



2020-2021 Handbook: The ABCs of Walton Orchestra

Auditions

Auditions are typically held in March for the following school year. Each student will have an assigned audition time and be required to play the same scales, arpeggios, and excerpts for a hired 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.

Basses/Cellos: 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.

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.

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. Rehearsal time is limited and valuable. Inappropriate talking disrupts a rehearsal, wastes time, and hurts the entire ensemble.

Deadlines

Deadlines are deadlines. This is an important life skill to learn. We give students plenty of time to accomplish tasks and then the deadline is firm.

E-mail

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 directors for an appointment.

Fall Fees

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



Grading Policy

- I. Coursework (tuning checks, practicing, etc)- 40%
 - a. Tuning Checks
 - b. Skills demonstrations
 - c. Practice in SmartMusic
- II. Performance Tasks-30%
 - a. Playing checks
 - b. Recordings for
- III. Non-Performance Tasks- 20%
 - a. Music Listening Test: 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 are posted in CTLS. This test will be on Thursday, October 15, 2020
 - b. Other written theory assessments
 - c. Music analysis writings
- IV. Final Exam- 10%

Any missed assignments must be made up within the Walton make-up policy timeframe. 10% will be deducted from the coursework grade each day the assignment is late. Assignments that are submitted later than one week after the due date will earn a maximum score of 50.

Headphones/Cell Phones

Cell phones should be used for tuning and then placed under their seat. Cell phones should not be used during rehearsal time unless specifically instructed. Headphones should not be worn during rehearsal. They should be left in their backpack or in the student's pocket. If a student cannot stay off their cell phone or have headphones at their seat, the item will be placed in the cell phone caddy until the end of class period.

Injuries

If an injury prevents you from playing, we need a doctor's note explaining your limitations. You are expected to be in your seat with your music silently participating through your listening. If the injury limitation time is over a week, you will receive an alternate assignment at the teacher's discretion.

Joining Walton Orchestra

Joining the Walton Orchestra Program is by recommendation of the middle school/high school orchestra 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.



Keeping Our Space Organized and Clean

Bottled water is the only food/drink item allowed in the orchestra room. Chairs and stands should not be moved. The side rooms are only to be used for musical practice with permission. 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. 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. Failure to respect this rule will result in a detention. Only orchestra students are allowed to use our facilities.

Lettering/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.

Students participating in the Orchestra program have the opportunity during the school year to qualify for a Walton High School Orchestra Letter. 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: 10 points per ad space

Library help: 5 points each time

Private lessons: 15 points once

Stage/room set-up: 5 points each time

Leadership Team: 15 points once

Honor Orchestra Participation: 5 points once

All State District Audition: 5 points once

All State Final Audition: 5 points once

All State Participation: 5 points once

Community Orchestra: 15 points once

Walton-approved Chamber Music: 5 points per performance

Middle School Assistance (approved in advance): 5 points per event

Additional points may be awarded at discretion of the directors.

Music

Music folders with original stay at school. Students are responsible for their own practice parts.



Non-Attendance After School

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. 092. 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.
5. Upon returning from an absence, a student may be required to perform excerpts for Dr. Holbrook or Mrs. Grimes.

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 at least a week in advance. Last minute conflicts will not be accommodated.

Orchestra Class 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.

Pictures

Individual and group orchestra pictures are taken in the fall semester. 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.

Quality Instruments need 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.

Requirements for equipment (by August 17, 2020)

- Instrument and bow in good working order
- Case with provided name tag.
- 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
- Scanner app on phone/ipad (Notes App or CamScan)



Special Trips & Trip Fees

To enrich the Orchestra experience, the Directors may propose special trip. 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.

Tardies/Attendance in School

Attendance is taken 3 minutes after the bell. 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, and need to see Dr. Holbrook or Mrs. Grimes at the end of class period to update the online attendance report. Excessive class tardies will affect future auditions.

Uniform

Ladies' uniform is a black flutter-sleeved, long gown with black dress shoes. Each girl will purchase her own dress at the time of fitting (through WROG) at an estimated cost of \$63. Girls should hem dress at their own expense if necessary. Jewelry should be modest. Hairstyles should not be distracting (unusual styles, colors, etc). At the end of your time in orchestra, you may donate your dress to the program for a tax receipt or sell your dress in the community.

