



# Chestnut Ridge Middle School Orchestra

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## **Student Responsibilities**

1. Orchestra repertoire- practiced at home, rehearsed at school.
2. Lessons- There are specific requirements for each marking period, which include: scales, method book lessons, solo or ensemble pieces, orchestra music, etudes and evaluations.
3. Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts: Mandatory.
4. Home practice- current music is challenging. Your child should be practicing at least 3 hours per week. That averages out to 20 minutes per day.

## **Parent Responsibilities**

1. Make sure that the instrument is in working order
2. Ask your child about our orchestra classes and activities
3. Please come to our performances. Encourage your child's "special people" (grandparents, relatives, neighbors and friends) to come and share in their accomplishments.
4. Encourage your child to play at home.
5. Look into the possibility of private lessons.
6. Join CROPPS "Chestnut Ridge Orchestra Parent Patrons"
7. Contact me whenever necessary:
8. School: 856-589-3535 ext. 5349  
Email: [tbeneccchi@wtps.org](mailto:tbeneccchi@wtps.org)- web page- link off of wtps.org

# Notes

# Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is very important for every orchestra member. Every instrumentalist of our orchestra is essential to the group.

Illness which causes school absence, major religious holidays and emergencies will be excused.

Students are reminded not to schedule family engagements or elective medical appointments which will conflict with our schedule.

All conflicts must be approved by Miss Benecchi. Before they are considered to be excused. Please be advised that parties, concerts and sporting events are not excused absences.

1. All absences must be verified with a note from parents in advance when possible.
2. If a student misses the dress rehearsal, he or she may not perform in the concert.

## DRESS CODE

**Boys:** Black dress pants

White buttoned down shirt with long sleeves or turtleneck or white music department shirt,

Black socks and shoes (white or yellow music shirts when appropriate)

**Girls:** Black skirt, (below the knee) or black dress pants

White blouse or white music department shirt

Stockings, Black shoes, (white or yellow music shirts when appropriate)

# Demonstrable Proficiencies

## Class Requirements

Participation in rehearsal and performance, individual preparation of assigned music literature, scales and technical studies and attendance to after school rehearsals and concerts.

## Attitude and Behavior

The following behaviors are all inclusive and concurrent:

1. attendance
2. effort
3. cooperation with director and other members
4. etiquette
5. direction-following
6. pride in work
7. self-control
8. respect for others
9. attention to detail

## Course objective/overview

Development of increased skills in and/or awareness of:

1. Technique, involving: position, bowing, tone quality, rhythm, intonation, phrasing and dynamics, instrument care and sight-reading.
2. Principles of ensemble technique.
3. Performance, practice, interpretation including: expressiveness, knowledge of orchestra literature, introduction to instrumental styles and bowing techniques.
4. Self-criticism.
5. Theory, including key signatures, vocabulary, markings.
6. Introduction to various musical styles and forms.

7. Individual progress, through individual practice and performance.
8. Chamber music rehearsal and performance.

### Attendance

As per Board of Education Policy.

## Grades

Our grading system is designed to evaluate the individual student's progress in technical mastery of his/her instrument while cultivating appropriate social and work skills, i.e.: responsibility, preparation, promptness, self-control, positive peer relationships, and self-discipline.

The purpose of the orchestra program is not to train professional artist performers, but rather to encourage students to participate in activities through which his/her musical talent may be developed.

Students experience the benefits of making positive contributions to an organization, the joy of creativity, and the development of their physical and cognitive skills, all of which help in their appreciation for the values of the art of music.

It is my goal to foster the love of music-making and listening for all orchestra students as a lifelong pursuit.

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# The Class

Orchestra class meets on a daily basis and rehearsals are scheduled after school when necessary. Below are specific challenges the student will meet.

1. **Audition:** During the first month of school, the students are evaluated by the director for their current performance achievement levels. They will be seated in orchestra by instrumental group. At some point in subsequent marking periods, prior to each major performance, chair auditions may be held to evaluate the students' proficiencies on the current repertoire. Scores on these auditions will constitute a major test grade and will also determine students' seating in their orchestra sections for concerts and festivals. Part of the chair auditions will be the selection of section leaders and concertmaster.
2. **Rehearsals and Dress Rehearsal:** Prior to each performance there are 3 after school rehearsals and one main Dress Rehearsal. **If a student misses the dress rehearsal, he or she will not perform.**
3. **Concert:** There are 2 major concerts throughout out the year. The Winter and Spring Concerts. In addition to these two concerts, there are many performance opportunities: the ASTA Afterglow Recital, ASTA Festival, All South Jersey Orchestra, All State Orchestra, and various in school assemblies. Attendance is expected at the concerts and alternative assignments will be assigned to those who are unable to make the concert because of illness or emergency. Games and parties are not considered emergencies.



