

# North Star Orchestra Handbook



**Rob Salistean, Director**

**2012-2013**

lnsfinearts.com

## **Welcome to the North Star Orchestra Program**

This handbook has been prepared from students and parents in the North Star Orchestra program so that you will know the procedures and expectations for the 2012-2013 school year. Please read this information carefully and keep it for future references.

The Fine Arts Calendar lists performance dates and important rehearsals where attendance is expected. You may see this calendar at any point on the web site. If dates are changed or added, I will do my best to inform you as soon as possible. Please inform your parents and your employer now so that they might plan accordingly. It is important for every member to be present for concerts for the entire concert.

## **String Classes**

All instrumental groups at North Star stress the development of technical performance ability, sight-reading skills, and attainment of expressive qualities through rehearsals. Each group performs a wide variety of literature from the classics to popular selections. The main concert groups will rehearse during the school day and have concerts to demonstrate learning in the school auditorium. Select and extra curricular groups may perform in the community, at festivals and contests, and at sporting events. The course offerings in the program will be based on numbers.

### **Orchestra**

The North Star Orchestra is open to string players in 9-12 grades. This ensemble will enhance the musicianship of the individual and foster cooperative learning with concert music. This ensemble meets all year long and will perform 4 in concerts as well as participate in a music contest. Most of the music will be for strings only, but there will be some full orchestra experiences.

### **Jazz Band**

The Jazz Band will focus on big band style music and improvisational skills. It is highly recommended during the first year that members of Jazz Band be a member of a concert group at North Star. (Priority will be given to those that participate in the concert ensembles) This ensemble will participate in various jazz festivals and perform 3-4 concerts per year. This ensemble meets all year during the school day.

## **Additional Performance Opportunities**

### **Small Ensembles**

Various other small ensembles are formed during the year. These might include brass, woodwind, string, and percussion small ensembles that are formulated for special performances or events. Small ensembles provide an excellent way for students to develop their musicianship in smaller rehearsals and cooperative situations. Small ensembles that meet throughout the year are eligible to receive lettering points.

### **All-State Orchestra**

The Nebraska Music Educators' Association All-State Honor Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band auditions are held the second Saturday of October. This is one of the highest honors a high school musician can attain. All 10-12 grade students are highly encouraged to participate in this audition, and students are expected to be fully prepared to represent North Star. Director assistance will be given.

### **College Honor Orchestras**

Auditions for several College Honor groups, including Wesleyan, and Doane College are held throughout the year. Eligibility varies by grade, depending on the ensemble. These ensembles are wonderful opportunities to work with great conductors, meet new people, and make great music. Students are encouraged to find other regional honor bands to be apart of.

### **Pit Orchestra**

A small group of students is selected to be members of the pit orchestra for the musical. The selection is made on the recommendation of the band director. Auditions may be necessary.

### **Electroponic (E-one-three)**

Electroponic is a show combining Rock N Roll, Jazz, Stomp, Percussion, Indoor Marching, and Color Guard for a stage presentation. The group may involve some of the scheduled classes and it may also contain an audition group of students. The show will be performed in the spring close to the end of school. Strings have been involved in the E04, E05, E11 and E12 years.

## Grading Procedures and Expectations

The goal of the Orchestra program is to develop comprehensive musicianship among the individuals in the ensembles. I wish to train musicians that will be able to perform without assistance when they leave the program. Grading in the orchestra program will evaluate the amount of learning and progress that occurs during the grading period. Students will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Performance Skills** 41% of grade
  - Students will demonstrate music performance skills through in-class playing with the ensemble and group of individual playing tests.
  - Assessment will be done by the teacher and the student with music performance rubrics.
2. **Musical Knowledge** 12% of grade
  - Students will demonstrate their understanding of musical terms, concepts, and theory through written tests.
3. **Performances** 37% of grade
  - Student growth is demonstrated as a whole with performances. They are equivalent to final tests in other classes. Therefore, every student is required to be at all performances. Unexcused absences will lower the grade significantly. Conflicts must be discussed with the director in advance. **Work is never an excuse!** If there is a school conflict please notify me of that in advance.

Thursday, October 11	7:00pm	LNS Auditorium
Thursday, December 13	7:00pm	LNS Auditorium
Tuesday, March 5, 2013	7:00pm	LNS Auditorium
Monday, April 15	TBA	LSW - NSAA
Thursday, May 16	7:00pm	LNS Auditorium

4. **Rehearsal Attitude, Effort, and Attendance** 10% of grade
  - Be a team player that listens, works hard, challenges oneself, and leads in a positive way.
  - Be prepared with all your equipment, music, pencils, and any other instructional materials needed.
  - Being prepared also means practicing your music outside of class.
  - Be on time. Rehearsals begin promptly which means being ready to play when the rehearsal begins, not just arriving to the classroom.
  - Leave cell phones and electronic music devices out of the classroom.
  - If you are not in the rehearsal, you are not learning or helping the group. **You make up every missed rehearsal through practicing.**

# Expectations in the Program

1. Show up on time and prepared.
2. Respect people and equipment.
3. Give 100% effort 100% of the time.

## Housekeeping Procedures

- Set the room up the way it needs to be for the specific class.
- Get your instrument and music out and warm up until the director begins.
- Please put your music in order based on the instructions on the board.
- No food, gum, or drinks other than water in the classrooms.
- No talking during rehearsal- everyone needs to hear all instruction.
- Always bring a pencil for marking music.
- **Come prepared musically. Rehearsal is not a place to learn parts.**
- Hands off equipment that is not checked out to you or owned by you.
- Instruments are to be stored in lockers or storage areas- not left out on the floor.
- Music is to be kept in music slots not in lockers or cases.
- Take care of your instruments whether school owned or not. Instruments in the shop can't be practiced. Make sure your instrument works properly.
- If you forget your instrument or if it is in the shop, you will take detailed notes of the rehearsal to use when practicing. These notes will be turned in the next day after you practice.
- Do not bring work from other classes. You don't practice your instrument in other classes, so don't bring their work into our class.
- Put stuff back where you found it.
- Pianos and timpani are instruments. Please don't use them as shelves.
- You are responsible for the music checked out to you, and it is to be treated with care. You will pay to replace damaged or lost music.

