

# ***Kelso High School Orchestra Handbook***

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## **Welcome!**

Welcome to the Kelso High School Orchestra Program! The high school orchestras are designed for student expression and education in the subject of music. Students will have the opportunity to play a wide range of music written for string instruments including: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass.

## **Instruments**

Students are encouraged to rent or buy their own instruments for use in orchestra. This will ensure the greatest consistency and success to their musical growth. Affordable rentals can be acquired through Kennedy Violins or Beacock Music. If you or your student are unable to provide an instrument for your student, there are a limited number of school instruments available. Please contact Mr. Messinger immediately if you need assistance in acquiring an instrument.

If you choose to buy an instrument, I encourage going to a shop specializing in strings (Kennedy Violins, David Kerr, Hammond Ashley, etc.) Buying an instrument online can be extremely risky and often the lower price tag can be an indicator of inferior quality. These lower quality instruments can be hard to keep in tune, hard to play, produce a less than desirable sound, and also lead to frustration from your student. Feel free to contact me regarding any instrument purchase and I will do my best to help you find a suitable instrument.

## **CELLOS & BASSES**

Students may rent or buy a cello if desired for home and concert use and be able to use a school cello for class time. Students may also use a school cello for performances. Due to the low number of school instruments, arrangements to take school instruments home will need to be arranged with Mr. Messinger. Bass students may use school instruments for class and concert and depending on the occasion and availability, take a school bass for home use. Talk to Mr. Messinger to make arrangements.

## **Supplies/Class Materials**

The following supplies are required material for class. Some will be provided by the school (and noted)

- Rosin
- Shoulder Rest (Violin/Viola only)
- D'Addario Prelude Strings (Violin/Viola Only)
- Black Kelso High School Music Folder (Provided)
- **Pencil (Not Pen)**
- Spiral Notebook for written assignments.

## How We Will Communicate

Email	Email is the primary means of communication. Please make sure that you fill out our contact forms at the beginning of the school year with an appropriate email address.
Google Calendars	We will keep our google calendars up-to-date.
Google Classroom	We will upload assignments and communication via google classroom.
Website	We will keep our new KHS Music Website up-to-date. <a href="http://www.kelsomusic.org">www.kelsomusic.org</a>
Sign-Up.com	Please check our sign-up.com <a href="#">page</a> to see our volunteering needs or to sign up for a fundraiser.
CHARMS	We will track letter points and use CHARMS for emailing and text messaging. Students can also check fundraising balances on CHARMS.

## Kelso Music Boosters

Meetings	KMB meets on the second Tuesday of every month, at 6:30 pm in the KHS Band/Orch Room (G8).
Emails	You will receive emails from the president about upcoming meetings and fundraisers unless you opt-out.
Website	The KMB website is currently: <a href="http://kelsomusicboosters.org">kelsomusicboosters.org</a>
Facebook	Please like their Facebook Page: <b>Kelso Music Boosters</b> .

## Concert Attire

All orchestra and band students wear the same concert attire at Kelso High School. If students are not wearing the correct attire they will not be allowed on stage and they will receive no points for the performance. Concert attire must be dress material: no jeans, no chains, no colors other than the specified material. If you need help acquiring concert attire, please contact Mr. Messinger or Mr. White.

Please choose the option that makes you feel most comfortable:

### Option 1

#### Full Suit w/ Matching Shirt & Tie

- ❖ Black button-up, long-sleeve shirt
- ❖ Black Suit Coat w/ matching Black Dress Slacks
- ❖ Black Belt, Black Dress Socks, Black Dress Shoes

### Option 2

#### Formal All-Black Dress Slacks & Blouse

- ❖ Black Dress Slacks
- ❖ Black Dress Shoes (flats preferred)
- ❖ Black Blouse (shoulders & back covered)

Please refer to the **Concert Attire** page on [www.kelsomusic.org](http://www.kelsomusic.org) for a link for the suggested shirts, slacks, and blouses.

## Classroom Rules & Expectations

1. You are here to learn about music and about life. As Hilanders, Please be **responsible, respectful, safe, and kind.**
  2. No food, drink (other than water), or gum is allowed in any music room.
  3. **Per school policy**, no cell phones or other electronic devices are allowed during class, unless specific permission is granted.
    - a. "If a student uses their phone during class time, the phone will be taken from the student. A telephone call will be made to the parent/guardian who must then pick up the cell phone in the main office at Kelso High School."
  4. No hats, headphones, or earbuds are to be worn during class.
- Student belongings must be kept fully in their locker or neatly on their shelf outside of class time. All **lost and found** items will be transferred to the school's lost and found weekly.

