

# 2021- 2022 Lenape Orchestra Handbook

Mrs. Jessica Tosti – Director

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[Mrs. Tosti's School Wires Teacher Site](#)

**Welcome to the Lenape Orchestra!** I am very excited to work together this year. Orchestra is a truly special class and community, in which you will improve your playing skills, meet new friends, learn valuable life skills through music, and have the opportunity for school and community service. Please read through our handbook for important information. Though the past 2 school years have presented great challenges, 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!

## 2021-2022 Performance Schedule

**Additional smaller performances may be added, but the Winter & Spring Concerts are our main two performances that all students perform in.**

**Halloween Pops Concert** Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM  
The Lenape & Tohickon 9<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestras will perform with the CB West Orchestra.  
**Rehearsal TBA**

**Special Person's Day In-School Concert** Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Only 9<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra & Select String Ensemble perform.

**\*Winter Orchestra Concert** Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM  
All grade levels perform.

**Welcome to West Orchestra Concert** Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 PM

**Lenape String Social** Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00-8:00 PM  
Only 9<sup>th</sup> grade hosts the Doyle, Bridge Valley, Kutz, & Linden 6<sup>th</sup> gr. Orchestras.

**NJHS Induction Ceremony** Spring- exact date TBD  
Only the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Quartet/Quintet performs

**\*Spring Orchestra Concert** Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 7:00 PM  
All grade levels perform.

**Music in the Parks Adjudication Trip**  
Only select String Ensemble competes.

Allentown, PA Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

**Ninth Grade Promotion Ceremony**  
Only the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Quartet/Quintet performs

June- exact date TBD

### **String Performance Groups & Other Activities**

**Orchestra Class:** 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 and is open to students in grades 7-9. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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, 9<sup>th</sup> grade Promotion Ceremony, and other school and community events. Students must be in 9<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra & String Ensemble to be eligible.

**BCMEA & PMEA Honors Orchestra Festivals:** These three-day honors orchestra festivals are by audition and are great opportunities for serious/advanced players to gain more experience and to work with musicians outside of Central Bucks. Please see my teacher site for audition information, dates, and repertoire.

**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. Middle school is a time of exploration and I encourage you to do so! We can always find a way to manage schedules with proactive conversation. Continued participation in String Ensemble is contingent on consistent attendance. If students are participating in a Lenape or West sport, they are asked to 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 & prepared for class with instrument, folder, music, & a pencil.
- Contributing individual effort and focus on 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 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's Teacher Site](#)**

My School Wires teacher site includes our rehearsal and concert calendar, BCMEA & PMEA Honors Orchestra information, String Ensemble audition repertoire and more.

**Canvas:** We will use Canvas for lessons, assignments, resources, and more.

**[7th grade Orchestra Canvas](#)**

**[8th grade Orchestra Canvas](#)**

**[9th grade Orchestra Canvas](#)**

**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**

7<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra- text @lenape7t to 81010

8<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra- text @lenape8th to 81010

9<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra- text @lenape9th to 81010

**Follow the Lenape Orchestra and the CB West Orchestras 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! Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade violinists should order a full-size and 7<sup>th</sup> grade violists will be measured upon returning to school. A good rule of thumb is to go up one size from what you had in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If you rent from Russo Music, go to [russomusic.com](http://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. If you rent from Zeswitz, go to [zeswitzmusic.com](http://zeswitzmusic.com) and follow the prompts to rent.

Violins and violas are brought to/from school each “B-day” for class and are stored in a storage room in the Auditorium. Violinists and violists 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. There is no need to bring cellos/basses back and forth to school (except for after school rehearsals and concerts).