

Millard North High School
10-12 Symphony Orchestra/MYP Level 5
Handbook 2016-2017

"The Pursuit and Achievement of Excellence"

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Welcome to the Millard North High School 10-12 Symphony Orchestra! I am pleased to have you as a part of our superb organization, and am excited to join you in beginning a new chapter in our orchestra's history.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." ~ Aristotle

This handbook serves as a guideline for orchestra activities and outlines individual and group expectations for the coming year. If necessary, changes may be made by the director. In this case, students will be notified during class, and an announcement will be placed on the orchestra bulletin board and on the orchestra website. HOW CAN WE BE BETTER

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS I expect professional behavior from each individual at all times. This behavior is characterized by:

RESPECTFUL: Respect for oneself, one's peers, and the instructor.

READY: Arriving prepared at each rehearsal with all supplies and music.

Thorough preparation of one's part *before* the rehearsal.

Consistent and prompt attendance at all classes, rehearsals, and performances.

RESPONSIBLE: Proper instrument care and maintenance.

Having a nametag on your instrument(s) at all times.

TEACHABLE: Expressing a positive attitude regarding orchestra activities.

MUSICIANSHIP: A genuine effort and desire to create music.

Shared responsibility for shared success.

THE RULES In order to ensure a safe, productive environment that allows each student to meet and exceed expectations, goals, and objectives, we will adhere to the following rules:

- Follow directions the first time given
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself
- Speak respectfully
- Be in seat with all materials when bell rings; be ready to tune 2 minutes after the bell
- Be mindful of your surroundings – move with care and respect.

CLASS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES Orchestra, as well as other subjects, has its own set of challenges. It is my goal that each student achieves mastery of his/her instrument so he or she may pursue music as a lifelong activity. As a result of this main goal, we reach the following objectives:

HEALTHY HABITS: Demonstrate healthy posture and playing technique.

- Establish good listening skills in class and as an audience for others.
- Try your best, at all times, no matter what the circumstances.

PARTICIPATE IN VARIED ACTIVITIES: Participate in large group, small group, and solo activities.

- Use performance literature and scales to improve individual playing ability.

LITERACY: - Incorporate music history and theory concepts to increase understanding and enjoyment of the music.

- Maintain excellent performance characteristics, and build on past successes to take the ensemble as a whole to the next level as evidenced by impeccable intonation, rhythm, style, dynamics and musicianship.

BASIC COURSE OUTLINE Students will receive more specific assignments as events warrant. Assignments follow district and MYP parameters.

First Quarter: a. Prepare and test Performance Mastery assignments (see Grading Criteria for further information). b. Complete written assignments as given. c. Prepare individuals for All-State Orchestra auditions d. Prepare and present Opening Concert e. All students will demonstrate mastery of selected Orchestra Unit(s).

Second Quarter: a. Prepare and present December Concert b. Prepare individuals for honor orchestra auditions c. All students will demonstrate mastery of selected Orchestra Unit(s).

Third Quarter: a. Prepare and present January Clinic Concert at Millard SOUTH High School b. Prepare and present combined high school/middle school concert in March c. Prepare solos/ensembles for the Chamber Music Concert and UNO String Olympics d. All students will demonstrate mastery of selected Orchestra Unit(s).

Fourth Quarter: a. Prepare solos and small ensembles and (first hour only) large group for District Music Contest b. Perform at District Music Contest c. Prepare and perform a spring concert. d. Prepare and perform at Commencement e. Seniors complete and present Senior Projects f. All students will demonstrate mastery of selected Orchestra Unit(s).

REQUIRED MATERIALS The following materials are necessary for each class period: □ Your instrument and bow, properly maintained and with all working parts □ Rosin, soft cloth in case □ Your music – provided by MNHS □ Two pencils – sharpened and ready for use □ Shoulder rest (violins and violas) and rock stop (basses and cellos)

OTHER ITEMS (in alphabetical order):

ALL STATE ORCHESTRA: Auditions for the Nebraska All-State Orchestra are open to all students in grades 9-12 who play in their high school orchestra. Applications are online, due September 12. We encourage all students who can prepare the material thoroughly to audition by audio-taped audition, between September 21 and September 28. The Millard North Music Staff will assist students in preparing and submitting their auditions. Those selected will rehearse and perform with the All-State Orchestra **November 16-18** in Lincoln, NE at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. (Students accepted to the All State Orchestra will stay in Lincoln for the duration of the convention.) This coincides with the Nebraska Music Education Association's annual convention. Links for application process, scales, etudes, and excerpts are available in class and on the Orchestra's home page (www.mnhsorch.com).

