



2017-2018 Handbook

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Benefits

Benefits of Orchestra at Walton High School

The Walton Orchestras have developed a well-founded reputation as being one of the nations finest. Students at Walton High School have the opportunity to learn and perform music that has withstood the test of time.

Orchestra literature is one of Western culture's great treasures. It provides a broader historical perspective than one finds in other instrumental literature. Playing a string instrument integrates a person's physical, intellectual, and expressive qualities. This provides a very positive experience at an influential period in the lives of students.

There has been much publicity about recent research that indicates the powerful effect music can have on the intellectual and creative development of children. One noted author, teacher, and musician, Don Campbell, has written a book on "The Mozart Effect" which describes how children listening to the music of Mozart have increased verbal, emotional, and spatial intelligence, plus improved concentration and memory. In an orchestra, students not only hear the music of Mozart, but they are actually involved in playing his music!

The opportunities for lifelong participation are numerous. For those who excel in musical ability, many colleges offer scholarships for string instrument players. There are many community orchestras as well as countless church music groups. In addition to the standard orchestra concerts, string instruments are also used in a variety of other musical settings. They often provide accompaniment for musical theater and choral productions. String ensembles are used for an endless variety of entertainment functions.

Additional Benefits of Orchestra

Orchestra is often taken for granted. It is important to realize that a quality musical education has many benefits that extend beyond the realm of music performance. Orchestra additionally helps students to

- Develop a habit of persistence that will help them through the tough times in life and keeps them on task when it would be easier to quit
- Learn to be more responsible and see that mistakes are an opportunity to grow and make necessary corrections on the road to success.
- Master the skills of cooperation so they enjoy working with their counterparts in every realm of personal and professional life.

Some of the newest and most exciting emerging research shows that there is a link between years of musical study and academic achievement. "Students with course work/experience in music performance scored 52 points higher on the verbal section of the SAT and 37 points higher on the math portion than students with no course work or experience in the arts. And the difference in scores increased with the number of years involved. Those who studied music four or more years scored a combined 101 points higher on the SAT than students with no course work or experience in the arts (Profiles of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, The College Board, 1997." When studied further, the research shows that studying a student instrument tends to accelerate this benefit.

Through participation in orchestra, students can experience an added dimension to their education. We encourage you to take advantage of enrichment opportunity.

2016-2017 Orchestra Course Descriptions

Dorian & Aeolian Orchestra (Freshmen Orchestras) – These orchestras are open to 9th grade students. There is no audition required if the student played in Dodgen or Dickerson’s 8th grade orchestra. These orchestras are intermediate level string ensembles for students who play violin, viola, cello or double bass. The techniques of string playing are stressed within the context of music performance (Georgia Level III or IV music difficulty). Rehearsals are held during the curricular school day, with an occasional afternoon rehearsal before concerts. Performances are usually in the evening. Students are required to have a uniform. They are also expected to provide their own instrument and bow and participate in booster club activities. The Walton Orchestra holds an annual orchestra camp prior to the beginning of every school year. Other trips may be taken to supplement the curriculum.

Ionian & Locrian Orchestra (Formerly Serenade Orchestra) These orchestras are open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. There is no audition required if the student played in a freshmen orchestra at Walton. This is an intermediate level string ensemble for students who play violin, viola, cello or double bass. The techniques of string playing are stressed within the context of music performance (Georgia Level III music difficulty). Rehearsals are held during the curricular school day, with an occasional afternoon rehearsal before concerts. Performances are usually in the evening. Students are required to have a uniform. They are also expected to provide their own instrument and bow and participate in booster club activities. The Walton Orchestra holds an annual orchestra camp prior to the beginning of every school year. Other trips may be taken to supplement the curriculum.

Sinfonia Orchestra-This orchestra is open to 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and is an advanced orchestra with usually just violin, viola, cello and double bass students. Advanced techniques of string playing are stressed within the context of music performance (Georgia Level IV-V-VI music difficulty). After school or evening rehearsals may be required in addition to several evening concerts. Students are required to have a uniform. They are also expected to provide their own instrument and bow and participate in booster club activities. The Walton Orchestra holds an annual orchestra camp prior to the beginning of every school year. Other trips may be taken to supplement the curriculum. Private lessons are recommended.