**4 Lessons:** Weekly, small group instrumental lessons are a required part of orchestra participation. Students will be scheduled for lessons on a period rotation and will not miss other classes in an excessive amount per marking period.

*The purpose of the music lesson is for the teacher to instruct, moderate and evaluate each student's progress in a smaller class setting. All material to be covered is developmental and challenging. Students are expected to practice assigned materials at home between weekly lessons to prepare for the next week. Students should bring assignment books to lessons along with a pencil and 3 ringed binder.*

**5. Participation:** Since orchestra class is an elective, it is my belief that the student wants to be in the class. All students will participate by playing their instrument and by concentrating on the task at hand.

**6. Practice:** Practice charts will be filled out by the student, signed by the parent and monitored by the teacher. Each student is required to practice at least 3 hours per week. That factors out to a ½ hour of practice daily practice with one day off a week.

**7. Preparation:** All students will have their instrument, a pencil, orchestra 3-ringed binder and a good attitude in order to be counted as prepared for class.

**8. Rehearsals:** As the performance approaches after-school rehearsals will be scheduled. This gives the students to practice altogether. It includes those students who are out of cycle.

- 9. Tests:** Throughout the cycle there will be written tests on the music as well as playing tests.
- 10. Extra Performances:** There will be extra scheduled performances other than the concerts throughout the year. These may include trips to play at local nursing homes during holidays, and events as they arise.
- 11. Trips:** The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra members will have the opportunity to participate in a music festival at a school near Great Adventure. The students will perform, be evaluated, listen to other schools perform and then spend the remainder of the day at Great Adventure...

### **Lesson Procedures**

- A. Students will receive a lesson group assignment and schedule. This will be posted in the music room and will be distributed to CRMS teachers
- B. At the lesson period, the student should report to the subject area teacher for attendance and assignments.
- C. Students will then report to the orchestra room for the music lesson.
- D. Students are not to leave class if:
- the class average is below 78%
  - they have been absent from that class more than 3 times in the marking period.
  - The class work cannot be made up.
- E. Make-up lessons for excused absences can be taken whenever scheduling permits.

# Vendors

## **Frank Saam-**

Home: 856-566-0654

Fax: 856-566-0674

web: [www.erols.com/ostiano](http://www.erols.com/ostiano)

412 Otter Branch Dr. Magnolia, NJ 08049

instruments for sale

instrument repair and supplies

e-mail: [ostiano@erols.com](mailto:ostiano@erols.com)

## **Phil Travaline**

Barnsboro

856-464-8742

Instrument repair, bow rehairs, instruments for sale.

## **Music & Arts** (will deliver to Chestnut Ridge)

Music school in Evesham Township, New Jersey

Retail chain selling musical instruments, audio gear & accessories, with rental & repair services.

**Address:** 742 W Rte 70, Marlton, NJ 08053

**Phone:** (856) 985-5557

## **South Jersey Music**

Musical instrument store in Washington Township, New Jersey

**Located in:** [Whitman Square Shopping Center](#)

**Address:** 5600 NJ-42, Blackwood, NJ 08012

**Hours:**

Open today · 12–8PM

**Phone:** (856) 218-7777

## **Coles Music**

Musical instrument store in Gloucester County, New Jersey

**Address:** 471 Main St, Sewell, NJ 08080

**Hours:**

Open today · 9AM–6PM

**Phone:** (856) 848-2122

## **Old Towne Music**

Music store in Washington Township, New Jersey

**Address:** 5101 NJ-42, Blackwood, NJ 08012

**Hours:** Open today · 10AM–9PM

**Phone:** (856) 228-0003

## ORCHESTRAS and PRIVATE LESSONS

Students who are interested in progressing further and faster on their instruments may want to consider taking private lessons outside of school. Private lessons are highly recommended for students who would like to audition for All South Jersey Orchestra or other competitive music groups. Here are some music schools that have excellent teachers on their staff:

