

Music Department Performing Ensemble Handbook 2009-2010

Music Faculty

Winifred Crock, Orchestra Director
Susan Hampton, Assistant Orchestra Director
Kimberly Jeffs, Choir Director
Jordan Black, Assistant Choir Director
Doug Hoover, Band Director
Matt Beazley, Band Director
Denise Marsh, Accompanist

**Parkway Central High School
369 North Woods Mill Rd. Chesterfield MO 63017**

Music Department Website: www.musicpch.com

Music Department Fax: 314-415-7941

PARKWAY CENTRAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Dear Music Students and Parents,

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome music students and parents to Central High for an exciting year.

This handbook has been prepared for Parkway Central music families. It contains an explanation of ensemble grading systems, an outline of the annual Letter and Bar requirements, and an explanation of the annual departmental music awards. The explanation of the honors grade program is available separately. This book also contains classroom/rehearsal expectations and performing uniform, tux or robe requirements.

Our home and office numbers are listed below. Students and parents are encouraged to call especially during office hours. We encourage communication with parents and students.

You are urged to read this entire handbook carefully. We encourage you to check our department website regularly (www.musicpch.com). We look forward to your support and involvement throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Winifred Crock, Orchestra

School Phone: 314-415-7935 Home Phone: 636-391-5821

Email: wcrock@pkwy.k12.mo.us

Doug Hoover, Band

School Phone: 314-415-7911 Home Phone: 636-230-5110

Email: dhpchband@hotmail.com

Matt Beazley, Band

School Phone: 314-415-7948

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Kimberly Jeffs, Choir

School Phone: 314-415-7912

Email: kjeffs@pkwy.k12.mo.us

Jordan Black, Choir

School Phone: 314-415-4679

Email: jblack2@plwy.k12.mo.us

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PCHS Music Ensemble Expectations

Our educational philosophy is based on arts-based education through performance. We are an award winning, nationally recognized music department and have been designated by the Grammy Foundation as a Grammy Gold Signature School. We are constantly working to improve and enrich every student's musical and educational experiences.

Because music is a performing art, classroom rehearsal and performance attendance is of the utmost importance. We expect every student to be in every class/rehearsal.

We expect every student to be prepared with music, equipment and instrument at every class/rehearsal. We expect every student to be focused and attentive at all times.

Participation at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Failure to do so will result in severe grade penalty. Music is a group endeavor. Missing a performance can be likened in severity to missing an exam. Unfortunately, no truly equivalent make-up is possible in that the ensemble performance will not occur again. However students will be required to do a performance jury for the music faculty in case of excused absence from a performance. Students will not be allowed to makeup grade points in case of unexcused absence.

Every member of every ensemble is important! In the rare case where it is necessary to miss a dress rehearsal or performance, **students must notify a faculty member in advance. According to MSHSAA rules students must attend classes all day in order to be eligible to participate in an after school or evening event.**

You may reach us most easily at the following times.

Winifred Crock: Office Hour 5th

Doug Hoover: Office Hour 7th

Matt Beazley: Office Hour 3rd

Kimberly Jeffs: Office Hour 1st

School Instrument, Equipment and Uniform Loan Regulations

Some equipment, some instruments, music, robes, tuxedos and uniforms are available on loan from the Central High School Music Department. Each uniform, tuxedo or robe has an annual usage fee.

The student should treat all loan items with extreme care. Any damage or loss is the responsibility of the student. Students will be responsible for every day maintenance and care. (Strings, rosin, reeds, valve oil, etc.)

Students must return any loan item in good condition. If items are not returned in good condition from lack of proper care, or if items are not returned on time, **the student will be charged the repair or replacement cost of the item.**

Students must surrender any item upon the request of the director.

A \$20 uniform, robe and tuxedo rental fee will be charged for each outfit at outfit checkout. Students in multiple ensembles should see their director regarding appropriate fees. Ladies band and orchestra blouses must be purchased thru school. Gentlemen band and orchestra tuxedo shirts, ties and cummerbunds must be purchased as well.

Music Parents

Music Parents is a parent support organization whose goals include volunteer support and monetary assistance to the entire PCHS music department. The Music Parents is an umbrella organization with subcommittees for each of the individual performing ensembles. The governing board meets regularly throughout the year and represents all of the PCHS music performing ensembles. The Music Parents provides support for a number of special projects, performances and activities which would not be possible otherwise. Much of the excellence of our department is possible because of this extraordinary organization. Parents, friends and relatives are encouraged to join the Music Parents and support in anyway possible. One of the benefits of joining the Music Parents is ticket passes to our general concert series.

Music Parents sponsors several departmental fund raisers such as the annual fall citrus sale. Proceeds from this and other fund raisers go directly to benefit the students enrolled in the music program. Music Parents have provided stereo equipment, library and uniform storage, special clinicians and technology assistance. Please contact a music parents board member or ask a faculty member for more information. Without parental help the quality of our entire program would suffer. Parent support is crucial to our continued excellence.

Music Performing Ensemble Dress Code

Chamber Choir/ Concert Chorale/ Concert Choir

(Unless other instructions are given)

- Men: Black slacks, white shirt, white undershirt and black tie
Black socks and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)
Robe and stole
- Ladies: Dress with hem shorter than robe
(no halter or spaghetti straps, or strapless dresses)
Black hose and black closed toed, 1-2" heeled black pumps
Robe and stole

Chorus (Unless other instructions are given)

- Ladies: Black slacks or skirt, White shirt
Hose and dress shoes
- Men: Dark slacks, white shirts, dark tie, black socks and dress shoes

Swing Choir (Unless other instructions are given)

Uniform

Orchestra (Unless other instructions are given)

- Men: Orchestra tuxedo coat and tuxedo pants
White pleated wing tipped collar tux shirt,
Black strap bow tie & Black satin Cummerbund
Black dress socks and black dress shoes

- Ladies: Black velvet orchestra shirt
Ankle or floor length black formal skirt
Hose, black dress shoes

Band (Unless other instructions are given)

Uniform with all parts, band shoes & appropriate socks.
or Tuxedo outfit and concert black

All Ensembles:

Informal department uniform for traveling or other out of school activities is khaki pants and polo type shirt with collars.