Philharmonia Orchestra-This award-winning group performs standard, professional, orchestral, string, and chamber music repertoire at the highest level of difficulty. After school or evening rehearsals are required in addition to evening concerts. Students are required to have a uniform. They are also expected to own a high quality instrument and wooden bow and participate in booster club activities. The Walton Orchestra holds an annual orchestra camp prior to the beginning of every school year. Other trips may be taken to supplement the curriculum. Private lessons are strongly recommended.

Chamber Orchestra -This award-winning group performs standard, professional, orchestral, string, and chamber music repertoire at the highest level of difficulty. Symphony Orchestra combines with woodwind, brass and percussionists from the advanced band to form a full orchestra. After school or evening rehearsals are required in addition to evening concerts. Students are required to have a uniform. They are also expected to own a high quality instrument and wooden bow and participate in booster club activities. The Walton Orchestra holds an annual orchestra camp prior to the beginning of every school year. Other trips may be taken to supplement the curriculum. Private lessons are strongly recommended.

Orchestra Course Placement

Admission into the Walton Orchestra Program is by recommendation of the middle school teacher and by audition. To be enrolled in Dorian, Aeolian, Ionian, or Locrian students are enrolled by teacher signature on the Walton registration form. The top orchestras (Sinfonia, Philharmonia, and Chamber Orchestra) are by audition only. Rehearsal standards corresponding to your placement are expected; failure to maintain a high standard may result in a lowered orchestra level.

Auditions are typically held in March or April for the following school year. Each student will have an assigned audition time and be required to play the same scales, arpeggios, and excerpts, and sight-reading for a judge. The judge will use a standardized form to score each performance. These scores will be tallied and to determine orchestra placement for the following year. Audition results are final.

Walton is fortunate to have seven excellent orchestras. Every member of the program is important. You control where you sit by how well you play your audition. Practice, over a long period of time, under the guidance of a private instructor, and on a quality instrument and bow will help you make the most progress. In the words of Ben Franklin on the democratic form of government, "It's the worst form of government, except for all others." A parallel can be drawn about auditions and seating. Auditions are the worst form of seating, except for all others.

Remember the purpose of private lessons is NOT to "get a higher chair," but is to gain a better understanding, appreciation, and love for your instrument and its repertoire.

Policies & Procedures

Conduct

All Walton High School and Cobb County rules and policies will be followed in the Orchestra classroom. Good rehearsal conduct shall be observed at all times. The most important rule of conduct is to show respect for your peers and teachers. Consideration, courtesy and a positive attitude are contagious. Conduct which affects the learning of others will not be tolerated. In the words of Charles Swindoll, 'The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond to it.... I believe that the single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude.... When my attitudes are right, there's no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, no challenge too great for me.' Rehearsal time is limited and valuable. Inappropriate talking disrupts a rehearsal, wastes time, and hurts the entire ensemble. If injury or instrument repair prevents you from playing, you are expected to be in your seat with your music silently participating through your listening.

According to the late Georgia State Senator Edwin Gochenour (1953-1999):

- It is better to be united in the truth than to be united in error.
- It is better to tell the truth that hurts, then heals, than to tell a lie that heals, then kills.
- It is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie.
- It is better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with the multitudes.
- It is better to ultimately win with the truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie.

Violin/Viola Lockers

Each violinist and violist will be assigned an individual instrument storage locker. A lock will be issued to each student for the school year. The lock will be returned at the end of the year in the condition that it was issued. If the lock is misplaced or lost, a fee of ten dollars will be charged for a replacement lock. Please remember to keep your locker clean and neat. An instrument locker is subject to the same policies as any other locker at Walton High School (see Walton Student Handbook).

