

Anderson School District 2



Orchestra Handbook

2018-2019

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Welcome

Congratulations! You are apart of an amazing opportunity here in Anderson School District 2. By enrolling in the ASD2 Orchestra, you and your family will be part of a unique experience not offered in all school districts. I truly hope that you are entering this school year with as much excitement.

Please take the time to read through this handbook as a family. There is a lot of important information found here that will help you understand what being a part of the Orchestra is all about. If we follow the expectations set out, we will have a successful year.

After you have read through the handbook in its entirety, please sign and returned the required form.

I hope this handbook answers any questions you may have. However, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to providing the best musical experience possible for you and your student. THANK YOU parents for everything you do!

Best Regards,

Rebecca Hegwood
Orchestra Director
Wright, Belton, and Honea Path Elementary
Belton and Honea Path Middle
rhegwood@asd2.org

Program Vision

The purpose of the Anderson School District 2 Orchestra is to provide a high quality orchestral, ensemble, and solo training for young musicians. The orchestra program is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music education and performance. Our goal is to achieve the highest level of musicianship in order to instill enrichment, beauty, companionship, and meaningful learning, which will last a lifetime.

Contact

In order to maintain thorough communication, it is important that I have multiple ways to contact you. On the signature sheet, please include the best telephone number to reach you at as well as your email. Please sign up for the Remind Group I have created. You may receive reminders through text or push notification. This is a great way for me to send quick reminders for different events. (I promise I won't overload your phone). Please see the following page for instructions on how to join the Remind Group. Make sure that you are signing up for the Remind class for your child's grade level.

Website: **rhegwood.weebly.com** (the handbook will also be there for your reference)

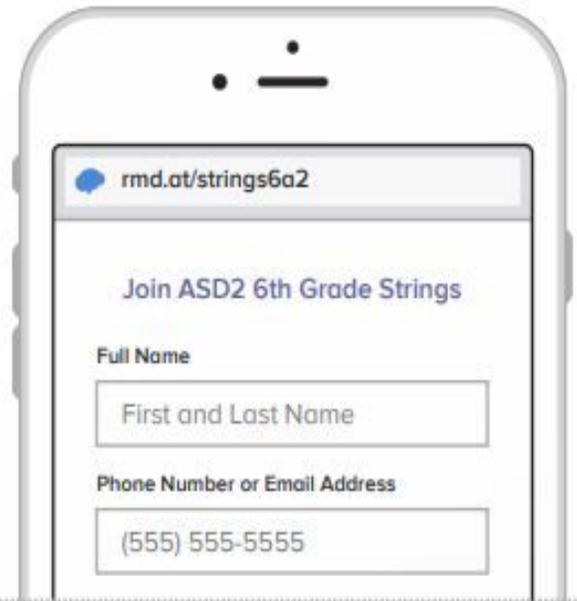
Pick a way to receive messages for **ASD2 6th Grade Strings**:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/strings6a2

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message **@strings6a2** to the number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try texting **@strings6a2** to **(314) 720-3550**.

** Standard text message rates apply.*



Orchestra Expectations

In order to perform at a high level, students must follow the orchestra expectations.

Rehearsal Expectations

1. Be on time with materials ready. (instrument, music/book, pencil, shoulder rest/rock stop)
2. Be respectful
3. Listen for instructions. When the conductor stops, you stop playing.
4. Take care of materials and facilities. (No food, gum, drink in class except water if needed)
5. Participate fully in class activities. (NO CELL PHONES/DEVICES unless instructed to use them by Mrs. Hegwood for educational purposes)

Rehearsal Facilities

- Please respect our rehearsal space. In many schools, the orchestra students share a room with another class. This means we must keep all facilities clean and orderly as we found them.
- Students should take instruments home every day and bring them back the next time we have class. This is so that students can practice daily at home, and because space is limited in classrooms with very little storage for instruments.
- Food and drink (except water) is not permitted in the orchestra room unless otherwise stated by the director.

Consequences

If expectations and rules are not followed during class, it will result in consequences.

1. Verbal Warning
2. Write a Reflection/Move Seat/Loss of Privileges
3. Detention
4. Parent Contact
5. Office Referral

Instruments/Materials

Instruments

Of course in orchestra, every student needs an instrument. The choices of instruments are violin, viola, cello, and bass. Each instrument comes in a different size and your child will need to know what size instrument they need. They must bring this instrument EVERY DAY that they have class, or they cannot adequately participate. There are a few ways to obtain an instrument, but I highly recommend that you go through a rental program with a music store. I have rental nights in which music vendors come and sign students up for their instrument of choice, and get parents on a rental plan. This is the best way to ensure you obtain the best instrument possible for your child. Prices vary depending on the type of instrument.

