

This handbook has been assembled to inform students and parents of the orchestra's policies.  
Please read it carefully and keep it in your student's orchestra binder for future reference.  
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email or call me.

**COMPLETE GOOGLE FORM BY MONDAY, AUGUST 23**

## **ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR**

Rachel DePriest

depriestr@bcsdschools.net

843-821-4028 (ext. 1061)

<https://sangareeorchestra.wixsite.com/home>

## **PURPOSE**

The Sangaree Middle School Orchestra program exists to give students an accessible means to learn the art of making music through playing a string instrument. Learning to play an instrument is a challenging but attainable skill. In addition to music, students learn self-discipline, problem-solving, goal-setting, self-expression, memory skills, concentration, poise, enhanced physical coordination, high self-esteem, and the importance of teamwork—skills in great demand in almost every aspect of life. Orchestra students are expected to develop a sense of pride and respect for the orchestra. This sense of pride and respect will result in the “group spirit” necessary for the continued success of the orchestra program. Your child will be able to take advantage of musical performances and competitions at the local, state, and regional level through middle and high school. The opportunities for playing a string instrument after high school are abundant, with many universities offering scholarships for musicians. Orchestra provides a great foundation for your child in all aspects of life!

## **6TH GRADE ORCHESTRA**

This orchestra is for beginners. The primary goal is to learn how to read music, use correct posture, and become proficient in fundamental string technique. We will cover Measures of Success Book 1 and Book 2 and progress from grade .5 up to grade 2 music/skills by the end of their first year.

## **7TH & 8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA**

This orchestra is for advanced students that successfully complete beginning grade orchestra. The primary goal is to learn how to read higher level music, learn advanced skills like shifting and vibrato, and go to competitions. We will use the method books “String Basics Book 3” and “Habits of a Successful Orchestra Musician,” as well as music at least up to grade 3.

## ORCHESTRA CALENDAR

Normally, we would have a very detailed calendar. However, due to COVID, many events have been postponed, cancelled or rescheduled. Any SCMEA events that will take place will be communicated to you as soon as they are announced.

Fall Concert @ SRM with Band and Choir, Outdoors on the bus loop	Monday, October 25, 2021
All County Orchestra Auditions @ Cane Bay Middle School *7th & 8th grade students who wish to audition only* Fee is \$5 to audition	Saturday, January 29, 2021
Winter Concert @ Stratford	December 1, 2021
All County Orchestra Clinic @ Cane Bay High School (only for students who audition and are accepted in)	Friday, February 11, 2021 Saturday, February 12, 2021
Concert Performance Assessment	Lucy Beckham HS, March 10 or 11
Music in May Concert	May, TBD

## CLASSROOM RULES

1. Raise hand to speak.
2. Sit correctly at all times. (Posture)
3. Only play when directed by the teacher.
4. Have fun making music! (avoid frustration)
5. No sharing instruments, sheet music or equipment to reduce spread of germs

### Inappropriate Behavior

Students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles and rules of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for themselves. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the orchestra program, as well as our school and our community. Consequences for inappropriate behavior will include:

1st Offense – Verbal warning and explicit instruction

2nd Offense – Loss of class rehearsal points, loss of playing privilege, alternate assignment

3rd Offense – Contacting parent(s) or guardian(s) and referral to administration

Severe or habitual misbehavior may result in ineligibility for concerts, field trips and other special events/activities. Extreme discipline problems will warrant automatic referral to administration.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

All of these items are available at the local or online music stores listed below:

1. Instrument Outfit from store (including case, bow, rosin, cleaning cloth)
2. 1" hardback 3 ring binder with clear sleeve for a front cover and 3 tab dividers
3. Clear sheet protectors to keep music in binder (minimum 25)
4. Pencil for every class (keep one in your instrument case!)
5. Extra set of strings (encouraged but not required)
6. Shoulder rest (violin/viola only)
7. Rock stop (cello/bass only)
8. Method Books will be purchased by the teacher through the class fee.