School Instruments

Walton is very fortunate to be able to provide cello and bass students with a good quality instrument and bow to use at school. The daily use of these instruments carries a substantial cost for upkeep (including bow re-hair, replacing warped bridges, gluing open seams, replacing worn strings, etc). Each student using a school instrument is asked to donate to the School Instrument Usage Fund, as shown on the Fall Fees.

Each student will be assigned a specific instrument and bow and should wipe clean the instrument top and students and loosen the bow hair after each use. School expenses incurred due to student carelessness will be the responsibility of the individual student and his or her parents.

Attendance:

Classroom attendance is essential for learning to occur. It is also crucial that students attend each extra orchestra or sectional rehearsal and all performances. The orchestra is a team that depends on every member; absences will result in lower grades. Please PLAN AHEAD to avoid conflicts with other activities (this includes appointments, work hours, lessons, tutoring, etc.) or be prepared to accept the consequences. Upon returning from an absence, a student may be required to perform excerpts for a section leader, Dr. Holbrook, or Mrs. Grimes.

Absences

Any student absent from any after-school rehearsal or performance for any reason must complete a Request for Excused Orchestra Absence form. A student must follow these guidelines for an excused orchestra absence:

1. Complete a Request for Orchestra Absence online form.
2. The absence form should be completed more than one week in advance of an anticipated absence.
3. In the event of illness or emergency, please call the Orchestra Office voice mail and leave a message at 770-578-3225 ext. 292. Then complete the Request for Orchestra Absence online form.
4. Conflicts with other school activities will only be excused if BOTH teachers are notified well in advance and student planning is evident.

Tardies

Orchestra students are expected to be on time to class, rehearsals, and performances. Tardy is defined as one of the following two items 1) not being in the orchestra room when the late bell rings 2) not being in your assigned seat within 3 minutes of the late bell, ready to observe good tuning procedures.

Class tardies are handled according to the following steps as outlined in the Walton Student Handbook:

Tardies #1-3: Teacher or class secretary warning (subject to change)

Tardies #4-7: WEB detention

Tardy #8+: Administrative referral (subject to change)

Students who are late due to school business (excused) must have a signed note from a teacher or administrator. Excessive class tardies will affect future auditions.

Orchestra Office

The orchestra office is a place of work. Please knock before entering and do not enter without Dr. Holbrook or Mrs. Grimes' permission. The telephone is for orchestra business only and may only be used with permission.

Orchestra Rehearsal Room and Side Rooms

Our orchestra room deserves the same care and consideration that our instruments receive. Please remember to pick up after yourself. The side rooms are only to be used for musical practice. Please keep the orchestra room and side rooms neat and orderly by straightening stands and chairs before you leave. If you take stands and chairs from the main classroom, please return them when you are done. No food or drinks are allowed in the side rooms. Failure to respect this rule will result in a detention.

Orchestra Pictures

Individual and group pictures are taken in August. All students participate in the group pictures, in complete uniform, whether purchasing a photo or not. Each student also has an opportunity for individual picture package with his/her instrument. Pre-payment is required for all pictures on the Fall Fees.

Music and Athletics

Music students are encouraged to participate in sports provided they can attend rehearsals for their performing groups. The director and coach will work out a compromising schedule if conflicts arise, however it is the student's responsibility to inform the director and coach of any conflicts. Last minute conflicts will not be accommodated.

Scheduling

Orchestra members who foresee scheduling problems should consult the directors for assistance. A student's scholastic progress will be given prime consideration when trying to resolve conflicts between Orchestra and other courses. However, enrollment in Orchestra is encouraged and desired at all times. Orchestra is a year long class, and mid-year changes will not be accommodated.

Parent Contact

E-mail is the easiest way to reach the Orchestra Directors. Please contact Dr. Holbrook at perry.holbrook@cobbk12.org and Mrs. Grimes at sara.grimes@cobbk12.org. Conferences are scheduled as necessary. Please contact the director for an appointment.

Instrument Insurance

It is strongly recommended that every musician provide insurance on his or her instrument and bow. Please check with your homeowner's insurance provider or other insurance agencies for policy information.