PLEASE do NOT purchase instruments online. It is very difficult to ensure good quality instruments are being purchased when they are not seen in person. Talking to a music store will ensure that you are getting a good, professional opinion on the type of instrument for your child. Typically instruments bought online for \$100 are not good quality and will be very frustrating for your child to play as a beginner student. They are also very difficult to tune, which can take up a lot of needed class time.

We ask that you obtain an instrument that is a normal color (not blue, pink, green, pattern, etc.) so that we can have a uniform appearance.

If you have trouble obtaining an instrument because of financial issues, please let me know privately.

Materials

Certain supplies are needed to be successful in Orchestra class. These items can be ordered at the rental night, or if you are not able to attend that, you can order these items online or go to the music store in person. If you are a sixth grader and just need a new book, you do not need to come to the rental night.

Materials Needed:

- Essential Elements for Strings Book 2 (purple)**
- Kun Shoulder rest (violin/viola)
- Pencil
- Rockstop (cellos and basses)
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Cleaning cloth
- First Fret Decal (recommended)

Music Stores

These are the best music stores to obtain instruments and supplies in the area. Very rarely will you have to visit these stores as they can come out to the school and take instruments in for repairs if needed.

Music & Arts (formerly Draisen Edwards)

2902 North Main Street Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: **864-225-4668**

Bernhardt House of Violins

5 Cateechee Ave, Greenville, SC 29605

Phone: **864- 282-8887**

Concert Information

Orchestra is a performance-based class, it is required that all students are present at concerts. There will be two evening concerts each year, as well as some daytime performances and or/field trips. Student attendance is extremely important as orchestra is a "team sport" and we must have every member to have a cohesive show.

Excused absences will be considered for the following reasons:

- Medical emergency
- Death in the family
- Religious holiday
- Excused school absence
- One time family event such as a wedding (must be approved ahead of time by the director)

Please communicate with me in advance if possible if your child will not be able to attend a concert. If students have an unexcused absence from a concert, they will have to complete an alternate assignment that will be equivalent to the work the other students put in at the concert.

All students must be at BHP auditorium for each concert 30 minutes prior to the start time, therefore students must be there at 6:30 pm for a 7:00pm concert in order to tune and get out instrument/materials.

There will be additional daytime performances throughout the school year that have not been finalized. I will send out information about those as I receive them.

Below are the dates for the evening concerts this year:

Monday, December 17, 2018, 7:00 pm @ BHP auditorium
Thursday, May 2, 2018, 7:00 pm @ BHP auditorium

Concert Attire

Concert Attire for all strings students is as follows:

- White top (blouse, button down, polo)
- Black bottoms (skirt, slacks)
- Black shoes and black socks

Please keep in mind that students should have a professional appearance. We would like to have a uniform appearance and present ourselves in a way that reflects the art form we are performing.

Field Trips

Information for field trips will go out later in the year as they are booked. If you would like to chaperone for a trip, make sure you are on the volunteer list with the district. You can go to the district website to be apply to be approved as a volunteer.

Before/After School Rehearsals

Before concerts, extra rehearsals may be necessary to adequately prepare students. Depending on the school, I will have one or two before or after school rehearsals in preparation for the concerts. This is mainly so that classes that are separated during the school day can be joined together. For middle schools, rehearsals will be before school. For elementary, rehearsals will be after school. I will notify you well in advance when these rehearsals are scheduled. Please make your best effort to attend these rehearsals.

Grading Criteria

The grading policy is below:

- 45% Major Assessments- Concerts, playing tests, theory test
- 30% Playing Quizzes, Theory Quizzes
- 25% Classwork, Class Participation

Students will be expected to fully participate in class. If students do not play their instrument, they cannot properly learn in strings class. If it becomes an issue, I will contact the parents and if it continues, class participation can affect students' grades.

Homework

Strings students have a daily standing homework assignment: PRACTICE!!!!!! It is very important for students to practice at home since they do not have strings every day. This helps develop and maintain skills learned in class. I will give students instructions on what to practice each class. For 6th grade, students should be practicing at least 15 minutes per day.

If students are not prepared for playing tests because of inadequate practice, I may ask that parents sign a practice record each week. Of course I am always here to help if you have trouble with any musical skills or concepts!

The Essential Elements Books come with a subscription to EEi, an online program where students create an account and will be able to practice along with tracks and record themselves playing. Information will be sent about logins later in the year.

Please sign and return this page by Friday, August 31, 2018.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand all orchestra policies.

Student Name: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Parent Email: _____

Best to reach me at (check one): _____ Phone _____ E-mail

Thank you for reading this handbook and joining us for a great year! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

The best way to reach me is by email at rhegwood@asd2.org