

# Code of Conduct & Expectations

## REHEARSAL

Rehearsal time is very valuable and every moment of it must be used for actual rehearsal purposes. The following regulations are used in all fine musical organizations. These are the foundations of our rehearsal procedure. READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY. This will eliminate any possible misunderstandings.

1. All students should be in their seat when class is scheduled to start. All music and equipment, including instrument and pencil should be out and ready. All percussion equipment should be set-up prior to warm-up. Conversation and warm-up may continue until the director steps up on the podium/or is in front of the ensemble.
2. Warm up your instrument and hands by softly playing long tones or scales. Percussionists should confine themselves to playing soft warm-up exercises and assembling necessary equipment for the rehearsal.
3. When the conductor steps up on the podium, all talking should stop at once. Your full attention should be given to the conductor and nothing else should be allowed to distract you. All books, cell phones and materials not pertaining to your music ensemble should be in your backpack or with your case in the designated case area-not under or around your chair.
4. Gum chewing, eating, or drinking will not be permitted during any rehearsal or performance.
5. The rehearsal room must be kept orderly at all times. This is each musician's responsibility. All equipment should be stored properly after each rehearsal. No music should be left lying about and all sticks, mallets, and accessories should be stored in the proper bag/container. No mallets or sticks should ever be left on the floor.
6. Failure to adhere to these rehearsal policies and rules will result in the person(s) involved receiving a warning. The second warning will be to the student and the parent. If a 3rd warning needs to occur, disciplinary action will follow.

## PERFORMANCES

Performances are extremely important as they give each student an opportunity to display their skills and also participate in a creative musical experience. It is important that each student accepts responsibility as a member of the Colorado Homeschool Music Program and participates in every performance. Please remember that band, choir and orchestra are voluntary until you are accepted as a member, then it becomes obligatory.

**Performance participation is REQUIRED.**

**Band is a group effort and we strive to have a complete ensemble with all instruments for the best sound.**

Just like a Baseball team can't play without each position filled, we can't perform well without ALL OUR MEMBERS. Having every member of the ensemble is critical to our success.

No absences are allowed the last 3 out of 4 classroom rehearsals before a concert and the rehearsal and dress rehearsal before the concert are mandatory.

All absences from required performances including illness must be taken up with the director as far in advance as possible. Please try to make every accommodation possible to allow your student to perform. If, for some reason, you cannot make arrangements and your son/daughter must be absent, please make the director of their ensemble aware as soon in advance as possible, in writing. This allows the director to make necessary changes in the music to accommodate for missing persons.

It is understandable that serious illness, family emergencies, and "Acts of God" can and will happen from time to time. In the case of this happening, please make every effort to keep the ensemble director informed. This is best accomplished through e-mail. Part time work/job will not be accepted as a reason for an excused absence.

## APPROPRIATE ATTIRE:

Remember, when you appear at a public performance you represent yourself, your family, your ensemble and your community to the general public. You have an important job of selling yourself in a manner that will reflect positively upon yourself and your ensemble. One individual can discredit an entire ensemble, CHM, and community with poor behavior or inappropriate attire.

## TRAVEL

When it becomes necessary to travel as a group, certain rules must apply to ensure the safety and enjoyment of everyone. When students travel with the ensemble they represent not only the ensemble but also CHM and the homeschooling community. Students are expected to comply with the instructions of the Director and the chaperones at all times. Students planning to travel home from the event with someone other than a parent or legal guardian must submit a plan in writing at least one week before departure to their ensemble's conductor.

## AUDITIONS, CHAIRS, AND CHALLENGES

Auditions will be held for the Intermediate and Concert Band in early August and periodically throughout the school year as deemed necessary. Auditions will count for both ensemble and chair placement and will be held using music from the band folders or a special etude that will be chosen and made available by the director.

## INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE/HOMEWORK

Consistent, quality practice is very important to any music student wishing to be successful either individually or as the member of an ensemble. Each student is expected to practice a minimum of 30 minutes per night, five nights per week. Pre-Band, Beginning Band & Beginning Orchestra may have lesser practice requirements at the beginning of the year-each instructor will make that decision. Practice is most beneficial when accomplished in a quiet area with no distractions, using a chair and stand for proper posture. The following equipment is recommended to accompany your practice session:

- Chair
- Music Stand

- Metronome & Tuner (There are many free apps for phones & computers. There are also hand held tuner/metronomes such as the Korq-40)
- For choir-correct standing posture with and without the music.

A typical practice session might include 8-10 min. of warm-up, 10 min. on a difficult passage in the music, and 10 min. on a solo or etude. THIS IS A MINIMUM!!! Students aspiring to greater levels of musicianship would find it necessary to spend more time and effort at musical practice.

If your ensemble's director uses an online software for a practice source, students are expected to use it for practice assignments. Some assignments will be solely for the use of the students and others will be for submission to the director.