

Grades

Teachers do not give you a grade. **YOU** earn your grade!

Grading Categories: Orchestra grades will reflect the student's level of preparation and participation in the following categories. Only YOU, the student, are responsible for your grade. See below for more information on each category

- **Academic Grades:** Infinite Campus calls this "Overall Grade"
 - 50% = Approach to Learning
 - 40% = Assessments: Playing Tests & Written Work
 - 10% = Concert/Rehearsal Attendance
 - No extra credit will be given
- **Behavior Grades:** Students earn up to 5 points each week for following the S.T.R.I.K.E. matrix according to KDMS policy. Behavior grades do not impact the academic portion of the orchestra grade.

Grade Questions: Because orchestra is a playing class, the student needs to be present to adjust grades or answer questions. For this reason, **Ms. Karl only discusses grades, missing work, and/or absent work in person, during lunch or after school on Monday, Thursday, or Friday.** Do not email regarding grades until AFTER the student has talked to Ms. Karl in person (this helps the student learn to self-advocacy). Students can complete late or absent work during office hours. Individual grades or other individual issues will not be discussed during class. Ms. Karl will not look up anything in IC for individual students. It is the students' job to look in IC to know what their grades are and/or what they need to make up before they come to talk to her.

Assessments: Playing Tests: Students will perform most playing assessments alone in front of the class. This a Nevada Fine Arts Standard so there will be no exceptions.

- If students forget their instruments on the day of a playing test, they may make it up for full credit by the late work deadline.
- If students are present with their instruments on the due date but refuse to play the assessment, their grade will be 0% for that playing assessment. They will not be permitted to make it up and they may receive a behavior referral for defiance/insubordination.
- If students received less than 80% on any playing assessment and would like a retake, they may retake it during lunch or after school on Monday, Thursday, or Friday.
 - Retakes must be taken by the late work deadline.
 - The 2nd grade will be averaged with the 1st grade on that assessment. Ex: 1st grade = 60%, 2nd grade = 90%, new averaged grade = 75%.

Assessments: Written Work:

- Turn in written work on the due date before leaving the classroom.
- Turn in written into the drawer for that class period. Do not hand it to Ms. Karl or put it on her desk. It will get lost and the student will have to redo it.
- No name = no grade.
 - Ms. Karl throws away papers that do not have names written on them.
 - Students will have to redo the assignment during lunch or after school on a Monday, Thursday, or Friday before the late work deadline.
- Musicians write with pencils, never pens, crayons, highlighters, or markers. Grades will be marked down 10% if students did not use a pencil.

Approach to Learning (ATL): This grade is earned daily but will be entered into IC as a weekly grade worth 40 points (10 points per class day). The following musician procedures, etiquette, and routines are included in this grade:

- **Preparedness:** Came to class with my pencil, music, planner, and instrument.
- **Punctuality:** In the classroom on time. Quickly set up chair, stand, music, pencil, and planner BEFORE getting instrument out.
- **Environment:** Kept instrument case on the left side of chair and belongings stored neatly under chair. **NOTE:** Beginning Orchestra (6th grade) classes will leave their personal belongings in their lockers bringing only instruments, pencil, and music folders to class.
- **Peer Interactions:** Showed cooperation, respect, and a positive attitude. Did not distract others, touch their stuff, or need teacher direction to stop doing obnoxious or annoying things.
- **Engagement:** Fully and actively participated in class, played instrument, moved from one activity to another with speed and organization, and did not need redirection from the teacher.
- **Self-discipline:** Controlled actions. Did not use a bathroom pass. Did not drink from my water bottle, eat food/candy, or have gum in mouth
- **Musicianship:** Demonstrated good musicianship by playing with good intonation by having music open and pencil ready to mark the music where instructed.
- **Body Format:** Played with proper body format:
 - *Posture:* maintain appropriate body relationship to the chair or stool and/or floor (especially if standing).
 - *Body:* neck/head, shoulders, core, hips, legs maintain lengthened, balanced, centered, and mobile.
 - Instrument:* resting in proper relationship to body and the floor.
- **Left Hand Position & Motion:** Played with proper left hand position and motion.
 - *Arm:* away from body and at the appropriate height for the strings played
 - *Wrist:* straight
 - *Hand:* palm and web of hand did not touch the neck.
 - *Fingers:* curved and hovered over the strings.
 - *Fingertips* pushed the strings down, not fingerprints.
 - *Thumb:*
 - Violin/Viola: pointed toward the ceiling and rested on the neck across from 1st finger.
 - Cello/Bass: pointed toward head and rested of the neck behind 2nd finger.
- **Right Hand Position & Motion:** Played with proper right hand position and motion by
 - *Hand:* round-shaped with curved and relaxed fingers that leaned toward the 1st finger.
 - *Thumb Knuckle:* bent and curved outward, thumb tip touched both the stick and the corner of the frog.
 - *Elbow Joint:* opened and closed with bow movement.
 - *Shoulder Joint:* did not move side-to-side when bowing (except bass).
 - *Bow Placement:* placed on the strings between the bridge and the fingerboard and moved in a straight path that was parallel to the bridge and the fingerboard, not perpendicular.

Concerts/Rehearsals: The goal of the orchestra class is to perform for an audience. Therefore, part of students' grades will be based on their attendance and participation in all orchestra concerts/performances and after school rehearsals. [WCSD Administrative Regulation 5029](#) addresses "activities that are conducted outside of regular classroom time but which require student attendance and/or are part of the course content and grade and guided by Nevada Academic Content Standards for the course."

- **6th grade** combined rehearsals are always during the school day.
- Because there are two sections of **Intermediate Orchestra**, after school rehearsals are necessary to prepare for concerts. This is the only time all classes can be combined for practice.
- **Concert grades** are based on whether or not students signed in and were wearing the appropriate concert uniform.
 - If students forget to sign in, they will need to see Ms. Karl during office hours to complete an alternate assignment proving they attended the concert.
 - Pictures or videos of them at the concert do not qualify as the alternate assignment.

Quality is never an accident! It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution: it represents the wise choice of many alternatives. – Attributed to William A. Foster.