

2020-2021 Lenape Orchestra Handbook

Mrs. Jessica Tosti – Director

Email: jtosti@cbsd.org

Phone: 267-893-2900 x1578

Teacher Site: <http://www.cbsd.org/Domain/1638>

Welcome to the Lenape Orchestra! I am very excited to work together this year. Orchestra is a truly special class, in which you will improve your playing skills, meet new friends, partake in community and school service, and much more. Please read through our handbook for important information. Note that I am writing this year's handbook to include all scheduled events, but everything is subject to change due to COVID.

I understand that this year brings unique learning, social, financial challenges. But I am confident that we will find new opportunities for creativity, connection, and musical growth. If you need financial assistance with regard to Orchestra instruments or supplies, please do not hesitate to ask for help!

Performances

(All tentative due to our virtual start; please mark down the dates but I will be in touch.)

Winter Orchestra Concert

Wednesday, December 9th 7:00 PM

All grade levels perform.

Special Person's Day In-School Concert

Friday, December 18th

9th grade Orchestra & Select String Ensemble perform.

West Wing Concert

Thursday, February 4th 7:00 PM

The Lenape & Tohickon 9th grade Orchestras will perform with the CB West Orchestra.

Lenape String Social

Thursday, February 25th 5:30-7:30 PM

9th grade Orchestra hosts the Doyle, Bridge Valley, Kutz, & Linden 6th gr. Orchestras.

Spring Orchestra Concert

Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00 PM

All grade levels perform.

Music in the Parks Adjudication Trip

Allentown, PA Friday, May 14th

Select String Ensemble competes.

String Performance Groups & Other Activities

Orchestra Class: Will start the year virtually as with all other classes. Under normal circumstances, Orchestra class is offered to students who play the violin, viola, cello, or double bass. The class meets all year, every other day, for a 50- minute period. Students play in a string orchestra setting and perform in the Winter and Spring Concerts. Students will advance on their instrument and learn how to be an ensemble player.

Select String Ensemble: Participation in String Ensemble is by audition. This year I will hold virtual auditions in late September. I will post audition material on Canvas within the first week of school. I am not sure when the group will start up yet as we are still awaiting guidance from the district. I will communicate more specifics once I have them. This select group performs for a variety of functions including concerts, awards ceremonies, school board meetings, and community events. String Ensemble competes in the Music in the Parks Festival. Rehearsals are Thursday afternoons from 2:40-4:00 PM. Students must be enrolled in Orchestra class to be eligible for String Ensemble.

Ninth Grade String Quartet/Quintet: This auditioned, elite chamber group is chosen by highest 9th grade String Ensemble audition scores. Most rehearsals take place during the school day, but some after-school rehearsals might be needed. Performances include all seasonal Orchestra Concerts, the NJHS Induction Ceremony, 9th grade Promotion Ceremony, and other school and community events. Students must be in 9th grade Orchestra & String Ensemble to be eligible.

Participation in Band/Choir/Spring Musical: Lenape has many different music groups. If you are interested in singing, you can! If you play piano, guitar, bass, drums, or another band instrument, talk to me about doing that too. Interested in auditioning for the Spring Musical or doing Tech Crew? Great; we encourage you to try new things in middle school and all of these can be done in addition to Orchestra.

Sports & Music: You can absolutely be a student musician and athlete. In fact, many of our musicians are also accomplished athletes. Again, I encourage you to explore all that Lenape has to offer. The music directors and coaches are very used to sharing students after school, so you need not worry. If you are participating in a sport, just let Mrs. Tosti know so we can discuss your music and sports schedules.

String Ensemble Attendance Policy

Weekly attendance is expected at String Ensemble rehearsals. Students CAN participate in multiple after-school activities, including sports & other music ensembles. Continued participation in String Ensemble is contingent on consistent attendance. If students are participating in a Lenape or West sport, they must give Mrs. Tosti a copy of their sports schedule at the beginning of the season. It is up to students to initiate conversation about how time will be split between String Ensemble and the sport. We are always able

to work out a solution when discussed ahead of time. Students will not be permitted to take multi-week breaks from String Ensemble for any reason.

Grading

Students will be graded on the following:

- Meeting weekly playing goals through practice.
- Arriving on time and prepared for class with instrument, folder, music, and a pencil.
- Contributing individual effort and focus toward group success.
- Contributing to in class conversation and reflection.
- After School Rehearsals and Concerts
- Performance Exams and Quizzes.
- Written assignments, concert reflections, theory work, and reading assignments.

