



McCleskey Middle School Orchestra Handbook 2016-2017

Kevin Kampman
Orchestra Director

Claire Lyons, Principal
Ruth Hesson, Assistant Principal
Linda Rogers, Assistant Principal

Kevin.Kampman@cobbk12.org

770-928-5560 ext. 272

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Dear Orchestra Students and Parents,

This is such an exciting time for McCleskey Orchestra. My name is Kevin Kampman and I will serve as the Orchestra director for the 2016-2017 school year. This will be my eleventh year as an educator, having taught Instrumental music as well as general music, math, and computers. My family and I have recently moved to Georgia from Arizona, and it is wonderful here! I am looking forward to working with the wonderful students and families at McCleskey Middle School.

I believe that music is such a powerful part of life. If you take some time to think about some of your favorite songs, I'm sure there are memories attached. Music is an excellent way to create memories and friendships that can last a lifetime. Music helps us understand math, science, history, languages, and more in ways that other classes cannot. Orchestra is such an elegant setting, full of rich history and tradition, but also fun and challenging new music.

I believe that it is important to set high standards and expectations. Playing to the best of our ability and progressing each day is important. There will be some challenges as there are with any new situation, but they should not be views as negatives. Challenges help us to grow and mold us into excellent players and people. It is important that we study our music like we study for any other class. Daily practice will help us to improve. I commit to you that I will study our music, will you?

There are plenty of opportunities to continue to grow and learn outside of the classroom in addition to what we will learn at school. If you have the desire and ability to receive private lessons, they will help you to progress and grow at even faster pace. One lesson a week can make a massive difference. They can increase your chances of participating in Honors Orchestra, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and All State.

I have included the calendar of events for the year. Please make sure that you add events that are pertinent to you, to your family calendar. Our success is greatly impacted with a member is missing.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or thoughts. Email is probably the best way to get a hold of me, and I will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support of the McCleskey Orchestra!

Kevin Kampman

McCleskey Orchestra Director

Kevin.Kampman@cobbk12.org

2016-2017 McCleskey Middle School

Orchestra Handbook

MATERIALS

IN CLASS

Please be sure that all students have the following materials by Monday, August 15th:

- Instrument of Appropriate Size and Quality
- 6th Grade- Essential Elements for Strings Book 1
- 7th Grade- Essential Elements Book 2
- 8th Grade- Essential Elements Book 2 (should already own- no need to purchase again)
- Shoulder Pad/Rest- **all violinists and violists need one!**
- Rosin, Cleaning Cloth, and a Pencil
- 3 Ring Binder- BLACK

AT HOME

- Instrument, Music, and a Pencil
- A Music Stand (optional, but it supports playing with proper posture)
- Metronome or a Metronome/Tuner combo (optional- can be purchased from local music dealers or online for around \$20 dollars. **This item is highly recommended as it will allow your child to tune his/her own instrument at home.**)
- A Quiet Place and a Regular Time to Practice Every Day!

INSTRUMENTS

Every student **MUST** have an instrument. The most cost-effective way to acquire an instrument is to purchase or rent one from a string instrument dealer. Please, for your financial safety, do not purchase any instrument before consulting with your orchestra director or private teacher first. If you cannot see or touch an instrument before you purchase, it may not be a good idea to purchase it. Please make sure any instrument that will be used for performances is of a natural wood color. Please avoid painted instruments and bows.

Since cello and bass students have access to instruments at school, those students are **required** to have their own instrument at home.

Lockers

Violin and viola students will be given a locker with a lock to keep their instrument case in. Only instruments are to be kept in lockers and combinations are not to be shared with other students.

Private Lessons

Students who are interested in accelerating their performance skills outside of class may consider taking private lessons. Private instructors teach one on one, at the student's pace, and help each student develop technical and musical skills specific to their instruments. These skills can be well applied in an orchestra setting, and in most cases, students who work with a private instructor progress much faster than those who do not. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they maintain a strong enthusiasm for orchestra.

Honor Orchestra and All State

Honor orchestra and All State provide opportunities for students to perform as representatives of the McCleskey Orchestra in our county and state. For each event, there is at least one audition and if the student is chosen, a day or two of rehearsals followed by a concert with other students from around the state. Each of these events would be a great opportunity for your student to work towards!