ALTERNATIVE STYLES ENSEMBLE Alternative Styles Ensemble is an auditioned ensemble that plays music from non-classical styles like jazz, swing, world beat, blues, rock, fiddle, and pop. The A.S.E. will perform on some school concerts, and may also participate in community outreach concerts at area venues. Students are invited to join our Google Group to collaborate on compositions and arrangements for this ensemble.

ATTENDANCE Orchestra is a performance-based class. Therefore, regular attendance at performances and rehearsals are mandatory in order to completely enjoy the orchestra experience and to have the best ensemble possible. There are three areas where attendance is expected.

Daily Rehearsals – The student is expected to attend daily rehearsals with instrument, music and pencil, along with any other necessary materials. If the student does not have the materials necessary for class, then his/her grade will reflect incomplete work. The teacher will uphold the guidelines set forth in the MNHS student handbook for excessive absences and tardies.

Concerts – Orchestra is a performance-based class, and because of this it is impossible to “make up” a missed performance. Students are expected to arrive 30 minutes before a performance with their instruments and music. Excused absences include illness or family emergency. Planned absences, such as family vacations, must be requested at least **14 days prior** to the concert date and are excused at director's discretion. Emergencies, such as sickness, require a written note from the parent/guardian no later than 48 hours following the concert. If I do not receive notification within the specified time period, the student will lose the points for that concert. In the event of an excused absence, the student will need to complete an additional assignment to compensate for the missed performance. This assignment is due one week after the missed performance to receive credit for the work.

CELL PHONES/IPODS/MP3 PLAYERS Students may not use cell phones during orchestra. If the teacher observes a student using a cell phone to text, surf the web, place a call, etc., then the teacher will ask the student to put the phone away. If the student does not comply, the teacher will take the phone and the student may get it back at the end of the hour. If the student has the phone out after the first offence, the teacher will take the phone to the student's grade level administrator. Because Orchestra is a music class, there will be times that the student may use his/her iPod or MP3 player. This will be at the director's discretion and must not interfere with instruction/rehearsal. If any technology device disrupts rehearsal, the director will follow the same procedure for phones outlined above.

CHAIR PLACEMENT, ROTATION Jonathan Lane, Orchestra Director at Shawnee Mission East High School in Kansas City, KS, states, “Rotational seating creates a friendlier environment. It gives orchestra members an opportunity to get along with each other, to get to know more members of the orchestra. It's non-competitive. . . you're focusing on how good we

can be as a group. It's a greater team-building philosophy. ... It builds more leaders. I really believe rotational seating is one of the things that's helped propel my program to be one of the top programs" (from *The Creative Band and Orchestra* by Julie Lyonn Lieberman). As we approach the chair-placement process, it is important to understand that each individual must contribute as much as he/she is able at all times. This transcends the focus on individual attainments (which are praised in other areas of our program) to focus on the group. Although we will sometimes use assigned and auditioned chair placement for concerts, we will use rotational seating in class. This practice helps to encourage timid players and also helps section leaders get a good idea about how their section sounds as a whole. **It also reinforces that leadership is not based on *where* you sit, but on how well you set a good example for your peers, wherever you may be.**

CHAIR PLACEMENT AUDITIONS Chair placement tests are given to determine where the students will sit on each concert. This process helps ensure that each individual is contributing to the best group sound. Auditions will be held before each scheduled performance. Chair placement tests usually occur during class, and are video recorded by student volunteers. The teacher grades each one individually on several criteria. This is to ensure the most objective placement decision possible. They may also follow a live audition in front of the teacher and/or other professional musicians. Audition material may consist of music for the upcoming concerts, scales, sight-reading or etudes. Students will be informed of the grading criteria and audition requirements in plenty of time to prepare. The purpose of the auditions is to ensure regular practice and a thorough understanding of the individual's part; they also contribute an air of healthy competition in the sections. These auditions serve as playing tests and are included in your grade. In most cases, the student with the highest playing test grade will sit first chair, and the student with the next highest grade will sit second chair. After that, students will be distributed by stand, with the third highest grade sitting third stand and the fourth highest grade sitting fourth stand, etc. Students with lower grades will sit by students who earned higher grades. Please see the sections on "Challenges," "Section Leaders," and "Grading Criteria" for more information on chair placements and playing tests.