## Concert Attire

All men will wear black pants, black dress shoes, black socks, and a black collared shirt. A tie is preferred. You may wear a suit if you would like. Ladies will wear either black slacks or a long black dress with a black collared blouse and **black close-toed dress shoes**. Please see Mr. Salistean immediately if you have concerns or issues with the dress for concerts.

When you perform in any ensemble from this program you represent North Star as a whole. Your actions determine the Orchestra's reputation. Members of this department **will** reflect a positive representation of the school. Your hard work and dedication will be the determining factor in the success of our program.

## Orchestra Lettering Requirements

An Instrumental Letter represents participation beyond the regular classroom activities. To be eligible for an instrumental letter, **you must participate in orchestra for the entire school year, receive an 'A' in class all year,** and collect 300 points based on the following activities:

Orchestra	125 pts.
Jazz Band	125 pts.
Pit Orchestra for the Musical	75 pts.
Small Ensemble (full year commitment ex. String quartet)	75 pts.
Lincoln Youth Symphony Member	125 pts.
Junior Youth Orchestra Member	125 pts.
Honor Orchestra Participation	75 pts.
Honor Orchestra Audition	25 pts.
Performance at LPS Solo/Ensemble Contest	75 pts. (Solo) 50 pts. (Ensemble)
Perform solo at public event (must have program)	50 pts.
Taking Private Lessons all year (must be verified, taken on your string instrument)	75 pts.
Concert Attendance* (college or above-must have program) (requires a one page written review)	25 pts.
Tri-M Membership	25 pts.

*\*You must write a 1 page review shortly after event. Reviews written after 2 weeks of the event will not be accepted). Acceptable events **do not** include anything where the instrumental group is background to the overall performance such as a theatrical production.*

**Instrumental letters points must be submitted to the instrumental office by May 1. It is your responsibility to submit points to receive a letter.**

## Private Instruction

Individualized, one-on-one instruction with a qualified tutor will put any student on the fast track to incredible success. Provided is a list of qualified music instructors and their phone numbers.

### Violin/Viola

Morris or Aleta Collier	421-1535		
Donna Carnes	489-6193		
Nissa Evenson	440-1473	<a href="mailto:info@stringstudio.com">info@stringstudio.com</a>	www.stringstudio.com
Vicki Harris	474-3546	<a href="mailto:vharris1@neb.rr.com">vharris1@neb.rr.com</a>	
David Neely (UNL)	472-2987	<a href="mailto:dneely@unl.edu">dneely@unl.edu</a>	
Sam Packard	730-4472		
Heather Pedersen	484-7284		
Clark Potter (UNL)	420-5333	<a href="mailto:cpotter1@unl.edu">cpotter1@unl.edu</a>	
Kim Salistean	421-2481	<a href="mailto:ksalistean@aol.com">ksalistean@aol.com</a>	
Lisa Watkins	421-9161		

### Cello

Karen Becker (UNL)	472-4253	<a href="mailto:kbecker2@unl.edu">kbecker2@unl.edu</a>	
Amy Salistean	525-7907	<a href="mailto:equineakw@hotmail.com">equineakw@hotmail.com</a>	
Traci Sands	423-9246		

### Bass

Mike Swartz	423-5343		
-------------	----------	--	--

## North Star Pride

**P**erseverance- You can never give up.

**R**espect- For yourself and others.

**I**ntensity- Stay focused and keep your goals in mind.

**D**esire- Reach beyond your limits.

**E**xcellence- Not perfection. Do your best every day.

1. You are what you think you are. Think positively about yourself.
2. A winner works harder than a loser and makes time for activities.
3. A winner makes commitments; a loser makes promises.
4. A winner listens; a loser just waits until it's his turn to talk.
5. A winner feels responsible for more than his job; a loser says, "I only work here."
6. Decide exactly what you want. Become goal oriented.
7. All things are possible to him that believes.
8. You must have a clear picture of the correct thing.
9. Good planning requires concentration. Learn to concentrate.
10. Give your best effort at all times.
11. When you maintain an enthusiastic outlook, you will be successful.
12. Don't allow adversity to stand in your way. Find a way through it.
13. Never use the word can't. (**Can't really means won't!**) Overcome this habit by saying "I can!"
14. Enthusiasm for life and its many opportunities is a must.

**15. Finally, no matter what you are trying to accomplish in life: Know what you want in life and go after it!**

### **Wall of Fame**

Students who participate in honor orchestras have the opportunity to be placed on the Fine Arts Wall of Fame. In order to have a plaque placed on the wall of fame students must accomplish the following within their four years of high school:

3 years of All-State Participation OR

2 years of All-State Participation and 1 additional honor orchestra

### **Instrumental Awards**

The following Awards are given at the end of the year during the final concert. Students are given a certificate as well as added to the plaque in the orchestra room. Recipient is selected by director and is a cumulative process.

**National School Orchestra Award:** is the highest honor bestowed upon a member of a high school orchestra that recognizes excellence in playing and contributions to the ensemble.