Calendar

The Orchestra calendar is always up to date on the Walton Orchestra website (www.waltonorchestra.org). Students and parents are encouraged to constantly check the calendar for updates. In Charms, you may sync the calendar to your smart phone, tablet device, or computer. When in doubt about times and dates, the calendar on the orchestra website always supersedes any other calendar.

Charms

Charms is the orchestra's online database and communication tool. It can be reached from the orchestra website homepage. All information is SSL encrypted and is secure. The student's password is their student id number (lunch number). Contact Mrs. Grimes if you have problems accessing your account.

Georgia All State and Cobb County Honor Orchestras

Audition requirements are found on the Georgia Music Educators Association website. You can find the link to their site on the Orchestra Website.

Orchestra Website

The orchestra website has the most up-to-date information. It also provides a wealth of information about our program and history. There is a mobile site available to smart phone users as well. www.waltonorchestra.org

Orchestra Special Trips & Trip Fees

To enrich the Orchestra experience, the Directors may propose special trips in addition to Camp. Depending on the performance opportunity presented, the trip may occur any time during the school year. Each trip is handled independently with itinerary, expected costs, and payment schedule presented to students and parents in advance. Participation is voluntary.

These events are intended to be financially self-sustaining. Fees are estimated to cover the cost of goods and services for a particular trip or camp. A student indicates their commitment to participate by making the initial payment installment on or before the deadline set by the event committee, and is obligated to follow-up with full payment as required.

Students risk participation status if payment deadlines are not met. Typically refunds are not available due to financial and contractual obligations incurred by WROG which are based upon a commitment to participate in trip. Students are encouraged to participate in fundraising to help defray costs.

Fall Fees & Spring Packets

Orchestra collects Fall Fees at the beginning of each school year in an effort to minimize continual collection of miscellaneous fees throughout the year. These fees vary according to the year's planned activities. Please respect our deadline and submit all Fall Fees on or before the given due date.

Spring Packets contain forms for the upcoming school year and are sent home each spring to returning orchestra students as well as rising 9th graders from Dickerson and Dodgen. The forms are included within the Spring Packet, and are also available on our web site

(www.waltonorchestra.org): The information provided on these forms is vital to the work done by the Orchestra Directors, WROG parent volunteers, and student officers over the summer months in preparation for the upcoming school year and camp. Please respect our deadline and submit all completed forms on or before the due date listed in Spring Packet.

W.E.B. in the Orchestra Room

Orchestra students are encouraged to visit the orchestra room for practicing and to get extra help during WEB. Schedules for the room being open during WEB will be posted. During AP Music Theory study sessions, the orchestra room will not be open for practice. If space allows, students may study quietly.

Walton Raider Orchestra Guild, Inc. (WROG)

The orchestra is fortunate to have an active parent organization that supports the Walton High School Orchestra programs. They provide leadership, support, and volunteers for the orchestra directors and the students. See the orchestra website for current leadership and for who to contact to get involved!

Grades

Grading Policy 2017-2018

- I. Homework-Quizzes-Tests- 40%
 - a. Quizzes
 - b. Tests
 - c. Music Checks
 - d. Tuning Checks
 - e. Written theory assignments, etc.

- II. Final Exam-10%
 - a. Final Exam: the final exam will include check-out items (i.e. clean locker) that must be completed

- III. Rehearsal Standards and Habits-40%
 - a. Daily participation in the ensemble- students earn 100 points for each 3 week grading period.
 - b. Those who are present but do not play their instrument in class will not receive a daily participation grade.
 - c. Deductions in daily participate include but are not limited to not having an instrument, not having proper accessories (shoulder rest, etc), not marking music, exhibiting poor rehearsal behavior.

- IV. Cultural Literacy- 10%
 - a. There will be an assessment on 10 music listening pieces each semester. This is designed for students to be introduced to the classical music canon that everyone should know. Music lists will be available on the orchestra website.