CHAIR PLACEMENT, VIOLINS Violinists are different than the other sections because there are two parts to contribute to a fuller sound. The first violin parts usually have the melody, higher parts that require more shifting. The second violin parts usually have more harmony parts that require less shifting. Violinists are expected to be able to play both parts, and may be required to switch between violin I and II parts during the course of the year.

CHALLENGES After chair placement is determined, students who are unhappy with their placement may challenge others in their same section who are placed higher in the section, provided these guidelines are followed: 1. Students may challenge anyone that sits higher than them in the section. 2. Students may only challenge the same person once. 3. The challenge excerpt(s) must be at least eight measures long, and that eight measures must include music notes that are somewhat challenging and that show the players' skill. 4. Challenges must be completed by the deadline set by the teacher. No challenges will be accepted after the deadline. 5. The challenger must present the challengee the challenge notice IN WRITING. Both parties must agree on the date and time of the challenge, and the excerpt(s) to be performed. Both parties must sign the form and turn it into the director two days prior to the challenge in order for the proceedings to be valid. 6. The challenge will be audio taped, with an unbiased proctor present. Only the proctor should speak on the tape. 7. Challenges should be completed OUTSIDE of class

time. 8. Results will be announced the next class day. Students may consult privately with the director to discuss the reasons for the outcome. 9. If the challenger fails to show up for the challenge, except for reasons of extreme illness or family emergency, then he/she has automatically lost the challenge. 10. If the challengee fails to show up for the challenge, except for reasons of extreme illness or family emergency, then he/she will forfeit his/her chair placement to the challenger. 11. Both participants in a challenge earn points toward an orchestra letter (see LETTER AWARD section). 12. If a student is challenged within these guidelines, he/she **MUST** accept the challenge. Failure to accept will result in forfeiting his/her chair placement. 13. If these guidelines are not followed, the director may declare the challenge VOID, in which case chair placement will remain the same.

CHAMBER GROUPS Chamber music offers students more performance venues as well as new social connections and technical challenges. Students enrolled in orchestra may participate in small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, etc.). Small ensembles generally meet before or after school for rehearsals and coaching sessions. Students who choose to play in a small ensemble are expected to practice their part and show up to rehearsals on time and prepared. These ensembles are mainly student-run, with some director input. There are several performance opportunities for chamber groups. These include the Chamber Music Concert at MNHS, UNO String Olympics, and District Music Contest. Some of our groups have also represented Millard North at the Western Heritage Museum, and at retirement communities. If you are interested in forming a small ensemble, please sign up in class or speak with the director.

CODY PRACTICE CLUB Cody Practice Club is a mentorship opportunity open to all students in MNHS Orchestra. Students who volunteer for this club will travel weekly to practice with students from the Cody Elementary School orchestra. Participating as a mentor in this club earns letter points. See instructor or student leader for application and schedule. Requires transportation permission form on file in MNHS Office.

COMMENCEMENT Every year, the orchestra performs for the MNHS commencement. The audience at this event is the largest of any of our performances, and it is an opportunity to showcase the talents in our ensemble. Also, it is a gift to our graduating seniors and a tribute to their leadership. Attendance is **required** at commencement, and is part of the overall orchestra grade. If commencement is scheduled after school is out for the summer, grades **will be held** until after the ceremony. The only excused absences will be illness or family emergency, and the student must complete a make-up assignment in order to earn points for missing commencement. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 27, 2017.

COMPUTERS We have two computers in the Multi-Purpose Room for student use. These are available for special assignments or on research days. **Students may not use them without permission from the teacher.** The teacher's laptop, due to district restriction, is not for student use at any time. We will use student laptops in orchestra beginning in January.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE Unlike most academic classes, public performance is vital to the orchestra class, and each member's presence at performances is essential for the success of the ensemble. It is important that each member make a commitment to concerts. Absences are not allowed, *except* in the case of illness or family emergency. **If this is the case, I must receive a note, email, or a phone call from a parent prior to the concert.** If a student misses a performance due to illness or emergency, the student may complete a project or in-class performance to make up for their absence due one week after the missed performance that will be worth up to 90 points. An incomplete make-up assignment or an unexcused absence will

result in a failing grade for the quarter. Most Millard North High School performances begin at 7:00 p.m. Students should arrive no later than 6:30 p.m. to allow enough time to tune and warm up.

