

## **BOULDER HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS CLASSROOM POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### The BHS Orchestra program - Overview

Everyone is welcome to play in the orchestra at Boulder High School! The BHS Orchestra program consists of 4 string groups. All orchestras will have the opportunity to perform as Full Orchestras with members of our band, jazz and choir programs throughout the year.

- ♪ Overture (Orchestra 1) is for all string players wishing to work on advancing stringed instrument technique. Shifting, vibrato, spiccato, other advanced bowing skills, 2 and 3-octave scales in all keys, advanced clef reading and music theory are some of the areas of focus. There is no audition requirement for Symphony Orchestra.
- ♪ Symphony Orchestra (Orchestra 2 and Orchestra 3) includes Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors who have completed Symphony Orchestra and/or Freshmen who have auditioned for a slightly more advanced group. We continue to work on advancing technique and repertoire.
- ♪ Chamber Orchestra (Orchestra 4) is a group for which students have auditioned. These ensembles perform with advancing skill toward a performance-based curriculum. Skill in shifting, vibrato, spiccato, other advanced bowing skills, 3-octave scales and advanced clef reading are prerequisites. Auditions for this orchestra occur in February of each previous school year and are by appointment. Students enrolled in Chamber Orchestra receive college credit through FRCC and Honors grading is used.

There is an opportunity for beginning string players at Boulder High School. See Mr. Woodworth for details. Encourage your friends to join!

**\*\*All orchestras participate equally in field trips, concerts, competitions and big trips when available.**

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1. Important Contact Info (cut this out and tape it on your computer)

Who	Phone	Webpage/email
Ryan Woodworth, Director of Orchestras	720-561-2212 (office)	<a href="mailto:Ryan.Woodworth@bvsd.org">Ryan.Woodworth@bvsd.org</a>
Orchestra web page		<a href="https://ryanwoodworth.wixsite.com/mysite">https://ryanwoodworth.wixsite.com/mysite</a>
Music Department web page		<a href="https://boh.bvsd.org/academics/Pages/music.aspx">https://boh.bvsd.org/academics/Pages/music.aspx</a>
BHS Main Office	720-561-2200	
BHS FAX	720-561-5317	
Instrumental Music Parents Association		Bhs-IMPA.org

2. Behavior and Grading Policies

An orchestra class combines a fine balance between freedom of artistic expression and respect for the physical and auditory space of others. The standard set by this unique requirement must be upheld in the classroom, in concerts and in activities outside the school. To accommodate the brilliance of the students in the classroom, as well our sanity, we adhere to the following behavior guidelines:

- ♪ No talking or playing without being asked by the teacher
- ♪ No plucking instruments while someone is talking or playing
- ♪ Being respectful of everyone in the room at all times
- ♪ Trying for our personal best everyday
- ♪ Coming to class READY TO LEARN every day!

ARTISTRY!

HARD WORK!

MUSIC IS FUN!

Grading

Boulder Valley School District policy indicates that students will be graded through a standards-based grading model. Through this model, grades are to be assigned based on student performance as it relates to our District music standards.

Formative	50%
Practice assignments	
Theory/Vocabulary worksheets	

Self assessments	
In Class participation	
Daily preparation	
Summative	50%
BHS concert attendance and performance	
Playing tests	
Written tests	
Portfolios	

As always, attendance and participation in BHS Orchestra concerts is required as per district policy and deductions are made from earned grades for not attending BHS Orchestra concerts. Please note all important dates now for any schedule conflicts.

### 3. Concert Attire

#### **Orchestra 1, 2, and 3 Concert Attire:**

##### ALL STUDENTS

Top- All Black (Blouse, dress shirt, long sleeve preferable)

Shirt tucked in

Bottom- Black (Long Pants, Long skirt)

Black belt if necessary

Black Shoes

Black Socks or Natural or black hose

Optional: *Black, Purple, or Gold Solid Color Long Tie*

*Accessories (hair ribbons, scarves, camisoles)*

**NOT ALLOWED:** LONG FINGERNAILS - *Please trim regularly*

*Large accessories- ear rings, bracelets, etc.*

*No spaghetti straps or bare midriffs.*

*No Jeans except for possible casual outreach if the director approves.*

*"Flip Flops are not shoes and Tights are not slacks" ☺*

Tennis shoes

Revealing blouses

Sun dresses

Extreme mini skirts (especially for 'cellists!)

LOGO or emblems on T-SHIRTS

STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT DRESSED APPROPRIATELY FOR CONCERTS WILL BE ASKED TO CHANGE CLOTHES!