Expectations

- Students are asked to treat classmates, instruments, and equipment with respect at all times. Orchestra class should be a safe, supportive environment in which everyone feels respected.
- During virtual class, students should be on time, prepared with instrument, music, and a pencil. Students are expected to have their camera on.
- During in person class, violinists/violists should bring their instrument and folder to/from school on Orchestra class days. Instruments should not be left at school all week or only brought home on weekends. Cellists/bassists should bring their folder to/from school.
- Students are encouraged to try their best. Music is a lot of fun but is not easy. The more you put into playing your instrument, the more fun you will have!
- Orchestra class is not a large time commitment beyond the school day. Students in Orchestra class only must attend the Winter and Spring Concerts, as well 2 after school rehearsals preceding each concert. These dates will always be communicated far in advance. Since after school rehearsals and concerts are part of the curriculum, they are graded and mandatory.
- Students are expected to establish a daily practice routine at home. Practicing at home is the best way to further progress and reinforce concepts learned in class. Think of practicing as your homework for Orchestra class. Always practice with GOALS in mind, not minutes. Parents should help their child establish a practice schedule and encourage practice.

Communication & Technology

Mrs. Tosti

jtosti@cbsd.org

267-893-2800

Canvas: CBSD's main hub for student assignments and resources. This should be where you go to attend virtual classes, view modules, our calendar, etc.

[7th grade Orchestra Canvas](#)

[8th Grade Orchestra Canvas](#)

[9th Grade Orchestra Canvas](#)

School Wires Teacher Site:

<https://www.cbsd.org/Domain/1638#calendar131362/20200818/month>

FlipGrid: An app and website that we will use to create video submissions for auditions and assignments.

Remind: An app and website that we will use for one-way communication from the teacher to students/parents. I will only use the Remind app for last minute changes/information that needs to be pushed out quickly. It will not be the main form of communication.

Students cannot message each other through Remind.

Join Remind

7th grade Orchestra- text @lenorch7 to 81010

8th grade Orchestra- text @lenape8t to 81010

9th grade Orchestra- text @lenape9t to 81010

Follow the Lenape Orchestra and the CB West Orchestra on social media:

Twitter: @TostiCBStrings

Instagram: cbw.orchestra

After School Rehearsal & Concert Policy

As stated above, attending after school rehearsals and concerts is part of the Orchestra curriculum and therefore graded. Since they are our only opportunity to rehearse with the full group, they are mandatory. If you have a sports practice or game that overlaps with an after-school rehearsal, please let Mrs. Tosti know as soon as possible. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments on the after-school rehearsal days.

- If a concert is missed (**excused**), a written assignment will be given to substitute the missed points. An excused absence includes a medical emergency that cannot be communicated in advance or an extenuating circumstance that is discussed prior to the missed concert. The make- up assignment can be found on my teacher site and is due two weeks after the missed concert.
- If a concert is missed (**unexcused**), no substitute assignment will be given and the student receives 0 points. An unexcused absence includes not showing up for the rehearsal/concert with no communication before and/or after the date.

Concert Attire

Our ensemble is a team, so when we perform, we want to look united. The Lenape Orchestra concert “uniform” is black pants (no skirts or dresses), white dress shirt (no sleeveless or t-shirts), black shoes, and a tie for gentlemen. Please make sure you have these items in advance of the concerts. Please do not spend a lot of money on concert clothing. I recommend shopping at Kohls, Marshalls, thrift stores, Amazon, etc. If this presents a financial problem, please let Mrs. Tosti know and we will secure your child clothing.

Private Lessons

While it is not required that students take private lessons, it is an option to consider. Some students study privately to supplement the progress we make in class. A list of local private teachers is available upon request.

Instrument Rentals & Storage

You can rent instruments through Zeswitz or Russo Music Services and have them dropped off to Lenape. If you need a rental instrument for this school year, please order now! Go to russomusic.com and click on PA. All of the CB schools will be found in a drop down box. Select Lenape and Russo will deliver your instrument to school. For Zeswitz, go to zeswitzmusic.com and follow the prompts to rent. THIS YEAR, ALL INSTRUMENTS WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE CBSD ED CENTER FOR PICKUP. Please refer to Mrs. Tosti’s email for specific dates.

Violins and violas are brought to/from school each B day for class. They are stored in a storage room in the Auditorium. Violinists and violist will be assigned an instrument locker, which requires a combination lock. **Please put a name- tag on your case.** Cello & bass players should keep their instruments at home to practice on and will be provided an instrument to play for class.

Due to COVID safety precautions, students will not be sharing instruments this school year. Cellists and bassists will still be able to use school-owned instruments for class and will be assigned their own. Violinists/violists who forget their instrument will not be able to use a loaner instrument, so please be sure to bring instruments to school each class day.