CONCERT ATTIRE It is important that each orchestra member dress professionally and appropriately for all orchestra concerts. Please note: **If you are not dressed appropriately, you will not be allowed to play the concert, which will result in a failing grade for the quarter!**
Gentlemen: White shirt with black tie, Black dress pants, Black dress shoes, Black trouser socks,
Ladies: Black uniform dress (ordered through orchestra class, priced around \$60), Black nylons, Black dress shoes.

In order to guarantee a standard and professional appearance, we have adopted uniforms. In the past, some students had difficulty finding appropriate clothes for performances. The MNHS dresses are reasonably priced (approximately \$60 each), machine washable, comfortable, modest, and attractive. Gentlemen are required to wear a black necktie. These may be purchased for \$15 from the uniform company at the beginning of the year if necessary, too. Ladies will be measured for their dress, which is required for each performance. The purchase price is the family's responsibility. However, if you can verify financial need, the Mustang Booster Group and/or Millard Public Schools may be able to help.

CONCERT DATES – *Please mark on your calendar(s).* Unless otherwise noted, all MN concerts are in the MNHS auditorium.

Date	Time	Event	Location
August	TBA	Pit Orchestra Auditions	MNHS Music Wing
9-20	11:59 PM	Deadline for All State Application	Online
9-20	7 PM	Orchestra Concert (required)	MNHS Auditorium
9-30	TBA	Deadline for All State auditions	MNHS Music Wing
10-14 thru 10-16	7 PM	MN Musical <i>Catch Me If You Can</i>	MNHS Auditorium
10-15	2 PM	MN Musical <i>Catch Me If You Can</i>	MNHS Auditorium
11-16 thru 11-18	Overnight Stay	NMEA All State Orchestra (selected)	UN-L
11-29	7 PM	MN Orchestra Concert (required)	MNHS Auditorium
1-30	All Day	MPS Orchestra Clinic (required)	MSHS Gym
1-30	7 PM	MPS Orchestra Concert (required)	MSHS Gym
1-26 thru 1-29	All Day	UNO BOCH Festival (selected)	UNO/Baxter Arena
3-6	5PM	MN Orchestra Concert w/KMS and NMS	MNHS Auditorium

	rehearsal/ 7:30PM concert	(req. for grades 10-12)	
3-18	All Day	UNO String Olympics	UNO
3-22 thru 3-25	Overnight Stay	Orchestra Trip to Nashville, TN!	Various locations
4-4	7 PM	MN Orchestra Concert (required)	MNHS Auditorium
4-19 thru 4-22	TBD	District Music Contest	TBD
5-11	5 PM	MN Music Awards Night	Cafeteria/Auditorium
5-6	TBA	ASTA Young Orch. Festival (<i>req. 9th grade only</i>)	TBA
May TBA	TBA	MN Orch performs in the community	TBD
5-27	10 AM	MN Orch performs at Graduation	Baxter Arena

DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOR Most students enjoy orchestra and are happy to work together to achieve our combined mission. Some, however, detract from the potency of the class by participating in behaviors that impede our work. In order for orchestra to be a fun, educational, and productive experience for all, everyone needs to follow guidelines set forth by the teacher. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures. The Orchestra classroom works on a “loose/tight” framework that offers students creative room to grow while still expecting attentive and respectful behavior when requested. The following guidelines are expected during small and large group rehearsals: □ Follow directions the first time given □ Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself □ Speak respectfully □ Be in seat with all materials when bell rings; be ready to tune 2 minutes after the bell □ Be mindful of your surroundings – move with care and respect. If a student is unable to follow these guidelines, he/she will receive support by the following: □ First offense – warning/name recorded on discipline sheet □ Second offense – 15 minute detention □ Third offense – 30 minute detention, parents called □ Fourth offense – 45 minute after school in study center, parents called □ Fifth offense – 60 minute after school in study center, office referral □ Severe disruption – student sent immediately to the office. If everyone follows the rules, then benefits include: □ An awesome orchestra experience □ Personal growth as a musician □ Positive peer relationships

FIELD TRIPS/FEES/SOCIAL EVENTS MNHS Orchestra may attend various out-of-school functions during the year. Please be aware that whenever we are outside of the school setting, we still represent Millard North. I expect appropriate behavior at all times, and will enforce school policy whether on or off campus.

