

Wheaton Christian Grammar School

Cadet  
Orchestra  
Handbook

2024-2025

# Wheaton Christian Grammar School

## Cadet Orchestra Handbook

2024/2025 School Year

Dear Orchestra Members and Parents,

Welcome to the 2024/2025 Cadet Orchestra Program at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. I look forward to being your conductor and teacher this year. In this handbook, you will find all the policies and procedures in order to make your orchestral experience positive, problem-free, and great fun.

### **Parents**

Thank you for allowing your son or daughter to be in orchestra this year. They will have the opportunity to experience the joy of making music and mastering new skills. It is essential that we partner together to encourage each student to reach their potential through effective practice. I believe that students who use effective practice techniques become more enthused about playing music and progress more quickly. Let's work together on this!

Please take the time to read the following information carefully whether you are new to the orchestra here at WCGS or returning to the program. Students and parents must sign the commitment form and return it by **Thursday, August 29th**.

I am looking forward to having a wonderful year together. Please feel free to contact me at school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Emily Mittlestaedt

630.668.1385 ext. 262

[emittlestaedt@wheatonchristian.org](mailto:emittlestaedt@wheatonchristian.org)

## Daily Rules and Procedures

The following rules are set in place to create an atmosphere of learning and success. Students who violate these rules reduce the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently hurt the entire orchestra.

1. Enter the orchestra room in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Quickly get your instrument and music and take your seat.
3. Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium and no further talking will be permitted.
4. Students will not play other students' instruments.
5. Orchestra members will have the following at every rehearsal:
  - a. INSTRUMENT (with necessary accessories)
  - b. BINDER WITH ALL MUSIC
  - c. PENCIL (you supply your own)
6. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
7. Instruments **MUST** be stored in instrument lockers when not being played at school.  
**DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT IN HALLWAYS.**
8. Practicing is very important. More is accomplished in rehearsal when you have learned your music at home. Leaving your instrument at school overnight should be the exception rather than the rule.
9. Students who do not have their instrument or music for rehearsals or sectionals will have points deducted from their grade.
10. Absolutely no gum, food, or drink in rehearsal. (water is OK)
11. Respect the rights, safety, and property of others.
12. Accept responsibility for yourself and your learning.

## Grades/Points

Grades are based on an average of Student participation and preparedness in Class and Sectionals, Concerts, and Video Assignments on Microsoft Teams.

## Beneficial Experiences

**Concerts/Recitals** – Students are encouraged to attend concerts or recitals featuring their instrument. Concerts and recitals can be very inspirational.

**Private Lessons** – Every instrumentalist should consider taking private lessons on his/her instrument. Although not a requirement, private lessons can be extremely beneficial.

**IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest** – Solo and ensemble contest will be coming up in February. Now is a good time to begin thinking about your involvement in this contest. Information will be sent home when it is available.

## Sectionals

All students in Cadet Orchestra have a scheduled weekly sectional during the regular school day. Since academic classes will be missed for sectionals, **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK! It is critical that every orchestra student attends these sectionals. They are vital to the progress of our orchestra's success.**

## **Practice**

All students are required to practice at home. A minimum of 100 minutes per week is required. Consistent, daily work is essential to improvement on your instrument. Practice is most effective when it is broken into smaller practice sessions. For instance, practicing 20 minutes, 5 days a week, or 25 minutes, 4 times a week is much more beneficial than 100 minutes at one time. No practice logs are required but I strongly suggest that students record each day's practice time for personal accountability. The quality and quantity of student practice will be evaluated through Microsoft Teams assignments and in-class assessments.

## **Instrument Care and Maintenance**

All students must have instruments in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain proper care of their instruments throughout the school year. This year, Quinlan and Fabish will visit our school weekly and can be utilized for repairs.

## **Rehearsal Schedule**

Cadet Orchestra rehearses twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11:35am until 12:12pm.

## **Concert Uniforms**

Each student is required to purchase a uniform for performances. The mandatory concert dress code is:

Boys: Black shirt, black dress slacks, black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Girls: Black dress or skirt (knee-length or longer), OR black dress pants, and black socks and shoes.

## **Concerts and Important Dates**

Concerts are mandatory and are to be viewed as a final exam.

Christmas Concert.....Thursday, December 12th, 2023  
Spring Concert.....Thursday, May 15th, 2023

## Cadet Orchestra Commitment Form

I have read the preceding information. I understand and accept the commitment and expectations of becoming a member of the Cadet Orchestra. I also realize that I am making a one-year commitment for the 2024/2025 school year to the WCGS Cadet Orchestra.

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Student's Name (print)

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Student's Signature

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Parent's Signature

Please detach this form, sign, and return to Mrs. Mittlestaedt by **Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**.