## **Chamber Orchestra Concert Attire**

Formal Black

Black Long Dress

Black Suit, Tux, or Sport Coat and Slacks

School color appropriate tie -Black, Gold or Purple

Purchasing a new outfit for concerts is not the expectation. If there is a problem with finding appropriate clothes for any event of ours, please let me know well in advance prior to our first performance. I will be glad to help!

### **4. Class attendance**

Orchestra is a performance class and everything we do is about participation. Ditching class is not tolerated. Please keep Dr. appointments, taking your student out to lunch during our rehearsal, etc. to a minimum. Unexcused absences will be deducted from the Daily Grade.

### **5. Required Equipment for Orchestra Class**

- ♪ Instrument in good working order
- ♪ Shoulder rest of some type for violinists and violists (THIS IS SO IMPORTANT!)
- ♪ Rock Stop ('cello and bass)
- ♪ Mute
- ♪ Rosin
- ♪ Music as provided in class – must bring every day
- ♪ A PENCIL IN CLASS EVERY DAY!!!!
- ♪ Music stand for home practice (good posture is very important, you know)
- ♪ Metronome
- ♪ Tuner

### **6. Instruments**

BHS has a very limited number of old instruments available for students' use. These instruments go first to those students who cannot afford an instrument of their own at home and then are offered for students' use and convenience.

BHS Instrument use fees are: \$100/year for use of an instrument at home. \$50/year for just school if there is another instrument at home. BHS instruments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. You may pay this fee on RevTrak or by check made payable to "Boulder High School" will reserve an instrument for your child.

Should you wish to purchase an upgraded instrument for your child, please call on a reputable violin shop or me before making any purchase. If an instrument seems to be a "steal", it may be too good to be true! NEVER BUY AN INSTRUMENT ONLINE or WITHOUT YOUR PRIVATE TEACHER OR MR. WOODWORTH TO SEE THE INSTRUMENT FIRST.

### **Instrument Repair**

Everyone succeeds more easily with an instrument that works properly. In the event that an instrument has a problem during class, I will do everything I can to help

your student immediately. If the instrument requires the attention of a professional repair person, I will be glad to refer you to one. Please take care of any instrument repairs within 3 school days to avoid loss of daily grade.

#### Instrument Storage at School

Students share instrument lockers and for your security, they must be locked. Students will checkout lockers at the beginning of the year, BHS provides locks for these lockers. Instruments left in unlocked lockers are there at the student's own risk.

### 7. Auditions and Orchestra Placement

#### Auditions/Seating

Seating in the BHS orchestras is ultimately at the discretion of the conductor. Every student is important to the success of the orchestra; therefore, seating will NOT be an exact reflection of the student's "rank" as a performer. It is important that seating be viewed only in terms of helping the orchestra sound its best, nothing more or less.

ALL AUDITION DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

### 8. Other Opportunities through Orchestra Class

#### Chamber Music

Students wishing to participate in a small ensemble experience may do so at the teacher's discretion. These students must be able to work effectively independently and be willing to perform at school service functions.

#### Orchestra Leadership Council

The Boulder High School Orchestra Council can consist of members each for the Symphony and Chamber orchestras. Class representatives will be elected as applicable. Each orchestra typically will have: President, Student Conductor, Music Librarian, Freshman Representative, Sophomore Representative, Junior Representative, Senior Representative are also options.

#### Honor groups, Festivals and Special Events

Several honor groups, competitions and festivals are available for participation through audition (see Orchestra Calendar). I am happy to help any individual student wishing to audition. Some of these are:

- a. BVSD District Honor Orchestra- 3rd year!! at Centaurus September 20, 2025. 9-12 grades are eligible. 1 day event students audition early September.
- b. Combined League Honor Orchestra- 9-12 allowed to participate, audio audition recording due mid November, event Mid January
- c. All-State Orchestra (Audition deadline November, event: February). All-State Orchestra is open only to 10-12
- d. Western States Honor Orchestra (Audition deadline: September, event: November). 9-12 are eligible to audition (Greeley -overnight Thursday through Saturday event)

- e. Wyoming Music Festival (no audition, event: February)
- f. Viola Day (no audition, event: April)
- g. National High School Honor Orchestra (alternate years, Jrs and Srs only)

#### Orchestra Lettering

Lettering is a type of orchestra award that is given at the end of the school year. A student may pick up the form at any time during the school year, but it will be due in mid April. Lettering is not tied to the grade in any way. Please note: music letters are awarded at the music awards banquet, not the academic lettering ceremony in the spring.