Gentlemen's uniform is a black tuxedo jacket and pants, worn with black tuxedo shirt tucked-in. The black tuxedo shirt may be ordered from a tuxedo shop or from the link provided on the orchestra website. Gentlemen should wear black dress shoes, tall black socks, and black belt. 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.



Violin & Viola Lockers

Each violinist and violist will be assigned an individual instrument locker. A lock will be issued to each student for the school year and should be used to lock your locker each time you leave the classroom. If the lock is misplaced or lost, a fee of ten dollars will be charged for a replacement lock. Only a violin or viola is allowed in your locker. Your locker is subject to examination.

Website, Calendar, & Charms

The orchestra website has the most up-to-date information. It also provides a wealth of information about our program and history: www.waltonorchestra.org

The orchestra calendar is always up to date on the Walton Orchestra website. Students and parents are encouraged to constantly check the calendar for updates. When in doubt about times and dates, the calendar on the orchestra website always supersedes any other calendar.

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.

(e)Xtracurricular Ensembles: Georgia Music Educators Association All State Orchestra, District 12 Honor Orchestra, Chamber Music

Audition requirements for All State are found on the Georgia Music Educators Association website. You can find the link to their site on the Orchestra Website. District Honor Orchestra information will be given in class. If you are a soloist or chamber ensemble performing in the community and stating you are a Walton Orchestra group, you must have played for the directors to ensure quality representatives of our program.

You Can Get Involved: Walton Raider Orchestra Guild (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!

Zenith Awards (Seniors):

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.

Remote Learning Addendum: “attitude is everything”

Doc and Mrs. Grimes would give anything to be making music with you in the classroom. We are committing to providing the best musical experience virtually. Instruction is predicated on having an instrument. Orchestra families should contact local music stores to rent an instrument if they do not have one at home. If there are extenuating financial circumstances, please e-mail Mrs. Grimes. We will be learning and adjusting instruction as we go. **There is no way that our handbook and this addendum can cover all eventualities. Updates will be sent out in the weekly communications.** To help us with this goal, please help us by:

- 1) Check your CTLS Orchestra page each day
- 2) Participate in your Live Sessions each day with your instrument
- 3) **Live Session Etiquette Expectations**
 - a. Be on time.
 - b. Use your camera function so that Doc and Grimes can use the video to assess student needs.
 - c. Your camera needs to be where we can see your face and your instrument so we can connect.
 - d. Have your instrument, music (SmartMusic log-in), stand, and a pencil ready to go.
 - e. Please remain muted unless given permission to speak.
 - f. Please do not eat/drink during lesson time.
 - g. When other students/Doc/Grimes are playing, you should be playing along with your sound muted. You should not be sitting idle.
 - h. Do not multi-task. No classwork for other classes, no games, no texting etc.
 - i. You should be dressed for school-comfortable is ok, but no pajamas.
- 4) Ask questions if you are unsure of anything.

Email Expectations

- A clear subject line.
- A properly formatted e-mail (Dear Mrs. Grimes/Doc, complete sentences, and closing like Sincerely, student name (first and last))
- All e-mails should be written in a professional and respectful manner. Remember you are e-mailing your teacher and not texting a friend.
- **Do not e-mail assignments/documents. All assignments need to be turned into their proper space (FlipGrid/CTLS). See original assignment for that information**

Normal Daily Class Plan

- 1) Log-on for your class in a quiet environment where you can play.
- 2) Have your instrument, music stand, be logged into SmartMusic
- 3) Rosin your bow.
- 4) Tune your instrument---see the Orientation Tuning Video if you need help.
- 5) Announcements
- 6) Warm-up exercise as a group
- 7) Rehearse section of music
- 8) Wrap-up/individual practice

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Assignments

All due dates will be posted on the Orchestra Calendar. Performance assignments will be due on Tuesdays. Written assignments will be due on Fridays. Our quiz/test days for orchestra are Thursday-Friday.

Other Updates

Monday Night Rehearsals (Chamber only) & Live Concerts: Chamber Orchestra rehearsals and live concerts are on hold at this time; we will update you as soon as we receive further updates from Cobb County and CDC.

Lettering Policies will be determined once we know more about how the year will evolve.