- Rowan Youth Orchestra  
<https://academics.rowan.edu/cpa/rowancommunitymusicchool/waystostudy/ryo-page.html>
- Rowan Youth String Orchestra  
<https://academics.rowan.edu/cpa/rowancommunitymusicchool/index.html>
- Community Music School  
<https://academics.rowan.edu/cpa/rowancommunitymusicchool/index.html>
- Settlement Music School (Phila.)     [www.smsmusic.org](http://www.smsmusic.org)  
215-320-2600
- Resonance School of Music  
<https://www.resonanceschoolofmusic.com>

## Violin:

- Jon Beiler (Phila. Orch. member; Haddonfield) 354-9674
- David Booth (Phila. Orch.; West Collingswood) 858-1994
- Walter Choi (Washington Township) 278-2537
- Lenuta Ciulei (Rowan U professor) 267-307-9127  
[atanasiul@rowan.edu](mailto:atanasiul@rowan.edu)
- Dr. Bert Greenspan (Rowan U professor) 589-2159  
[greenspan@rowan.edu](mailto:greenspan@rowan.edu)
  - Bridget Kazinskas (Cherry Hill) 795-7863  
[bkazinskas@comcast.net](mailto:bkazinskas@comcast.net)
- Amanda Hochenberger (Mullica Hill) 265-5612
- Marco Lucchi (Haddonfield) 616-1477
- Gabriella Mandescu (Haddonfield) 267-918-1150
- Pearl Nickel (Washington Township) 232-6405
- Dr. Valissa Willwerth (Clarksboro) 865-885-3439  
[v.willwerth@earthlink.net](mailto:v.willwerth@earthlink.net)

## Viola:

- Carol Briselli (West Chester professor; Glen Mills, PA) 484-841-6445
- Pamela Fay (Haddonfield) 857-9852
- Evelyn Luise (Temple U professor; Boothwyn, PA) 610-485-7250
- Gerry Rice (Haddonfield) 354-1718

## **Cello:**

- George Atanasiu (Rowan U professor) 267-307-9108  
[atanasiu@rowan.edu](mailto:atanasiu@rowan.edu)
- Lynne Beiler (Haddonfield) 354-9674
- Cheryl Everill (Cherry Hill) 854-7965
- Fiona Hesketh (Washington Township) 629-9699
- Steve Goodnight (Mullica Hill) 691-4621
- David Szepessy (comes to your home) 610-328-5237

## **Bass:**

- Douglas Mapp (Rowan U professor) 740-9009  
[mapp@rowan.edu](mailto:mapp@rowan.edu)
- Nancy Merriam (Haddonfield) 428-3844  
[nancymerriam@comcast.net](mailto:nancymerriam@comcast.net)
- Mark Pryzbalowski [mpryzbalowski@wtps.org](mailto:mpryzbalowski@wtps.org)

## **Piano:**

- Glenda Steffee (Washington Township) 589-9829
- Alexander (Sasha) Timofeev 609-280-7677
- Veda Zuponsic (Rowan U professor) 795-1830  
[zuponsic@rowan.edu](mailto:zuponsic@rowan.edu)
- Margie MacWilliams (Wenonah) 856-468-6664
- Judy Skeels (Woodbury) 856-845-3818

## **INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE**

String instruments and bows need routine care in order to continue to sound good, play well and keep their value.

1. Wipe off your instrument and loosen your bow every time you are finished playing.
2. Clean off your strings with a very small amount of rubbing alcohol every 2-3 months.
3. Clean your instrument with instrument cleaner once or twice a year.
4. Change your strings once a year, or more if you are doing a lot of playing.
5. Have your bow re-haired once a year, or more if you are doing a lot of playing.
6. Keep a dampit in your case or instrument during the winter months to keep the instrument from drying out and cracking.
7. The case, instrument and bow you use at school all need to be labeled with your name.