#### Student Accounts

Each and every student in the band or orchestras at Boulder High has a “student account”. Maintained by IMPA, this is where a student’s fundraising money goes as well as any money earned through stage crew, music librarian or audio engineer work. Students may access these funds for any musical activity including lessons, instruments, sheet music, travel, etc.

You can find out how much you have in your student account by contacting the IMPA treasurer. Mr. Woodworth will connect you if needed.

#### 9. Instrumental Music Parents Association and Parent Volunteers

The Instrumental Music Parents Association (IMPA) is a crucial team mate in our program. Without the support the parents give us through events planning, fundraising, scholarships, and the many other things they do, much of what we accomplish would not be possible. PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PART OF THIS IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION.

Some ideas of BHS orchestra parent volunteer jobs are:

- Field trip chaperone
- Football Concessions Fundraiser - adult supervision
- Costco trips for events and concessions
- Get licensed to drive the “little white bus” for field trips
- Other events planning
- Fundraising planning
- Newsletter mailings to parents
- Instrument Drive
- Help at concerts
- Senior Slideshow – May concert
- Typing Programs
- Official videographer
- Official photographer – any activities
- Coordinating rewards for the kids (Donuts!)
- Wreath/Flower Sale- room parents
- Graphics
- IMPA leadership

Any ideas you have  
Of course, attending IMPA meetings

10. Public sharing of performance recordings:

Please DO NOT POST audio or video of any of our performances on Youtube, Facebook or any other social media site without permission from Mr. Woodworth. United States Copyright laws are very strict, requiring Mr. Woodworth to request permission and pay a fee for performance rights on almost all postings. If one of our students, alumni or parents posts recordings without this permission, the whopping fine could be assessed on BVSD, BHS and Mr. Woodworth personally, not on the student or parent posting the video.

Please talk with me before posting anything.

11. Sheet Music

The IMPA budget provides music for this class, unless a student has a particular request that he/she wishes to provide or donate. Music is expensive. You must return it in the condition it was given as closely as possible. Please make a special effort to keep track of your music.

In all cases, there will be enough music for each one or two people to have music to practice at home. ALL STUDENTS NEED TO HAVE YOUR MUSIC and PENCIL AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY, just like your textbooks. Failure to have your music will result in a deduction from your participation score.

12. Parent Support

- Encourage perseverance
- Listen to your student practice, encourage them!
- Allow your student to practice in a focused environment without distraction
- Attend all concerts and performances
- Pursue musical opportunities for your student outside of class instruction
- Make music education a priority in your families education
- Maintain a quality student instrument
- Find areas to help through IMPA

Talent versus Work Ethic

Please remember that orchestra requires daily work and dedication to learning new technical skills. High -level thinking occurs 100% during the music process. We expect all students to develop a marvelous work ethic during their music career. The skills of teamwork, collaboration, intrinsic motivation, perseverance, diligence, time management, and goal setting are fostered in the orchestra classroom and will translate into all aspects of students' lives.

Why musicians with “average” Talent Succeed	Why “talented” musicians fail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work hard</li> <li>• Coachable (humility)</li> <li>• Practice Hard</li> <li>• They have their music and pencil every rehearsal</li> <li>• Do all the little things very well</li> <li>• Find areas to grow in confidence (goals)</li> <li>• Respect and help peers/director</li> <li>• Positive Attitude</li> <li>• Patient yet persistent in practicing</li> <li>• Parents provide musical support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don’t work hard</li> <li>• Uncoachable</li> <li>• Selfish (lack of teamwork)</li> <li>• More concerned with peer approval</li> <li>• Content with mediocrity</li> </ul>

## Music Honors at Boulder High School

- We have received the “Grammy Signature Schools” award 3 times!
- We are a Rockley Family Foundation beneficiary. We receive 9 new practice pianos annually.
- Boulder High music programs are invited as a select ensembles at the state Colorado Music Educators Conference. We are regularly seen both statewide and nationally as exceptional ensembles.
- Regularly hosting residencies with area ensembles (Boulder Chamber Orchestra, Boulder Philharmonic, CU Boulder School of Music.
- Performance travel opportunities for all students. Destinations include - Austria, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Los Angeles, New York, Norway, Orlando, Slovenia, and more to come.
- Boulder High School is the only BVSD high school with an ARTS FOCUS PATHWAY. Students may graduate with an “Arts Focus Diploma” when they fulfill the requirements.
- Boulder High Music Programs is a regular stop for recruiters from the top music schools in our state and region.

Welcome to Boulder High School Orchestras! You are part of the Tradition that is here!