### Local Stores

#### *Music and Arts*

1219 N Main St Suite A,  
Summerville, SC 29483  
(843) 871-4784

[www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)

500-B Altman Street  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
(843) 761-2385

[www.pecknelmusic.com](http://www.pecknelmusic.com)

#### *Southern String Supply*

502 Wando Park Blvd #106  
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464  
(843) 225-2467

[www.theinstrumentdoc.com](http://www.theinstrumentdoc.com)

### Online Stores

#### *Shar Music*

2465 South Industrial Hwy  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
1-800-248-7427

[www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com)

#### *Southwest Strings*

1721 S. Cherrybell Strav  
Tucson AZ, 85713  
1-800-528-3430

[www.swstrings.com](http://www.swstrings.com)

#### *Johnson String Instrument*

11 John Street  
Newton Center, MA 02459  
1-800-359-9351

[www.johnsonstring.com](http://www.johnsonstring.com)

## INSTRUMENTS

Every student must have an instrument. The most cost-effective way to acquire an instrument is to purchase one outright from a string instrument dealer. Most stores offer affordable lease to purchase plans. **DO NOT PURCHASE instruments from another source before consulting with Mrs.**

**DePriest. I am happy to review instruments to ensure your student will have a positive experience.** Poor quality instruments are the #1 reason students quit. (Beware of Internet, Craigslist, and Pawnshop "Deals!") It is important to invest in an instrument that will sound good and not be constantly in the repair shop because of inferior construction or condition. We can work together to find the best instrument for the individual student's needs.

No member will be denied the opportunities of our organization due to financial difficulties. If there are financial issues, please contact Mrs. DePriest!

## INSTRUMENT REMINDERS

1. Take care of your instrument. Keep it clean and stored in a climate-controlled facility. Do not leave in a car or garage since extreme temperatures can damage the instrument. Instruments should be stored in their cases when not in use and never left on the floor, furniture, or on top of a case unattended. Violins and violas should never be hung from the lip of a music stand. Bows should be

loosened and put away when not being used and cello/bass endpins must be in before returning them to racks. Any damage incurred to an instrument due to the failure to follow these procedures or by negligence on the part of the student is solely the responsibility of that student.

2. All instruments will be stored in the orchestra room. Take your instrument home to complete daily homework (practice).

3. If your instrument is in need of repair, do not attempt to fix it yourself. Bring it to Mrs. DePriest first. If it is a minor problem and I can fix it, I will. If I cannot, I will direct you to a reputable repairman.

## **HOMEWORK IS PRACTICING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**

Students will receive practice assignments each day focused on specific skills and excerpts of music that they must master. Students who have a regular time to work every day tend to practice more consistently and are better prepared for class, concerts, and proficiency tests. Consistency is the key to success. All students must take their instruments home after school if they do not already have one at home for practicing. Parents, please encourage your son or daughter by providing time for practice every day. 99% of students need daily parental support and encouragement to practice.

## **GRADING POLICY**

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

Rehearsal	40%
Concert/Playing Tests	25%
Classwork/Written Assessments	15%
Practice Quizzes	20%



### **Rehearsal**

In order for an ensemble to be successful, active student participation and preparation is essential. Students must have their instrument, method book, binder, and pencil at every rehearsal and show maximum effort and focus. Each day of class is worth 10 points. Students begin each day with full credit. Points are deducted for not having materials, being unprepared, and for behavior infractions.

### **Concerts**

Please make sure the dates and times of these events are in your calendar now so that conflicts can be minimized. If there is a conflict, please contact Mrs. DePriest well in advance of the scheduled event (not on the day of the event!). A student's grade will be reduced for tardies or leaving early without approval from the director. In music, concerts are the same as a championship game in sports. Everyone is needed and must be there to rehearse and perform. There are three excused reasons for missing a concert:

1. Death in the family or comparable family emergency
2. Student illnesses verified by a doctor's excuse
3. Documented religious holiday.

For an excused absence or tardy, or permission to leave an event early, parents must send written notification to the teacher (in advance when possible) describing the nature of the absence (email is fine!). Any other absences or tardies are excused at the discretion of the director. Students that miss a performance, even if excused, will be given an alternate assignment. If a conflict arises, please give Mrs. DePriest at least one week prior to the scheduled concert so that arrangements can be made.