Equipment Requirements (by August 7, 2017)

- Instrument and bow in good working order
- Case with provided labeled name
- Four working fine tuners or “peg heads” for easy tuning”
- Shoulder rest (sponges are not acceptable in high school)
- Mute
- Tuner or tuning app on phone/ipad
- Folding stand (to be kept at home and used for practice and occasional concerts at school)

Orchestra Uniform

The Walton Orchestra uniform provides a formal, professional appearance for concerts. The uniform should always be worn in its entirety: black dress shoes on, shirt tucked in. Jewelry should be modest, and hairstyles should not be distracting (unusual styles, colors, etc...) to the uniform.

Girls' Uniform

Girl's uniform is a long-sleeved, black stretch velvet dress with boat neck and empire waist. Dress is hand washable. Black, closed-toe shoes are to be worn with dress. The Uniform Committee will hold dress fittings each spring for rising 9th grade girls (and returning students if needed). New students entering in the fall or later will be fitted as necessary. Each girl will purchase her own dress at the time of fitting (through WROG) at an approximate cost of \$82.

Dresses are custom-made, shipped during the summer, and distributed at the beginning of the school year. Girls should hem dress at their own expense if necessary.

All girls in the Orchestra program must wear the same dress. When a girl is not returning to the program, she may choose to offer her dress for re-sale to incoming girls during spring fittings, or keep the dress in her personal wardrobe.

Boys' Uniform

Boys' uniform is a black tuxedo jacket and pants, worn with black tuxedo shirt (ordered through Walton Orchestra). Boys should wear black dress shoes, black socks, and black belt (if needed with tux pants).

The Uniform Committee will hold tuxedo fittings in August during orientation week before school begins. The rental fee is approximately \$50 per year for tux jacket & pants and includes dry cleaning. . Failure to return a uniform will result in charges from the school, which can hold up class schedule creation, textbook distribution, and final transcripts. The tuxedo shirt will be \$20 and can be used from year to year.

Orchestra Letter

Letter Awards

Students participating in the Orchestra program have the opportunity during the school year to qualify for a Walton High School Letter. A formal certificate (plaque for 4-year students) and a Walton Letter are awarded to qualified students. In subsequent years, bars are given to the student to attach to his/her letter. Essentially, performance in orchestra class earns a report card grade; participation outside of class earns a letter (or bar). To qualify for a letter award, an orchestra student must:

1. Attend all concerts and after school rehearsals
2. Obtain 45 letter points. .

Patron Program minimum \$100- 15 points

“The Event” setup/cleanup- 5 points

Other Fundraiser Participation- 15 points

Tickets to Dessert Concert pre-bought- 10 points

Honor Orchestra Auditions- 5 points

Honor Orchestra Participation- 5 points

All State District Audition- 5 points

All State Final Audition- 5 points

All State Participation- 5 points

ASYO- 10 points

MYSO- 10 points

Community or church orchestra- 10 points

Chamber music participant- 5 points

Chamber music performance for Walton- 5 points each time

GHP State audition (music)- 5 points

GHP Participation (music)- 10 points

Middle School Orchestra Tutoring- 5 points each time

Private Lessons- 15 points

Orchestra Officer Help- 15 points

Additional points may be awarded at discretion of the directors. The Orchestra Directors may amend the award system.

Banquet

Orchestra awards, from the fun to the serious, are presented at the annual Orchestra Awards Banquet held in late spring. This year-end event is for all orchestra students and their families, with much of the evening’s program being student led and student inspired. Scholarships will also be presented at this event.

Fine Arts Diploma Seal

Walton has been accepted to award the State of Georgia’s new fine arts diploma seal beginning with the Class of 2017. This seal recognizes graduating seniors who have been involved with fine arts excellence and show dedication to the arts. Requirements include being enrolled for credit for all four years, participating in fine arts related extra-curricular activities, obtaining 20 hours of community service related to the arts, and completing a capstone presentation explaining your experiences in the fine arts programs at Walton.

Tri-M

Tri-M is the National Music Honor Society organization that recognizes seniors who have been involved with band, chorus, or orchestra for all four years of high school with a pink cord to be worn at graduation. Students must be of high character and complete community service, performances, and program service each semester of their senior year.