### **Internet listings for supplies**

Southweststrings.com    Sharmusic.com

### **Amazon.com**

# STRING RECOMMENDATIONS

## Prices may vary

### Violin:

The cost for a set of violin strings ranges from \$20 (poor sound and quality) to \$90 (excellent sound and quality) from a catalogue, or twice as much from a local store. Here are some mid-range, good quality brands and approximate costs (feel free to comparison shop!):

Infeld Red –for a warmer sound - \$45

Infeld Blue –for a more brilliant sound - \$40

Vision - for a more focused sound - \$39

Tonica – versatile - \$38

Dominant – versatile - \$35

Helicore –good - \$26

Violins often sound and play better with a different brand E string than the A, D and G strings. These brands are recommended for the E string only (use the first list to purchase the A, D and G strings):

Larsen - \$9

Jargar - \$5



## **Viola:**

The cost for a set of viola strings ranges from \$25 (poor sound and quality) to \$100 (excellent sound and quality) from a catalogue, or twice as much from a local music store. Here are some mid-range, good quality brands and approximate costs:

Evah Pirazzi –wonderful for viola - \$77

Obligato – for a strong yet clear tone -\$75

Dominant – versatile - \$60

Helicore – good - \$35

Violas often sound and play better with a different brand A string than the D, G and C strings. These brands are recommended for the A string only (use the first list for the D, G and C strings):

Larsen: \$17

Jargar - \$14

## **Cello:**

The cost for a set of cello strings ranges from \$40 (poor sound and quality) to \$165 (excellent sound and quality) from a catalogue, or twice as much from a local music store. Here are some mid-range, good quality brands and approximate costs:

Helicore –good - \$87

Jargar A and D; Prim G and C -good -\$75

Piranito –good -\$60

## **Bass:**

The cost for a set of bass strings ranges from \$70 (poor sound and quality) to \$185 (excellent sound and quality). Here are some mid-range, good quality brands and approximate costs:

Superflexible - \$108

Helicore - \$102



**Check out Miss Benecchi's Symbaloo Page**

**<https://www.symbaloo.com/embed/shared/AAAAAXuv01YAA41-4J21aA==?widget=106&bgcolor=e701>**

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# Accessories

## ROSIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Using good rosin is really, really important for string players. Good rosin helps the bow stick to the strings better and makes it possible to pull a good tone out of the instrument with a lot less effort. Most good rosins can only be purchase through a catalogue. Here are some recommendations:

### Violin, Viola and Cello:

Pirastro - \$8

Hill -\$6.50

Hidersine - \$4.50

### Bass:

Pirastro - \$9, Pops'-\$9

## OTHER HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

In addition to extra strings, rosin, cleaning cloth and music stand for all Orchestra students and a shoulder rest for violinists and violists, here are other items which are not required of Orchestra students but will help the students to progress much further and faster:

1. **metronome** –helps students to understand rhythms better and to play with a steady beat.
2. **tuner** –helps students develop a better ear and to play better in tune
3. **sheet music to play ‘for fun’** - there are books of solos available for every instrument and every possible style of music: Classical, Disney, Christmas, popular, fiddling, dance, etc. Shar Music is an excellent source for string music. Many online free resources exist.
4. **Recordings of music featuring string players.** Here is a ‘short list’ of some wonderful young string musicians whose playing is guaranteed to inspire and amaze:

#### **Violin and Viola**

classical: Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Hilary Hahn, Kim Kashkashian (viola)

fiddle/crossover: Mark O’Connor

jazz: Regina Carter

rock and roll: Mark Wood

#### **Cello**

Classical, world music -Yoyo Ma

#### **Bass**

Classical, world music - Edgar Meyer

#### **Piano**

Classical - Lang Lang

# Fundraisers

There will be 3 fundraisers this year. Students may sell merchandise to raise money for their Orchestra Savings account which will be used for trips, shirts etc.

The fundraisers are:

**Sept. 27-Oct. 11, 2019**



**“South Jersey Coupon Book” - \$25.00**

Students raise \$12.50 per book and for every 5 books sold students receive a free book. *Benefits individual students*



## Yankee Candle Sale

Candles in jelly jars, pint and quart sizes.

*Benefits Orchestra account*

**Jan. 24 - Feb. 7, 2020**

## Annual Candy Sale

Buy your sweetheart some candy for Valentine's Day. 1 box sold = \$30.00  
*benefits individual students accounts*



## OTHER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Highly motivated Orchestra students may find that they want to participate in music groups that meet outside of school as well as in the school Orchestra program. Here are some youth orchestras that students can participate in:

- Garden State Pops Youth Orchestra (Blackwood; informal audition) [www.gspyo.com](http://www.gspyo.com) or call 374-1156
- Philadelphia Sinfonia (Philadelphia; competitive audition) [www.philadelphiasinfonia.com](http://www.philadelphiasinfonia.com) or call 215-351-0363
- Philadelphia Youth Orchestra (Philadelphia; very competitive audition) [info@pyos.org](mailto:info@pyos.org) or call 215-545-0502
- There are also many fine summer music camps and festivals that Orchestra students can participate in. They are lots of fun and very, very inspiring and motivating.
- High Strung Strings [www.musictoni.com](http://www.musictoni.com) (Miss Benecchi)

## CROPPS

### Chestnut Ridge Orchestra Parent Patrons

Parent help is needed for:

- concert set up/break down
- Chaperones for concerts and trips
- Selling Concessions at the Musical



# Remind

Miss Benecchi is using *remind* which is a **one-way text messaging and email system**.

