

Welcome to Orchestra!

I'm looking forward to a new school year of exciting music and fun. I've tried to make a more inclusive syllabus this year including concert dates, opportunities in orchestra, and trips. I worked over the summer on our webpage that has all the latest information and I will work on updating that every chance I get. Please check our webpage as much as possible it will have all the events and things that are going on throughout the year. Just go to the McCants webpage and at the top click "School Pages" then "Strings Program" and you're there.

Materials

Pencil

Music (I will give this out)

Instrument and Bow

Rosin

Cleaning Cloth (To wipe the rosin off of the instrument and the strings)

Rules

1. Come to class on time.
2. Respect others.
3. Raise your hand to be called on.

Consequences

1. Warning
2. Detention
3. Parent Phone Call
4. Office Referral
5. Parent and Teacher Conference

Please contact me if you ever have any questions. My email address is probably the best way since I check throughout the day, patrickmurch@anderson5.net or here at school 260-5145. I look forward to working with you throughout the year! Thanks.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Murch

End Pin Festival

We, as in Anderson middle schools and high schools, will hold an event designed just for cello and bass players in the spring. This will be much like cello choir but with basses sharing the spot light too. This is a fun way to keep the cello and bass players sharp by giving them more challenging music and making the Violin and Viola Divas stay off the stage for once.

Special Trips

Each year I take the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to Six Flags. We will do that again this year. Each group plays in front of a panel of judges for a grade and then we spend the rest of the time at the theme park. This trip is usually about \$30-35 a person plus we design our own T-shirt for the event.



This trip will be in April or May of 2010. Parent chaperones are welcome to come on this trip. I will have more details on this in the second semester.

Information Form

This form is so that I can contact any parent's about information regarding concerts, rehearsals, fundraisers, trips, etc. ****Email addresses are very important so that I can send you information that your students might forget to tell you. Please turn this in signed by you parents by Wednesday, August 26th and it counts for your first grade.**

Student: _____

Parents: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Grades

Grades are separated into a few different categories. Concert attendance is the biggest one since performing is a major part of any ensemble. Below is the breakdown.

6th Grade System

50% Concert Attendance (Winter and Spring Concert, and possibly the March Concert)

20% Playing Tests

20% Theory Tests (Note Tests, Musical Knowledge)

10% Class Participation (Playing in class, have your instrument and bow each day)

7th and 8th Grade System

50% Concert Attendance (Fall, Winter, March, and Spring Concerts)

30% Playing Tests

10% Theory Tests

10% Class Participation (Playing in class, have your instrument and bow each day)

Some events will give you extra credit. The following is the breakdown for that:

All-County = +2 points on Interim Grade for that marking period.

Cello Choir = +2 points on Interim Grade for that marking period.

**All-Region Orchestra = +2 points on Interim Grade for that marking period
(student must make the All-Region Orchestra to earn this.)**

**All-State Orchestra = +2 points on Interim Grade for that marking period
(student must make the All-Region Orchestra to earn this.)**

End Pin Festival = +2 points on Interim Grade for that marking period.

Solo and Ensemble = +2 points on Interim Grade for that marking period.

Fundraising

We will start our first fundraiser soon to help buy the necessary music and supplies we need to help start the year off well. We typically have about three fundraisers throughout the year. I want to provide a “buy out” option for parents that don’t want to do a particular fundraiser which would exempt them from doing the fundraiser but yet would still help our cause. Once we start our first fundraiser I will give you more information on this option along with the fundraiser itself.

2009-2010

These are the dates for the school year. I put the **GAMAC** (Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium) Orchestra Concerts on here as well, so if you would like to see Mr. Speer and I play on these concerts, we would love to have you. This is the professional orchestra in our area.

August 18 - School Begins

September 1-MOB Meeting at 7pm in the McCants Orchestra Room

September 6 - GAMAC Celebrate Anderson 2009 (Free at Civic Center with Fireworks afterwards)

September 7 - School Holiday

September 29 - All-County Auditions at McCants from 4-8pm

October 10 - Region Orchestra Auditions at Greenville Fine Arts

October 16-17 - All-County Orchestra (Anderson University)

October 27 - Fall Concert at 7pm at McCants - 7th and 8th grade students will perform

November 13 - GAMAC Symphony Orchestra "Opera/Operetta 8pm at Anderson University

November 20, 21 - Region Orchestra Weekend at Anderson University

November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Break

December 8 - PTA Winter Concert - 7th and 8th grades will perform along with the band and chorus begins at 6:30pm in the Gym

December 12 - GAMAC Christmas Festival - 8pm at Anderson University

December 17 and 18 - Performances at local Nursing Homes

December 17 - Winter Concert at 7pm Boulevard Baptist Church

December 21-January 1 - Winter Break

January 9 - All-State Orchestra Auditions - Columbia, SC

January 15 - Professional Development no school

January 18 - Student Holiday

February 26-28 - All-State Orchestra Weekend

March 26 - GAMAC "Easter Celebration" Concert

March 26-27 - EndPin Festival (Event for all Cello and Bass players)

April 5-9 - Spring Break

May 6 - Spring Concert at 7pm at McCants - All grades will perform.

May 7 - GAMAC "Celebrate Anderson Talent" Concert

May 31 - School Holiday

June 3 - Last Day of School

Morning Rehearsals

Each year I setup morning rehearsals to work on music that is harder than the normal music or is something special that we don't have the time to get to in class. I will begin morning rehearsals this year during the second week of school, Monday, August 24th. The schedule will be:

Monday-Wednesday from 7-8am – All-County rehearsals

Thursday-Friday from 7-8am – Chamber Orchestra (need to have my permission to join this group as the music is very challenging)

All-County Orchestra

All-County Orchestra is an orchestra created from students that audition and are chosen from middle schools in Anderson County. The audition date is September 29th at McCants from 4-8pm in the Fine Arts building. Each year our accepted students are put in the local newspaper for this big honor and rehearse and give a concert at Anderson University on October 16th and 17th. Any student that has played for at least one year should definitely come to the morning rehearsals and try this. If anything else, they are exposed to new music that can be challenging and it will improve their playing ability.