Solo and Ensemble

Solo and Ensemble is an event that allows students a chance to perform alone or in small groups for judges. There is no audition and would be a great opportunity to perform for someone and get written feedback.

Fundraiser

The band, orchestra and chorus sell cheesecakes at the end of August through the beginning of September to raise money for our program so we can purchase supplies, bring in great guest teachers and artists to work with your students, and other opportunities for our students. Any support you can give to your child in helping him/her sell cheesecakes will help us be able to do more in the classroom!

Uniforms

6th grade guys will wear a white shirt, black pants and black dress shoes. Ladies will wear a white blouse, solid black pants or a long black skirt and black dress shoes.

7th and 8th grade students will wear formal uniforms consisting of a long black dress for ladies and tuxedo pants and shirt for guys. Ordering information will be sent home in September.

Orchestra concerts are considered formal events for our students and it is very important that the orchestra looks its best for our performances. At Orchestra Large Group Performance Evaluation, part of our rating is based on how we look and present ourselves.

If you have a problem obtaining an outfit, please contact us immediately so we can work together to resolve this matter. Please do not wait until the day of the performance to tell us you do not have the appropriate attire. Students, please do not wait until the day of the performance to tell your parents you need these items.

Parental Support

Your support of your student and the orchestra program is more important than you may realize. Our program could never be successful without your help and encouragement both at home and at school events. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime through email or by phone. On the last page of the handbook, there is space for you to volunteer any extra time or skills you may have. I look forward to seeing you in person and appreciate your time and support!

Performances

Performances are the culmination of weeks of classroom preparation. The concert calendar is printed in the handbook to allow parents and students the opportunity to plan their schedules *in advance*. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade orchestra students are expected to attend all concerts and other group events throughout the year unless an acceptable excuse has been approved by the directors prior to the performance.

McCleskey Sixth Grade Orchestra Course Syllabus

Topics:

1. Tone-produce a characteristic sound on the instrument
2. Technique-develop facility in first position, correct bow hold and ease with bowings
3. Rhythm-learn rhythmic concepts of eighth, quarter, half, and whole notes
4. Meter-learn to play in meters in which the quarter note receives the beat
5. Scales-All 1 octave scales in first position
6. Blend-blend the individual tone with the ensemble and with the particular section of the band
7. Balance-Identify the melodic line in a specific section of a musical composition and adjust volumes accordingly so as to balance the piece.

Specific Objectives for students:

Students will:

- Perform with appropriate posture and set up on his/her instrument.
- Demonstrate proper care and maintenance of his/her instrument and equipment.
- Perform with and maintain a correct bow hold when playing.
- Demonstrate a beautiful and characteristic tone for his/her instrument.
- Perform music selections from the following time signatures: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4.
- Perform music with rhythms that contain whole, dotted half, half, quarter, eighth notes, and rests.
- Perform music at grade level 1.
- Perform one-octave scales in 1st position.
- Demonstrate the use of appropriate interpretive markings (dynamics, phrasing, etc) in music being studied.
- Memorize and perform solo pieces on his/her instrument.
- Perform as part of an ensemble.

Grading Guidelines:

Participation 60%

Playing Tests-40%

McCleskey Seventh and Eighth Grade Orchestra Syllabus

Topics to be covered:

1. Tone-demonstrate characteristic tone quality and blending the tone into the ensemble
2. Intonation-play in tune with the ensemble
3. Technique-use different articulation styles precisely; expand the comfortable playing range on the instrument; expand rhythmical concepts
4. Balance-within the ensemble and sections
5. Interpretation-use of expression, phrasing, style, and tempo correctly
6. Musical effect-artistry and fluency of the composition

Specific Course Objectives:

Students will:

- Demonstrate proper posture and set up for his/her instrument.
- Demonstrate a characteristic tone quality of her/her instrument
- Adjust pitch while playing.
- Perform two and three octave scales.
- Demonstrate and respond to standard preparatory conducting beats, release motions, entrance cues, and expressive gestures.
- Demonstrate a beginning vibrato.
- Perform music at grade level 2 or 3.
- Perform with other instrumentalists to achieve a refined ensemble sound including, volume, balance and blend.
- Demonstrate a variety of orchestral bowings.
- Demonstrate and interpret tempo and dynamic markings.

