

2025-2026 Strings Attached Handbook

Teacher Information

Mr. Petersen

dalton.petersen@k12.sd.us

School phone: (605) 367-7639

Course Description

Strings Attached is a year-long extracurricular ensemble for advanced 7th and 8th grade students who play violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Membership in Strings Attached requires an audition (8th graders do not have to audition) with the director and the ability to demonstrate excellent rehearsal skills, and is open to all 7th and 8th grade orchestra students who are enrolled in orchestra class.

Why You Should Join

- Do you feel like regular orchestra class is too easy? Are you bored while playing the music? Join Strings Attached! You will get to play more music that can offer you the challenge you need!
- You will get the opportunity to perform more pop based music, enjoy having fun with friends from other classes than yours, and grow your skills.
- performances will feature both of the regular school concerts, a tour of surrounding elementary schools, a performance at Festival of Orchestra's in Brandon SD, and side-by-side pieces with Pulling Strings .

Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:40-8:40am in the orchestra room every week. No extra rehearsals will be required.

Concerts

Concert Attire: Students are expected to wear concert black. This may include a nice top, dress pants or slacks, a dress or a skirt, with closed toed shoes being preferred. If a student does not own these items, appropriate exceptions may be made.

Calendar of Events

- December 4 - Winter Concert @ PHMS Gym
- January 22 - Pops Concert @ PHMS Gym
- March 19 - 5th Grade Festival @ PHMS Gym
- March 31, - Elementary Area Tour
- April 28 - Spring Concert @ PHMS Gym

Attendance

Attendance is required for all rehearsals and concerts, and being on time is expected. Students will be allowed 3 unexcused absences. Excessive tardiness and/or unexcused absences will be subject to one warning (see consequences below), and three tardies will count as one unexcused absence. If a student is expecting an excused absence or tardy, a parent/guardian needs to contact Teacher Bozonie via email or call the school for it to be counted as excused. If there are any issues with arriving on time to the morning rehearsal, please let Teacher Bozonie know as soon as possible to work out a possible solution.

Auditions

Auditions only apply to 7th grade students interested in Strings Attached. 8th graders may join without auditioning. The audition will include a scale, an etude from New Directions for Strings, and sight reading. Auditions will occur during DS September 2nd-the 5th. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday September 10th.

Rehearsal Expectations

- Excellent character and rehearsal skills (see rubric below).
- Coming to class prepared with an instrument, music, and any other item necessary to play (rosin, rock stop, pencil, etc.).
- Phones, gum, food and drink (except for water) are not permitted during the length of rehearsal.

MS Orchestra Rehearsal Skills Rubric				
IC Grading Category: Performing and Understanding Music	Meets Expectations	Working Towards Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations	
	10	5	0	Comments:
Instrumental Playing	Student is engaged and actively playing when appropriate throughout the duration of the class with no instructor prompts.	Student is sometimes engaged and actively playing throughout the duration of the class when prompted by the instructor.	Student is not engaged or actively playing during class. Student may or may not respond to multiple instructor prompts.	
Posture	Student uses appropriate posture for playing an instrument, when seated or standing, without instructor prompts.	Student sometimes uses appropriate posture for playing an instrument, when seated or standing, when prompted by the instructor.	Student does not use appropriate posture for playing an instrument, when seated or standing. Student may or may not respond to multiple instructor prompts.	Poor posture will not be a defining criteria for admittance as it is a skill that can be developed.

MS Orchestra Rehearsal Skills Rubric				
Rehearsal Technique <i>Demonstrating knowledge of musical elements in order to positively influence the overall success of the ensemble.</i>	Student demonstrates an understanding of their role within the full group ensemble rehearsal without instructor prompts.	When prompted by the instructor, student sometimes demonstrates understanding of their role within the full group ensemble rehearsal.	Student does not demonstrate an understanding of their role within the full group ensemble rehearsal. Student may or may not respond to multiple instructor prompts.	Poor rehearsal technique can look like excessive disruptions, unprompted talking, or disrespect shown to peers or teaches..

Consequences of Poor Rehearsal Skills

There will be a 3-step process for handling poor rehearsal skills.

1. The first warning will be a verbal discussion between the student and the teacher explaining the behavior they displayed that is not permitted.
2. The second warning will be a phone call or email home.
3. The third warning will result in expulsion from Pulling Strings (not from regular 8th period orchestra class).
 - a. If a student receives three warnings and becomes removed from the group, they may receive entrance back into it after completing three acts of kindness under the discretion of the teacher. Such acts may include but are not limited to: putting the chairs and stands back to the right places at the end of the day, having a lesson with the teacher during DS to prove commitment, completing a task for a teacher (must be confirmed by written note or email by the teacher they completed the task for), and/or writing a kind note to a classmate or teacher. With teacher collaboration, students may come up with a different activity for credit.
 - b. In the event that a student does get removed and receives entrance back into the ensemble, they will be at second warning status. This means if they exhibit another behavior that is not permitted, they will be removed from the group once more.
 - c. If a student is removed two times, they will no longer be allowed into the group.

Intentionally Left Blank,
Read Next Page (Page 5)

If you are admitted into the group, please tear off this page, sign it, and return it to the teacher by **August 29, 2025**.

We acknowledge we have read the entirety of this handbook and agree to uphold the expectations of the ensemble.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student Email _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Primary Email _____

Parent/Guardian Secondary Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____