**2019-2020 Holicong Orchestra Handbook**

Mrs. Jennifer Repper – DirectorEmail: jrepper@cbsd.org

**Welcome to the Holicong 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.

**2019-20 Schedule**

*Any additions or changes will be communicated in advance.*

*\*Indicates Curricular, Graded Activities*

**7th grade Music Kick-Off Night**  Tuesday, September 24, 2019

7th grade Orchestra members perform

**Select String Ensemble Auditions**  October 1- 4, 2019 after school by appointment

**\*9th Grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus Rehearsal** Wednesday, December 4, 2019 2:30-4:30pm

9th grade Orchestra members

**\*9th grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus Concert** Thursday, December 5, 2019 7:00pm

9th grade Orchestra members perform

**\*Winter Concert Rehearsal @ EAST** Monday, December 9, 20192:30-5pm

All string groups

**\*Winter Orchestra Concert @ EAST** Tuesday, December 10, 2019 7:00 pm

All string groups perform

**VH-1 Rehearsal** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 6-7pm

String Ensemble and 9th grade Orchestra members

**CB VH1 Save the Music Foundation Benefit Concert** Saturday, January 25, 2020 7:30 pm

String Ensemble and 9th grade Orchestra members perform

**Holicong String Social**  Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Orchestra Leaders and String Ensemble

**\*9th Grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus Rehearsal** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 2:30-4:30pm

9th grade Orchestra members

**\*9th Grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus Concert**  Wednesday, May 6, 2020 7:00 pm

9th grade Orchestra members perform

**\*Spring Orchestra Rehearsal** Monday, May 18, 2020 2:30-5pm All string groups

**\*Spring Orchestra Concert** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 7:00 pm

All string groups perform

**Music Adjudication Trip** Allentown, PA Friday, May 29, 2020

String Ensemble performs



**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 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 materials 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 Tuesdays from 2:30 – 4:00pm**.

**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.

## Instrument Rentals & Storage

**All students will need instruments to play in class on Thursday, September 5!**

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 INTRUMENT CASE!** Cello & bass players should keep their instruments at home to practice on and will be provided an instrument to play for class. If you need a rental instrument for this school year, please order now!

Zeswitz is the official vendor of Central Bucks School District. If you are currently renting from another company you may continue to do so. If not, go to the [Zeswitz website](http://www.zeswitzmusic.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  \*\*\*Choose Central Bucks School District, Holicong, and ASAP Delivery on Zeswitz’s online order form and Zeswitz will deliver your instrument directly to school.

**\*\*Parents: Orchestra members are not allowed to keep their instruments at Holicong long-term. You should see (and hear!) their instrument at home on a regular basis as they always have music to practice.  Holicong Middle School and the Central Bucks School District will not be responsible for missing or damaged instruments.**

**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.

Class performance and progress.

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. 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 1-2 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 Central Bucks 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 daily practice schedule and encourage practice.

**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 Mrs. Repper’s teacher site.

**By audition for students in grades 7 & 8**

BCMEA County Middle School Orchestra Audition 1/7/20 (snow date 1/15/20)

BCMEA County Middle School Orchestra Festival March 19-21, 2020 (snow date 3/22/20)

**By audition for students in grades 9-12**

BCMEA County High School Orchestra Audition 11/14/19 (snow date 11/14/19)

BCMEA County High School Orchestra Festival March 19-21, 2020 (snow date 3/22/20)

PMEA District High School Orchestra Audition 12/14/19

PMEA District High School Orchestra Festival Thursday-Saturday, January 29-31, 2020

**Holicong Music Department – Concert Dress Code**

The Holicong Music Department has decided to standardize the concert dress code for all ensembles. This will make things easier for all involved, but especially for students who “double” in more than one music group and parents who may have students in different ensembles. As you read the requirements below, please keep in mind that a concert is a special occasion that represents the culmination of months of hard work. Please take as much pride in your appearance as you do in your performance.

Please know that while ripped jeans/pants are popular, they are not appropriate concert attire and may not be worn on stage. Any student who arrives wearing ripped pants, or any other article of clothing that does not adhere to the Holicong dress code, will not be permitted to perform that evening and will receive a “0” for the concert.

CONCERT ATTIRE FOR BOYS:

* Black shirt: Polo shirt or dress shirt (short sleeve is fine)
* All shirts must be tucked in
* Black pants: Dress pants, black khakis/slacks, or black jeans
* Pants with rips/holes are not appropriate attire and should not be worn on stage
* Jogging pants or warm-up pants are not appropriate attire and should not be worn on stage
* Black shoes or nice black sneakers
* Flip-flops and slides are not appropriate attire and should not be worn on stage
* Black socks
* Ties are optional unless specified by your director

CONCERT ATTIRE FOR GIRLS:

* Black top: Shirt, blouse, or other appropriate style that adheres to the school dress code
* Black pants: Dress pants, black khakis/slacks, INTACT black jeans, leggings, capris, and yoga pants are all acceptable
* Pants with rips/holes are not appropriate attire and should not be worn on stage
* Jogging pants or warm-up pants are not appropriate attire and should not be worn on stage
* Black shoes or nice black sneakers
* “Dress sandals” may be worn but flip-flops or slides are not appropriate
* Black socks (if necessary)

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**Curricular Graded Rehearsal/Concert Dates**

**\*9th Grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus Rehearsal** Wednesday, December 4, 2019 2:30-4:30pm

9th grade Orchestra members

**\*9th grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus Concert** Thursday, December 5, 2019 7:00pm

9th grade Orchestra members perform

**\*Winter Concert Rehearsal @ EAST** Wednesday, December 4, 2019 3-5pm

All string groups

**\*Winter Orchestra Concert @ EAST** Tuesday, December 10, 2019 7:00 pm

All string groups perform.

**\*9th Grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus Rehearsal** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 2:30-4:30pm

9th grade Orchestra members

**\*9th Grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus Concert**  Wednesday, May 6, 2020 7:00 pm

9th grade Orchestra members perform

**\*Spring Orchestra Rehearsal** Monday, May 18, 2020 2:30-5pm

All string groups

**\*Spring Orchestra Concert** May 19, 2020 7:00 pm

All string groups perform.

## Remind

All Orchestra students and parents are required 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.

**ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS should sign-up for REMIND messages!**

**7TH GRADE ORCHESTRA text: “@78fh3dh” to 81010**

**8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA text: “@4eadk2” to 81010**

**9TH GRADE ORCHESTRA text: “@kg6g39” to 81010**

**2019-2020 Holicong Orchestra Contract**

**Please fill out and return this page by September 5th**

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 Yes: Private Teacher Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ # of years taken \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

***I have read this packet and understand the grading procedures and expectations for participation in Orchestra. I understand that after school rehearsals are part of our child’s grade and are therefore mandatory. I have put all rehearsal and concert dates on our home calendar and understand that they are curricular and therefore graded. I have signed up to the REMIND group for the appropriate grade.***

**STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT SIGNATURE**: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**