## Grading

Performances	40 %	<b>Performances are required.</b> Students will receive a 0 for missing a performance for any reason. If a student misses a concert due to an emergency, the instructor will provide a make-up assignment. Please put all performance dates into your calendar and inform me of any conflicts as soon as possible. Notice of a missed performance more than 4 weeks before hand can be excused at the director's discretion and a makeup assignment will be provided. Notice of a missed performance less than 4 weeks before hand will constitute severe grade reduction with the make-up assignment.
Daily Contribution Points	30 %	<p>Students receive 5 points a day for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Being on time (1 point)</li> <li>● Having their music/notebook (1 point)</li> <li>● Having a pencil in their music folder (1 point)</li> <li>● Having their instrument (1 point)</li> <li>● Actively warming up (1 point)</li> </ul> <p>Students will receive a 0 if they are absent for any reason or are using their cell phone during class. They will be deducted points if they are being disrespectful. Points can be bought back by practicing in the KHS music room for 30 minutes after school.</p>
Assignments & Notebook	20 %	Students will be expected to complete various theory, history, and listening assignments. These assignments will either be on Google Classroom or a worksheet.
Tests	10%	There will be several playing and written tests throughout the year, to check for student understanding.

## Solo and Ensemble

Every year, middle and high school students have the opportunity to participate in the regional solo and ensemble festival and receive feedback from other professionals on their playing. Students can either perform a solo with piano accompaniment (the pianist will be provided by the school unless you would like to hire your own) and/or they can perform in small and large ensembles (Duets, Trios, Quartets, Quintets, etc.)

**Participation in Solo & Ensemble is required for Chamber Orchestra students, not required for others, but it is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** Playing a solo or playing with a small group is a highly beneficial experience that is completely different than the classroom setting.

Students will be provided material if interested before winter break and will be able to receive coaching and practice with the piano in the weeks leading up to the festival.

## Extra Credit Opportunities

Various extra credit opportunities are offered at the discretion of the teacher. If a student would like to earn extra credit, attending live music is an acceptable opportunity. Attending live music events as a musician is important for cultural enrichment and musical reflection. Mr. Messinger maintains an active performing career, with performances occurring year-round. If a student attends a live music event (where the student themselves is not performing), they can submit a short summary of the event and a response to it for 15 points extra credit. Various live performances (including teacher performances) will be announced and posted in the classroom.

### Fees

In addition to purchasing the proper **concert attire** and materials for their **individual instrument**, students must pay the following fees. The Kelso Instrumental Music Boosters provide frequent fundraisers to help you afford band and orchestra. Please talk to your teacher if you feel you cannot afford to participate.

Description	Pay To
Solo & Ensemble Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Solo - \$ 12.00</li><li>Small Ensemble (only group leader pays) - \$ 18.00</li><li>Large Ensemble (only group leader pays) - \$ 25.00</li></ul>	KHS ASB
Solo & Ensemble Accompanist Fee - \$ 30.00	Boosters

### Fines

#### Lost/Damaged Music Fines (including class books)

If a student does not return their music or if they return it heavily damaged, they will be charged to replace that piece of music plus shipping costs. These fines are payable to the KHS ASB office.

#### Instrument Damage Fines

Students who rent instruments from the school must sign a rental agreement form. If the student damages the instrument, entirely breaks the instrument, or does not return the instrument, they will be required to either pay for the damages or replace the entire instrument. These fines are payable to the KHS ASB office.

#### Broken Strings

If a student breaks a string on a school instrument and it is judged to not be from negligence, Mr. Messinger will replace it for free. If negligence is suspected or if it is for a rental/owned instrument, the student must either provide a replacement string or reimburse the school for a replacement. Violin/Viola Strings are typically \$2.50-6.00 for a replacement, Cello strings typically \$10-15, Bass strings of \$15-25.

## Music Lockers

We have a limited number of lockers and a limited number of locks available to our music students. Students who do not receive a music locker will be provided a shelf in the music room at the high school to keep their belongings. Students may provide their own lock if it's a **combo lock**, but Mr. Messinger must have the combo. School officials have the right to enter or cut off your lock at any time.

## Drugs, Alcohol, and Other Illegal Substances

The KHS music program has a very strict no tolerance policy. Being in music is a privilege and if students abuse that privilege they will be removed from the program. Any knowledge of drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances will be turned over to school officials immediately. If a student partakes in any of these activities while on a trip they may be sent home early at the student's expense.

## Bullying

The KHS music program is a family of students. Bullying is not tolerated in the classroom, G-Hall or within music ensembles. If a student is being bullied he or she should inform the teacher immediately and the situation will be dealt with.

## Handbook Verification

The students of the Kelso Instrumental Music Department will be held responsible for everything listed in the KHS Orchestra Handbook.

**By signing below, you verify that you read the handbook in its entirety.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN HANDBOOK VERIFICATION AND OTHER  
REQUIRED FORMS TO MR. MESSINGER. THIS WILL COUNT AS A  
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT FOR YOUR STUDENT.**