Students who come to a concert performance in unacceptable attire will have their concert grade reduced (unless coming directly from a sporting event without time to change).

### **Performance Assessments**

Performance assessments will be announced in advance and will be used to demonstrate mastery of the concepts and skills we've covered in class. Performance assessments will be submitted via Google Classroom. Students will be encouraged to complete these assessments at home as able, but limited class time will also be made available for creating and submitting the video. Mrs. DePriest will instruct students on how to record and submit these assessments.

### **Classwork**

Classwork will cover elements of theory, music history, and musical performance that we have covered in class. Written Assignments will be completed in class when possible.

### **Quizzes**

Students will have specific assignments everyday that they are to practice for the next class. Students will demonstrate their mastery of those assignments through individual or small group performances in class. Students may or may not be given advance notice of a practice quiz, but material will always have been covered in class before an evaluation is given. A practice quiz will be given no more than once a week.

For more articles regarding the importance of practice and how you can help:

<http://www.bulletproofmusician.com/how-many-hours-a-day-should-you-practice/>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Practice-Violin>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/deceptivecadence/2012/06/18/155282684/getting-kids-to-practice-music-without-tears-or-tantrums>

<http://www.bhg.com/health-family/parenting-skills/family-relationships/how-to-help-kids-practice/>

### **Concert Attire**

Students will be required to wear all black for all formal performances as outlined below:

Shoes: All black shoes, dress shoes preferred.

Bottom: Black pants, dress, or skirt. If a student chooses to wear a dress or skirt, they must wear black tights or leggings.

Top: Black shirts that have minimum three-quarter sleeves.

### **FINGERNAIL POLICY**

One sacrifice we make in order to play our instrument correctly is having short nails. Are they too long? Test: with a straight finger, firmly press the fingertip down onto the top of a table so that the finger is perpendicular to the table. If the fingertip can firmly press to the table without the nail getting in the way, the nail is short enough. If the nail gets in the way, it is too long to play a string instrument correctly. Wearing salon nails to orchestra class is like wearing high-heels to PE. Long nails make it hard to be successful. Repeat offenders may lose class participation points and may not be allowed to perform.

## CLASS FEE

No child will be denied the opportunity to participate in orchestra due to finances. Please contact me if you need any financial assistance and we will work together to find what works best for everyone.

Class Fee: \$40	To help cover the cost of sheet music, rosin, tuners, repairs to school equipment, method books for students to learn from and our music theory software.
Optional-Orchestra Tshirts available for \$13	Worn at casual performances or around school
Any SCMEA events your student is interested in participating in will be paid as registration for that event is happening.	Region Orchestra Auditions, Solo and Ensemble, etc.

Fees are payable with cash or check made out to Sangaree Middle School.  
Please pay class fees by September 30, 2021.

## ORCHESTRA CONTRACT

Detach and Return by August 23rd or complete the Google Form found here:

<https://forms.gle/PA3GWmRPuVsssZD98>



(or scan this QR code for the form!)

### Student:

I have completely read the Sangaree Middle School Orchestra Handbook. I understand and agree that:

1. I will follow all policies, rules, and procedures outlined in the handbook.
2. I will practice at least 5 days a week to learn my skills and music in a timely manner
3. I will bring my method book, binder, instrument, and pencil to class every day.
4. My contribution to the orchestra is an important part of the ensemble's success.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent:

I have completely read the Sangaree Middle School Orchestra Handbook. I understand and agree that:

1. I will follow all policies, rules, and procedures outlined in the handbook.
2. I support the student agreement listed above and my child signed it.
3. If I have questions or concerns about my child's experience, I will contact Mrs. DePriest to give her a chance to address them.
4. I must pick up my child no later than 15 minutes after an event has ended. If I am going to be late, I will call Mrs. DePriest to make her aware of the situation.

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the information below to assist in orchestra communication:

Phone #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #2: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_