Some field trips may entail fees. Trips that require extra money from the student and his or her family are **not** required activities and are **not** tied to a grade. Examples of optional activities

include All-State and honor orchestra application fees, and fees for out-of-town orchestra trips. Since these are optional activities that are not part of the student's grade or class credit, the school does not pay for them and students who wish to participate are expected to pay for them. During the year, orchestra members may also participate in orchestra-sponsored social activities. Any fees involved with these activities are the student's/family's responsibility. In order to promote spirit and unity, students may elect to purchase an orchestra shirt. Because this is not a required program expense, payment is the student's responsibility.

FOOD The only food allowed in the music wing on a daily basis is water. Please plan to finish other food or beverages prior to entering the practice rooms or music classrooms. At times, we will hold special food days where students may bring food to share with classmates. On these occasions, the food must be store-bought and nut-free.

FUNDRAISERS The only fundraiser we run is the Private Lesson Fundraiser, where high school students have the opportunity to teach private stringed instrument lessons to elementary and middle school students. The Mustang Booster Club will be running other fundraising opportunities which help with purchasing items for the orchestra, as well as clinician fees and other opportunities for our students (ex. electronic equipment, percussion instruments, professional sectional coaches, etc.). Donations are always welcome!

GOOGLE CLASSROOM Google Classroom is an app provided by Millard Public Schools. Students enrolled in orchestra must also enroll in Google Classroom, using the code provided in class. Plan to check Google Classroom for announcements, assignments, and other class materials.

GRADES The following grading system will be used for the Millard North High School Orchestra: 1 = 93-100 2 = 85-92 3 = 77-84 4 = 69-76 5 = below 69 It is important to understand that orchestra is an **ACADEMIC CLASS**, where the tests (performances) have a high degree of visibility. The students are evaluated on criteria that affect their tests/performances.

GRADING CRITERIA Students earn quarterly grades that are averaged together to determine the semester grade. Each quarter they will complete work in the following areas for a possible 100% grade:

- I. **Concerts – 30%** Each required school concert is worth 100 points, except for commencement/senior project, which is worth 200 points. Students must show up and play for each concert in order to receive the full points. Students who have to miss a concert for illness/family emergency will complete a project due one week after the missed performance that will be worth up to 90 points.
- II. **Technique - 20%** This category encompasses:
 - a. Healthy posture and instrument position while playing
 - b. Using appropriate bow hold and fingerboard technique
 - c. Playing in tune
- III. **Performance Mastery – 20%** This category contains four parts:
 - a. **Unit Assignments/Assessments:** Given during (formative) and at the end (summative) of each unit of study.
 - b. **Self-Critique (50 points):** The student will complete one self critique each quarter over the progress observed.

- c. **In-Class Playing Tests (up to 100 points each):** Depending on the concert schedule, we will complete at least one live or videotaped playing test (in front of the teacher).

IV. **Written Tests and Written Work –30%** The Millard Orchestra Curriculum and the MNHS Music Department has a series of written tests to ensure each student progresses in musical knowledge. These will be given throughout the year. Most written work can and should be completed in class.

HOMEWORK Homework from other classes is to be completed AT HOME, before or after school, or during study halls, not during orchestra rehearsals. The organization and perseverance required to complete homework outside of school is an important life skill. Each member is a vital part of our organization, and each rehearsal is an important part of the performance process. Please be aware that working on homework from other classes will result in a lowered daily grade. Orchestra homework is maintaining a rigorous individual practice routine.

HONOR ORCHESTRAS There will be several opportunities throughout the year for students, grades 9-12, enrolled in orchestra, to audition for select honor orchestras in Nebraska and Iowa. These include UNO Honors Orchestra, Hastings Honor Orchestra, and the Dorian Orchestra Festival. Any fees involved in the audition and/or participation process are the student's responsibility. MNHS Music Department will not transport students to/from the honor orchestras, nor will we be chaperoning or supervising them while they participate in the honor ensembles. We will help students prepare for and send in audition recordings, and will communicate all information sent to us by the universities sponsoring the events. Information about these will be posted in the orchestra room and on the orchestra web site. If you are selected for an honor group and choose to participate, it is your parent's responsibility to call you out of school. This is considered an "unexcused" absence.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE Orchestra students are required to keep a regular practice routine. We will complete projects and assignments throughout the year to help you do so. Parents are encouraged to work with their children in following through on practice expectations. In order to achieve excellence and have a good overall sound, it is imperative that each orchestra member commit to daily practice. Just playing during class is not enough to hone your abilities and really listen to and improve your sound. If daily practice is not an option, I expect you to practice on the weekends (Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday) and on school breaks. It is important that you do this to a) build the physical strength and endurance necessary to play the instrument well, b) to learn your part thoroughly so the orchestra sounds its best, and c) improve as a musician so you can get the full benefit that lifelong musicianship has to offer. I will not assign practice cards, but instead expect you to shoulder the responsibility to make our orchestra THE BEST. Please consult the practice tips on the orchestra website. MN Orchestra students are expected to maintain a high level of technical and musical ability. In order to achieve the highest possible ability level, students MUST practice at home.