You may also reach her at [tbenecchi@wtps.org](mailto:tbenecchi@wtps.org)

## Grade 6

To receive messages via text, text @grade6orch to (484) 577-2266 or go to [www.remind.com/join/grade6orch](http://www.remind.com/join/grade6orch)

## Grade 7

To receive messages via text text @missbenec to (484) 577-2266 or go to [www.remind.com/join/missbenec](http://www.remind.com/join/missbenec)

## Grade 8

To receive messages via text, text @grade8orch to (484) 577-2266 or go to [www.remind.com/join/grade8orch](http://www.remind.com/join/grade8orch)

# **Chestnut Ridge Middle School (Personal Property Waiver)**

From Mr. Barnes.....

Your Child will be participating in ORCHESTRA per the published schedule. We would like to remind you that children are asked NOT to bring anything of value to a rehearsal or a performance. The school cannot and will not be responsible for lost or stolen articles. Therefore, to be on the safe side, we ask that games, audio equipment, pocketbooks, jewelry, money and the like be left home where it is safe. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely, Toni Benecchi, Orchestra Director  
James Barnes, Principal





**2019-2020 CRMS Orchestra Information Sheet/Commitment Form**  
**(Please print all information neatly)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund Raisers**

Please indicate below which Fund Raisers your child will participate in this school year. We estimate the Music trip in May for the 7+8 Orchestra will be \$105, and all 6th Graders will be responsible for purchasing their white music polo for \$17. For all 6th and 7th graders, any extra funds you raise will be carried over towards your trip next year. A detailed instruction sheet will be sent home when each Fund Raiser begins.

**#1 (Individual): “ENJOY THE CITY” COUPON BOOK (10/2019)** Enjoy The City is a coupon book that offers hundreds of buy-one get-one free discounts, along with many other great discounts. The book is sold for \$25, with students earning \$12.50 profit on each book. For every 5 books a student sells, he/she will get 1 book free. Participating students agree to purchase 1 book to take home and use while selling. Students will collect all money from buyers and turn in 1 check for their entire order.

**#2 (Department): YANKEE CANDLES (10/2019)** Yankee Candles make great holiday gifts, and orders will be in before Thanksgiving! This is our Department Fund Raiser, and all profit will be put towards t-shirts, instruments and other program costs during the year. Students will be given a brochure to take home, and are asked to collect all money from buyers themselves. Then, students will turn in 1 check for their entire order.

**#3 (Individual): CANDY SALE (1/2020)** Students will receive a carrier containing 30 candy bars to be sold at \$2 each (they are big!). Earning 50% profit, students make \$30 towards their costs for each box they sell. All distribution of boxes and sales will be done outside of school hours. We cannot return opened boxes of candy, so parents are asked to indicate the number of boxes they anticipate selling. We will order a few extra in case you can sell more!

Please indicate if you would like to fundraise.

ENJOY THE CITY COUPON BOOKS:    \_\_\_ YES    \_\_\_ NO

YANKEE CANDLES:                    \_\_\_ YES    \_\_\_ NO

CANDY SALE:                            \_\_\_ YES    \_\_\_ NO

If YES, # of Boxes ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hand Book Sign off**

I have read and discussed the 2019-2020 Handbook with my child. We understand the policies and expectations, and have noted all mandatory rehearsal dates and concerts on our family calendar.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Property Waiver Sign Off**

I understand that participants in school activities are requested not to be in possession of valuables (jewelry, electronic games, audio equipment, money, etc.)

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**CROPPS (Please circle where you would like to participate)**

\_\_\_ Music Trip Chaperone    \_\_\_ Concert Set-Up            \_\_\_ Musical Concessions

\_\_\_ ASTA Chaperone        \_\_\_ Concert Break Down







