

2018-2019 Tohickon Orchestra Handbook

Mrs. Jennifer Repper – Director

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Welcome to the Tohickon Orchestra! In this handbook, you will find information about our string groups, schedules, expectations, and more. You can also find this information on my teacher site.

2018-19 Schedule

Any additions will be communicated in advance.

Select String Ensemble Auditions	October 1 and 3, 2018
West Halloween Concert 9 th grade Orchestra members perform at West	Tuesday, October 30, 2018 7:30pm
*Winter Concert Rehearsal All string groups	Tuesday, December 11, 2018 2:30-3:45pm
*Winter Orchestra Concert 7:00pm All string groups perform	Tuesday, December 18, 2018
VH-1 Rehearsal String Ensemble and 9 th grade Orchestra members	Tuesday, January 22, 2019 6-7pm
CB VH1 Save the Music Foundation Benefit Concert String Ensemble and 9 th grade Orchestra members perform at Holicong	Saturday, January 26, 2019 2pm
Tohickon String Social Orchestra Leaders and String Ensemble	Thursday, February 21, 2019 Snow Date Monday, March 4, 2019
East Pops Concert 9 th grade Orchestra members perform at East	Thursday February 28, 2019 7:30pm
*Spring Orchestra Rehearsal All string groups	TBA
*Spring Orchestra Concert All string groups perform	Monday, May 13, 2019 7:00pm
Music Adjudication Trip Allentown, PA String Ensemble performs	Friday, May 17, 2019
6th grade Orientation In-School Performance String Ensemble performs	Wednesday, May 22, 2019
Principal's Awards Ceremony String Ensemble performs	Wednesday, May 22, 2019 7pm



String Performance Groups

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.

String Ensemble (select group): Participation in String Ensemble is by audition. Audition packets are available in the Orchestra room. This select group performs for a variety of functions including concerts, awards ceremonies, school board meetings, and the VH-1 Charity Concert. String Ensemble performs in the Music Adjudication Festival in May. Rehearsals are on alternating Tuesday & Wednesdays (whichever is the B day) from 2:30 – 3:45pm.

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. It is up to students to initiate conversation about how time will be split between String Ensemble and school sports. We are always able to work out a solution when discussed ahead of time.

Tohickon Instrument Storage & Rentals

All students will need instruments to play in class on **Friday, September 7!**

Violins and violas are brought to/from school each B day for class. They are to be stored in the Orchestra room or in the team storage closets on each academic hallway. Violinists and violists can be assigned an individual instrument locker in the music area which requires a combination lock. **ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A LUGGAGE TAG ON THEIR INSTRUMENT CASE.** Cello & bass players should keep their instruments at home to practice on and will be provided an instrument to play for class.

Central Bucks has changed instrument vendors. You can now rent instruments through Zeswitz Music Service and have them dropped off to Tohickon. If you need a rental instrument for this school year, please order now!

Go to the [Zeswitz website](#) ***Choose Central Bucks School District, Tohickon, and ASAP Delivery on Zeswitz's online order form and Zeswitz will deliver your instrument directly to school.

Orchestra Class Grading Policy

Class Performance & Preparation

Arriving prepared for class with instrument, folder and pencil.

Meeting weekly playing goals through practice.

Contributing individual effort and focus toward group success in class.

Contributing in class conversation and reflection.

Rehearsal & Concert Skills

Arriving prepared for rehearsal with instrument, folder, music, and a pencil.

Contributing individual effort and focus toward group success in rehearsal and performance.

After School Rehearsal and Concert attendance.

Performance & Technology Assessments

Performance Exams and Quizzes.

Written assignments, concert reflections, theory work, and technology assignments.

Expectations

- Students are asked to treat classmates, instruments, and equipment with respect at all times. Let's promote a positive environment for our Orchestra.
- 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 and we 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 as 1 after school rehearsal 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.

Concert Attire

The Tohickon Orchestra concert "uniform" is black pants (no skirts or dresses), white shirt, and black shoes.

Please make sure you have these items in advance of the concerts.

Remind

All Orchestra students and parents are encouraged to sign-up for "Remind" messages. Remind is a system that we will be using throughout the year to communicate important information about what is going on in class, what is coming up, and other important happenings. This technology is being used by teachers throughout the district and allows for information to be sent directly to your phones without Mrs. Repper to be able to see your phone number or personal information.

To sign-up for REMIND messages text: "@tohic" to 81010

After School Rehearsal & Concert Policy

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

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. Working one on one with a teacher is the best way to improve your playing. A list of local private teachers is available upon request.

BCMEA County & PMEA District Orchestra Festivals

The BCMEA County Orchestra and PMEA District Orchestra Festivals are auditioned, 3-day honors orchestra festivals. The festivals include string students from Bucks and Montgomery counties. Students who take private lessons, are in String Ensemble, and/or are highly motivated are encouraged to audition for these festivals. Please speak with your private teacher & Mrs. Repper if you are interested in auditioning. Audition requirements are posted on my teacher site.

By audition for students in grades 7 & 8

BCMEA County Middle School Orchestra Audition	1/8/19 (snow date 1/16/18)
BCMEA County Middle School Orchestra Festival	March 14-16, 2019 (snow date 3/17/19)

By audition for students in grades 9-12

PMEA District High School Orchestra Audition	12/8/18
PMEA District High School Orchestra Festival	Thursday-Saturday, February 7-9, 2019

BCMEA County High School Orchestra Audition	11/14/18 (snow date 11/15/18)
BCMEA County High School Orchestra Festival	March 14-16, 2019 (snow date 3/17/19)



Curricular Graded Rehearsal/Concert Dates

West Halloween Concert Tuesday, October 30, 2018 7:30pm
9th grade Orchestra members perform at West

***Winter Concert Rehearsal** Tuesday, December 11th 2:30-3:45pm
All string groups

***Winter Orchestra Concert** Tuesday, December 18, 2018 7:00 pm
All string groups perform

East Pops Concert Thursday February 28, 2019 7:30pm
9th grade Orchestra members perform at East

***Spring Orchestra Rehearsal** TBA
All string groups

***Spring Orchestra Concert** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 7:00 pm
All string groups perform

2018-2019 Tohickon Orchestra Contract

Please fill out and return this page by September 7th

Student Name (please print): _____

Parent's Names (please print) _____

Preferred Phone # () _____

Preferred Parent Email _____

Instrument _____ Grade: 7th _____ 8th _____ 9th _____

List other instruments you play (if any) _____

Do you take private lessons on your Orchestra instrument? YES / NO

If No: Are you interested in private instruction and would like some recommendations? YES / NO

If Yes: Private Teacher Name _____ No. of years taken _____

We have read the packet and understand the expectations and grading procedures of participation in Orchestra. We understand that after school rehearsals are part of our child's grade and are therefore mandatory. We have put all rehearsal and concert dates on our home calendar and understand that they are curricular and therefore graded.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

****Don't forget to sign up for REMIND!