Good/Basic Expectation – The student practices every day on weekends and school breaks for at least 20-30 minutes per day. The student will practice his/her Enrichment packet and school music.

Excellent/Average Expectation – The student practices every day for at least 30-60 minutes per day. The student will practice school music, with other extension music as desired.

Superior/Exceeds Expectations – The student practices every day for two or more hours. The student practices scales, etudes, and solos assigned by the student, the director, or private instructor.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE Students enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme Music SL course split their time between regular orchestra classes and IB music classes. Both are held during first hour. If you are in IB music, your grade is based on work from both classes, so you are still responsible for playing tests, concerts, etc. **You are expected to attend orchestra rehearsals if you do not have activities scheduled for IB music theory or history.** Students enrolled in IB MYP Level 5 will look at orchestra concepts through the areas of interaction and maintain a Developmental Workbook. Assessment will be criterion referenced based on the MYP rubric.

INSTRUMENT CARE AND MAINTENANCE Just like a car, your instrument works best if you take care of it and complete preventative maintenance tasks routinely. You must rosin your bow daily, and you need to have your own rosin. Tighten your bow when playing, and loosen it when you are done. Bow hair needs to be replaced once a year with real horsehair. Most music shops with a string repairperson can complete this for you, usually between \$35-60. Have an extra set of strings on hand, and plan to replace them once per year (more often if you play a lot). Invest in a good brand, like Dominant or Pirastro for the best sound. The bridge needs to be shaped and placed correctly, as well as the sound post. Taking your instrument into a string repairperson can insure this. Check your instrument for cracks or open seams – take it into the music shop as needed to remedy these. Wipe your instrument down everyday with a clean, soft cloth to remove rosin, dirt, and sweat. Put instrument and bow in your case when not in use to prevent accidental damage, and make sure bass/cello endpins are lowered when not in use. Now is also a good time to investigate “step up” instruments and bows, especially if you are playing a student model. Please see the director for more information. Finally, **DON’T USE SOMEONE ELSE’S INSTRUMENT WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION!**

LETTER POINT SYSTEM/AWARDS NIGHT At the end of the year, the music department celebrates the accomplishments of our students. The formal ceremony for this is the Music Awards Night, scheduled for Thursday, May 11, in the MNHS Cafeteria/Auditorium. At this ceremony, student achievements are recognized with orchestra letters and other awards. It is often more difficult for upperclassmen orchestra students to earn letters, so it is important that students take advantage of every opportunity to earn points throughout the year. Orchestra members have the opportunity to earn a letter for orchestra participation, which may be worn on a Millard North letter jacket. Awards are as follows: First year letter award = chenille letter, second year = orchestra pin, third year = music staff pin, fourth year = instrument pin. Earning a letter shows a certain level of achievement and ability in the activity. In order to be considered for a letter, you must keep track of your points on the letter point sheet. This sheet will be available in class and on the orchestra website. **It is your responsibility to keep track of your letter points and to turn them in by the due date.** These points are on top of your grade, but are not part of your grade. Also, please note that letter points are awarded to students who show leadership and commitment to the orchestra. *Any student who has not shown exemplary conduct will not be considered for a Letter Award.* The final decision for awarding a letter will always rest in the judgment of the director, even if the points have been achieved. Please see the sheet entitled “Letter Award Worksheet” for a breakdown of the point system. Other awards

announced at the ceremony include: (Award recipients receive a plaque or certificate denoting their achievements, and their name is placed on a permanent plaque that remains at the school.)

The Arion Award is awarded to a junior or senior who has shown outstanding leadership, musicianship, and community involvement.

The National School Orchestra Award is awarded to a senior who demonstrates outstanding skill as a solo and orchestral player. **The Director's Award** is awarded to a junior or senior who demonstrates outstanding leadership and musicianship in Sinfonia Orchestra.

The Outstanding Senior Award is awarded to the senior who has provided outstanding service and leadership to the orchestra. All orchestra members vote on the award recipient.