Grading Guidelines:

Participation- 60%

Performance/Written Tests-29%

Practice Records-11%

Behavior Management Plan

It is important to understand that all students deserve to learn in the best possible environment. This environment is achieved when all students are expected to follow the same standards, if not set even higher standards for themselves:

- Be on time
- Be prepared with instrument, music, and pencil
- Show respect for yourself and others
- Show respect for the property of others
- No one may handle or play any instrument other than his or her own, including school-owned instruments, without permission from the owner and a teacher.
- Gum, candy, food or drink are not permitted in the orchestra room (excluding water in a sealed bottle)

Daily Procedures:

1. Unpack instrument and be ready to tune after entering the classroom.
2. Follow all teacher-given directions, both written and verbal, during the rehearsal.
3. Pack up instrument and music at the end of class.

Conduct Explanations

One-Three Infractions=Satisfactory Behavior

Four-Six Infractions=Needs Improvement

Seven-Nine Infractions=Unsatisfactory

Infractions Tracked

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Gum, Candy, Food or Drink (2 for detention) | 6. Talking/Off-Task |
| 2. Tardy (2 for detention) | 7. Running, pushing, shoving or horseplay |
| 3. Inappropriate hallway behavior (2 for referral) | 8. Failure to follow directions |
| 4. Out of area (2 for referral) | 9. Disrespect |
| 5. Unprepared for class | 10. Dishonesty |
| | 11. Other |

Consequences:

1st S=Warning 2nd S=Call Home 3rd S=detention

1st N=office referral 2nd & 3rd N=Detention

Each U=Office referral

McCleskey Middle School Orchestra
Student Information Sheet/Handbook Form

Please read the handbook carefully and sign and return this page to Mr. Kampman.

***We can also use donations of tissues and hand sanitizer for our room!!**

Please return one with the student information form.

I have read the McCleskey Orchestra Handbook and have seen the orchestra calendar. I understand that my child will potentially be photographed as a result of participation in the orchestra program. Pictures and/or quotes may be used in our newsletter, web page, yearbook, slide show, or other school-appropriate publication.

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Student's Name-print

Orchestra Class

Instrument

Street Address

City/State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Parent Work Number

Parent Work Number

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

Parent email address

Student email address

Parents, please circle if you feel you may be able to assist the orchestra director as a volunteer with any of the following:

Chaperone students at concerts and on trips

Video Concerts

Assist in orchestra office during school day

Help with fundraisers

Other (Please List) _____

Parent's Name _____

Student's Name _____

McCleskey Middle School Orchestra Calendar 2016-2016

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
August 15	6 th grade 1 st day with instruments	
August 18	Open House	McCleskey MS
August 30	Cheesecake Fundraiser Kickoff	McCleskey MS
September 13	Cheesecake Money Due	McCleskey MS
October 15	District All-State Orchestra Auditions	Pope HS
October 19	8 th Grade Orchestra plays at Kell	Kell HS
October 22	Solo and Ensemble	Sprayberry HS
December 1	Orchestra Concert-6 th and 7 th Grade	McCleskey MS
December 19	8 th Grade Orchestra, Band, Chorus Concert	McCleskey MS
January 7	Final All-State Auditions	TBA
January 31	Honor Orchestra Auditions	Sprayberry HS
February 28	7 th & 8 th Grade Pre-LGPE Orchestra Concert	McCleskey MS
March 2-4	All State Orchestra	TBA
TBD	7 th Grade Large Group Performance Evaluation	TBA
TBD	8 th Grade Large Group Performance Evaluation	TBA
March 17-18	Honor Orchestra	McEachern HS
May 2	8 th Grade Concert 7 pm All 8 th grade Orchestra and Chorus Students	McCleskey MS
May 4	7 th Grade McFestival 6:30 pm All 7 th grade Orchestra, Band, Chorus Students	McCleskey MS
May 5	6 th Grade McFestival 5:00 pm All 6 th grade Orchestra, Band, Chorus Students	McCleskey MS

This calendar was set and approved by school administrators in May 2016. More specific information regarding each event will be sent home with students throughout the year. Please mark your calendars for events pertaining to your students. **All students are expected to attend all events scheduled for their grade.** All concerts begin at 7:00 unless otherwise notated.