When traveling with a music department ensemble, students may not wear jeans, sweat clothes or running attire. T-shirts may be worn but should be plain with no emblems or writing unless they are the PCH ensemble shirt. Tennis shoes may be worn but should be in good condition. Clothing must be in good condition with no tears or rips. Khaki or Dockers and polo type shirts are encouraged.

Grade points will be deducted if a student is missing all or part of their uniform/tux or robe for a concert or other occasion.

Music Ensemble Grading Explanation

35 Percent - Participation in Rehearsal and Class Preparation

- Students will earn participation points for each rehearsal.
Full points will be awarded to students who are on time, demonstrate adequate preparation, have all music, instruments and equipment and participate for the entire rehearsal in an intent and focused manner.
- Participation on an A or B day will be worth 35 points.
- Participation on a C day will be worth 30 points.
- Failure to participate in rehearsal due to illness, injury, missing music, equipment or instrument etc. will result in a reduction in points.
- Excused absences will result in daily point reduction.
Makeup work for classes or sectionals is possible but must be done in a timely manner and is up to the discretion of each teacher.
- Unexcused absences will result in point reduction, without possibility of makeup.
- Tardies will be handled at the discretion of the teacher, but will result in partial loss of daily participation credit and/or detention.

35 Percent - Performance Tests, Class Work, & Sectional Participation

30 Percent - Participation Concerts, Performances, Dress Rehearsals

- Attendance at Concerts & Dress Rehearsals is mandatory.
-Students will earn participation points for each performance or dress rehearsal. Full points will be awarded to students who are on time, demonstrate adequate preparation, have all music, instruments and equipment and participate for the entire rehearsal in an intent and focused manner. Correct attire with all parts of uniform or outfit must be worn to receive full credit points. Dress Rehearsals are final concert polish rehearsals. They may be held during a class period or after school.
- Absence from a concert or dress rehearsal for any reason will result in grade loss.
Excused absences and makeup work must be arranged in advanced of a missed performance. Only in a bona fide emergency will absences be excused after the performance.
- Unexcused absences may not be made up for grade points.
- Make ups
Students wishing to makeup performance grade points must play a concert jury for the the music faculty. Jury will consist of an individual performance of concert repertoire.

Students must call ensemble teachers in advance when missing a dress rehearsal, performance or concert!

Note: The semester grade is a cumulative grade for the entire 18 weeks not an average of the 3 six week grade periods.

According to MSHSAA rules students must attend classes all day in order to be eligible to participate in an after school or evening event.

Grade Percentages for music department ensembles are as follows:

92%- 100% A
83%- 91% B
74%- 82% C
65%- 73% D
64% and below F

At PCHS, the 18 Week Semester grade is a cumulative grade.
It is not an average of 3 six week grades.

Citizenship Grade Requirements

O - OUTSTANDING:

Student contributes actively at all times and shows leadership within the section, does not disrupt the learning process, does not talk during rehearsal, and contributes help and time outside of the classroom weekly.

S - SATISFACTORY:

Student contributes willingly when asked but shows little initiative or leadership, does not disrupt learning or talk during rehearsal.

I -IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:

Student interrupts the learning process occasionally by talking or other inappropriate action, or contributes infrequently.

U - UNSATISFACTORY:

Student disrupts class frequently by talking or other inappropriate behavior and does not contribute appropriately.

Tardiness and excessive absence from class rehearsal will be also reflected in this grade.

PCHS Honors Grade Option for Music Ensembles

Honors music grades may be earned in Concert Choir, Symphonic Band, & Symphonic Orchestra. **Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors** are eligible to enroll in this program provided they fulfill the listed requirements. Students enrolled in the honors program will be expected to perform in an exemplary manner and fulfill additional requirements in order to justify the additional grade point.

The grade of "H" is an exception not a rule
Please see the Honors Grade Ensemble Packet for complete information.

Eligibility

Missouri State High School Activities Association requires a passing grade in 5 classes for previous semester and enrollment in 5 classes for the current semester in order to participate in state sanctioned activities such as Solo & Ensemble, and Large Ensemble Contests.

MUSIC LETTER REQUIREMENTS

Band, orchestra and choir students in a major music ensemble are eligible to apply for a music letter or pin each year.

Students must:

- Receive an "A" for the semester in their major ensemble.
- Have perfect concert attendance.
- Receive an "S" or above in citizenship.
- Turn in a letter/pin application by May 5th.
- Must have done service hours for the department.

Students must also do two or more of the following requirements:

- Participate in an out of school major ensemble.
- Participate in an extra school group.
- Participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- Contribute by doing ensemble managerial work.
- Take private lessons.
- Do another approved activity.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Each year the Music Department presents numerous awards to students. Individuals contributing outstanding efforts and demonstrating exceptional performance skills may receive one of the following awards to be presented at the department banquet in May.

- National School Choral Award
- National School Orchestra Award
- Outstanding Soloist Award
- Most Versatile Musician Award
- Most Improved Musician Award
- Colt Academic Awards in Music
- Arion Award for Musician & Scholar
- Louis Armstrong Jazz Award
- John Phillips Sousa Band Award
- Musicianship Award