The Orchestra Spirit Award is also a peer-nomination award, and is open to any orchestra member. The person voted to have the most spirit for orchestra and orchestral activities receives this award.

The Freshman Orchestra Spirit Award is a peer-nomination award, and is open to any 9th grade orchestra member.

ORCHESTRA PARENT VOLUNTEER BRIGADE “Children will be active in some direction; we should see that their activity is properly directed. Both play and work should tend toward the same end – the fuller development of the individual.” ~ Mary Kimball Morgan. Anyone, especially current and former orchestra parents, are welcome to join and participate in the MNHS Orchestra Parent Volunteer Brigade (OPVB)! The purpose of OPVB is to support orchestra students through providing chaperones, trip and activity planning, helping with clerical tasks, and assisting the Mustang Booster Club with fundraising. OPVB also works to support the orchestra director, so she may focus more time on teaching and less on non-teaching activities. Signup sheets for OPVB will be available at Open House and/or via a link to Sign Up Genius.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT Millard North High School has been allotted a certain number of large instruments for students to use. Students who use these instruments pay a yearly fee of \$90 that goes toward the district budget for routine maintenance and repair. Students who use these instruments are primarily responsible for their care, however it is the duty of each orchestra member to be careful around these instruments and treat them with respect. If a student damages a school instrument through reckless or negligent behavior, then he/she or his/her family is responsible for paying for repairs or replacement of said instrument. The same is true for school equipment, which includes music stands, stand racks, music shelves, amplifiers, speakers, stereo equipment, cords, etc. We will use this equipment for many years, so we need to keep it in top condition so it looks nice, works well and so we do not waste taxpayer money on unnecessary replacement/repair cost.

SECTION LEADERS Section leaders are orchestra students who: demonstrate technical mastery of their part, coach sectional rehearsals, exhibit a genuine interest and concern for their section and the ensemble as a whole and who have a good attitude about their position as leader in this ensemble. Section leaders are expected to attend all rehearsals, have appropriate materials ready, make musical decisions about bowings, fingerings, etc., and demonstrate appropriate leadership capabilities at all times. Section leaders are those who score the highest in the taped auditions and/or those whom the director deems worthy of this responsibility. Section leaders may be challenged according to the guidelines provided (see CHALLENGES). If, at any time, a

section leader does not fulfill his or her duties to the section, he/she may be replaced at the director's discretion. Section leaders earn points toward Letter Award Consideration.

SECTIONALS Sectionals are opportunities to work with others in your own section to ensure you are producing the most unified and polished sound. There are two types of sectionals: those completed in class, and those outside of school. In-class sectionals take place during class time in other parts of the music wing. During these rehearsals, the section leader will work on trouble spots, etc. These are part of your *daily* grade. Full participation from all section members is expected. It is also beneficial for students to meet outside of school for sectionals. These generally meet before or after the school day and are run by students and the director.

SHEET MUSIC Millard North High School has an extensive music library that includes music for full orchestra, string orchestra, small ensembles, and solos. We purchase new music every year from money allotted to us from the school budget to keep our library up-to-date and to aid in choosing more interesting performance selections. Every student must understand that he/she is responsible for maintaining the music library. This obligation includes keeping personal copies borrowed from the music library in clean and presentable condition, writing on the music in pencil and erasing markings before turning music in, giving the music to the director or the orchestra librarian after use. It is very frustrating to have scores that are missing parts or that are in disrepair. If a student loses or damages his music, he/she will be fined for the replacement cost.

FAQ: I have music from middle school/last year/four years ago, do you want it back? Yes. The earlier the better.

I loaned my music to and they did not return it. Do I still have to pay for it? Yes. If this person borrowed your music, it is your responsibility to get either the music or the money from them. The music assigned to you is your responsibility, no matter who uses it.

Someone stole my music. Do I still have to pay for it? Yes. Once again, this music was assigned to you. Additionally, we have found that when music appeared to be "stolen" it was often just misplaced by the person to whom the music was checked out.

I swear I already turned my music in! Do I still have to pay for it? Yes. If the director or music librarian does not have your music, then you must still pay to replace it. Too many students have sworn that they have turned in music, only to find it in their rooms six months later.

SOCIAL MEDIA Please follow MN Orchestra on Twitter (@Mrs.MartinezMNHS) and/or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MillardNorthOrchestra) for real-time updates about orchestra activities!

