument must complete and turn in the **Instrument Check-Out Form** distributed in class and found under **Forms and Documents** on the orchestra website. The cost for use of a school instrument is \$150 per year for cello or double bass, and \$80 per year for violin or viola. Checks may be made payable to the Edmond North Orchestra.

ENO Celebration of Excellence Awards Banquet

Each May, the Edmond North Orchestra celebrates its achievements with a formal banquet and awards ceremony held in the Oklahoma Christian University Gaylord Center. All ENO Students are invited to attend as complimentary guests of the ENO Boosters, and additional attendees have the opportunity to purchase tickets in April. In addition to the awards listed below, the event also features recognition of seniors, musical performances, the director's "State of the Orchestra" address, ENO Boosters Summer Music Camp Scholarship presentations, and an ENO memories video presentation that highlights the entire year.

Orchestra Lettermen's Certificates are presented to those who have demonstrated the necessary professional practices of an ENO musician as well as taken advantage of additional opportunities outside of the required curriculum. Students seeking a lettermen's certificate must complete and turn in the Orchestra Lettermen's Requirements form by May 1st to be considered for this honor.

The **Most Improved Musician** recognizes a member of each ensemble who has demonstrated notable improvement on his/her instrument and has also demonstrated growth in both leadership and maturity. These students demonstrate dedication and continued commitment to their musical growth through involvement in private lessons and/or summer music camps.

The **Exceptional Service Awards** recognize students who have made substantial contributions of time, leadership, and energy for the benefit of their peers and the entire ENO. These students epitomize the spirit of the orchestra, willingly help others, demonstrate self-motivation, contribute their talent to the community and school, and act as ambassadors for the orchestra. They are positive role models for the ENO.

The **National School Orchestra Association Award** is the highest honor that is bestowed on a student and is given to one member of the senior class with consideration of his/her entire high school orchestra career. The National School Orchestra Association only grants one award per school to recognize excellence in playing and contributions to the ensemble. This student demonstrates superior musicianship, willingness to help others, self-motivation, leadership, dependability, loyalty, and is prepared for class and concerts. This student gives of his/her talent to the community and school and is a positive role model for the ENO.

The **Triangle Awards** are given by students to students in recognition of anything and everything! From Car Wash King and Queen to Most Athletic or Best Dressed, these fun-spirited awards offer a great opportunity to learn about our ENO friends' many funny quirks or other inside stories.