TARDIES Students are expected to arrive on time for each class. Everyone should be in their seats, ready to tune, with instruments and music ready 2 minutes after the bell. Those who arrive late to class show a blatant disrespect for their peers, the director, and for the ensemble, and will be sent to the tardy station to receive a pass. If you arrive to class later than the bell, I will count you tardy on the attendance report. Third, sixth and ninth instance of tardiness will result in office referrals and detention.

TRANSPORTATION There will be opportunities for the orchestra students to travel. When we travel as a large group/ensemble, MNHS will provide buses (for example – traveling to District Music Contest, Music Mentors with the Omaha Symphony at the Holland Center,

Commencement, etc.). If a bus is provided, MNHS expects and prefers students to ride the bus. There are some occasions where a bus is unnecessary (ex. – small ensemble performances, orchestra mentoring projects) and we may need students or parents to drive and possibly transport other students. In either case, please make sure the student's transportation form is on file in the MNHS Administration Office.

WEBSITE The orchestra maintains a website that features information about concert dates, upcoming events, practice tips, orchestra paperwork, music links, as well as an electronic version of this handbook. Information is updated periodically, so please check the site for current events. The website may be found at www.mnhsorch.com.

POSSIBLE SENIOR PROJECT/DIFFERENTIATION TOPIC LIST

Composition – Compose a piece for your instrument, a small ensemble, or for orchestra. List your influences/inspirations and include an analysis of your work.

Conducting – Choose a string orchestra piece from the music library. Learn conducting patterns and cues, study the score, and prepare the parts. Develop a plan for introducing the piece to the ensemble and work with the director on interpretation, etc. Conduct the piece during rehearsal and for a performance on Senior Share Day.

Performance – Choose a piece from the standard literature for your instrument. Research the composer, analyze the work, and prepare the piece for public performance. Keep a daily practice journal and log. Make before/during/after videotapes of your performances.

Music Education - Interview music educators to get an in depth look at the profession. Teach a series of private lessons and keep a journal of progress. Research music education journals such as American String Teacher, Journal of Research in Music Education, Music Educators Journal, etc. for teaching ideas and insights into the music education profession.

Music Theory – Using concepts discussed in class choose a piece from standard solo, chamber, or orchestral repertoire and complete an in-depth analysis. Write a paper that shows your findings.

Music History – Study a composer, instrument, or compositional style in light of the historical period. Use secondary sources to support your position on how historical events and norms affected your topic.

Music Therapy – Research this exciting field and create a report based on your findings. Shadow a music therapist and make notes/journal entries. Compile a list of schools/requirements for degrees in music therapy. Research music therapy journals like Journal of Music Therapy.

Multicultural Music – Choose a country, group, or sub-culture and study the effect of music on the lives of its society. An example could be: exploring the history and connection between blues, jazz, rock, hip-hop and rap and its impact on youth culture or exploring the music of another country (for example, Ghana) and preparing a project that shows the connection between music, dance, and everyday life.

Performance Practice – Complete a project that outlines the life and accomplishments of a famous string (violin, viola, cello, bass) musician and shows the impact this person has had on the art. Use primary and secondary sources.

Recording – Work with one of the Media Center Specialists to learn the recording equipment. Record student musicians and complete a CD. Be able to explain the process to the rest of the class.

Music in Entertainment – Create a soundtrack for a movie or television show; either one that already exists or one you create and record yourself. Compose and record the music for one or more instruments.

Consumer Music – Develop an advertising campaign for an orchestra. Determine who your target audience is and outline how to reach them. Take steps to put your campaign into effect.

*Please return this page to Mrs. Martinez by Friday, August 19 to receive 100 Written Work Grade Points.

We have read and understand the 2016-2017 Millard North Orchestra Handbook, especially the sections on attendance, grade requirements, practice expectations, and concert schedule. The required concert dates are marked on our calendar(s). We understand that attendance at concerts is mandatory and we agree to abide by the classroom and grading guidelines. We also agree to support the orchestra by following a regular practice routine at home.

Print Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Orchestra Info – If your information has not changed from last year, you do not need to complete this section!

Year of Graduation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student Email address *Mrs. Martinez will use the school email to contact you.

Parent Email address: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____

Instrument: _____

Brand Name: _____ Serial Number: _____

*Mrs. Martinez sends a lot of important information/updates via email – ESPECIALLY through Infinite Campus. Please make sure she has your current email address!

We strongly encourage you to join the Mustang Booster Club! Donations to the MBC can be earmarked for Orchestra! Please contact the Millard North Administration Office (402-715-1228) for more information.