

# CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA 2007 - 2008

## HANDBOOK



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*CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA*

**SCHEDULE OF ORCHESTRA ACTIVITIES**

**2007-2008**

**FIRST SEMESTER**

- Orchestra Potluck Dinner (Aug. 21)  
Auditions for Orchestra (Aug. 22 and 24)  
Solo & Ensemble Festival Application Deadline (Aug. 31)  
All-State Orchestra Application Deadline (Sept. 7)  
Centennial HS "Fall" Student Recital (Sept. 25)  
Orchestra Picture Day/Individual (Oct. 5)  
Georgia State University High School Honor Orchestra Event (Oct. 12-13)  
\* Centennial HS Orchestra "Fall Concert" (Oct. 18)  
GMEA District All-State 1<sup>st</sup> Round Auditions at Holcomb Northwestern MS (Oct. 27)  
Fulton County High School Honor Orchestra Auditions at Centennial HS (Nov. 5)  
Fulton County High School Honor Orchestra/Band Event at Riverwood HS (Nov. 12-13)  
GMEA District V Instrumental Solo & Ensemble Festival at Grady HS (Nov. 17)  
\* Riverside Chamber Players Concert at Centennial HS (Dec. 2)  
\* Centennial HS Orchestra "Winter Concert" (Dec. 4)  
\* Centennial HS "Winter" Student Recital (Dec. 7)  
1<sup>st</sup> Semester Ends (Dec. 19)

**SECOND SEMESTER**

- Final GMEA All-State Auditions at Westminster Schools (Jan. 19)  
GHP Final Auditions at Clayton State College (TBA)  
\* GMEA Pre-festival Performance at CHS (Feb. 26)  
GMEA All-State Orchestra Event in Savannah, GA (Feb. 28-Mar. 1)  
\* GMEA District V Performance Evaluation at Milton HS - (Mar. 12-13)  
\* Centennial-Haynes Cluster Concert at CHS (Mar. 25)  
\* Centennial-Holcomb Cluster Concert at Holcomb Br MS (April 1)  
Spring Break - (April 7 – April 11)  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade Student Auditions (April 16-17)  
\* Centennial HS Orchestra "Spring Concert" (Friday, May 2)  
Centennial High School Orchestra Auditions for Next School Year (May 6-8)  
\* Centennial HS "Spring" Student Recital (May 6)  
\* Riverside Chamber Players Concert at Centennial HS (May. 11)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Ends (May 23)  
Centennial HS Annual "Orchestra Banquet" (TBA)  
Selection of Orchestra Officers for 2007-2008

- Mandatory event for Orchestra members as part of course requirement

## CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

The Centennial High School Orchestra has performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic, an International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago, Illinois; 58<sup>th</sup> MENC National Biennial Conference in Nashville, Tennessee; and twice performed at the GMEA In-Service Conference in Savannah, Georgia.

Individual members of the Centennial High School String Orchestra participated in the Georgia High School All-State Orchestra, Governor's Honors Program, Spivey Hall Chamber String Orchestra, Fulton County High School Honor Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Buckhead Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra. The students also participated in the GMEA Solo & Ensemble Festivals. Since opening in 1997, the Centennial High School String Orchestra has received straight "Superior" ratings at the GMEA District V Large Group Evaluation.

Some of the notable performances are:

- Performance at the North Fulton Council of PTA Principal's Luncheon (1998)
- Performance for the Georgia Governor Zell Miller (1998)
- Invitational performance at the Governor's Mansion Performances (1998)
- Invitational performance at the Governor's Mansion Performances (1999)
- Awarded a Performance Grant by the Fulton County Art Council (1999)
- Performance at the Grand Opening of Spruil Library (1999)
- Performance at the "Lighting of the Christmas Tree" at Northside Hospital (1999)
- Performance at the Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida (1999)
- Invitational performance at the Governor's Mansion Performances (2000)
- Performance at the Fulton County Administrative Staff Meeting (2000)
- Performance at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in honor of Johnny Isakson (2000)
- Performance for the Georgia Governor Roy Barnes (2000)
- Invitational performance at the GMEA (Georgia Music Educators Association) In-Service Conference in Savannah, Georgia (2000)
- Performance at the North Fulton Music Teacher's Meeting (2000)
- Performance at the Grand Opening of Kroger at the Centennial Village (2000)
- Performance for the Georgia Governor Roy Barnes (2001)
- Invitational performance at the Governor's Mansion Performances (2001)
- Awarded a Performance Grant by the Fulton County Art Council (2001)
- Performances in Austria (Vienna, Salzburg) & Germany (2001)
- Performance at the Symphony Hall (2001)
- Georgia Business Teacher's Annual Conference at Marriott (2001)
- Performances for all Fulton County Schools Elementary School students at the Teaching Center (Once every month during 2001-2002 school year)
- Invitational performance at the 58<sup>th</sup> Biennial Music Educators National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee (2002)
- Performance for the U.S. Congressman Johnny Isakson and Fulton County Board Members and their guests (2002)
- Georgia Business Teacher's Annual Conference at Marriott (2002)
- Performance at the Disney's Epcot Center (2003)
- Georgia Business Teacher's Annual Conference at Marriott (2003)
- Invitational performance at the Symphony Hall (2004)
- Georgia Business Teacher's Annual Conference at Marriott (2004)
- Performance for the Mayor of City of Roswell and City Council (2004)
- Georgia Business Teacher's Annual Conference at Marriott (2005)
- Invitational Performance at the GMEA In-Service Conference in Savannah, GA (2005)
- Performances in Italy (Rome, Perugia, Florence, and Venice) (2005)
- Performance at the prestigious Midwest Clinic, an International Band & Orchestra Conference (2005)
- Invitational performance at the Governor's Mansion Performances (2006)
- Performance at the Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida (2007)
- Performance at the "A Night Out with Nature" at the Chattahoochee Nature Center for Congressman, Tom Price, Johnny Isakson (U.S. Senator), Kathy Cox (State Superintendent) and many guests (2007)

In addition, the orchestra participated in many community-related performances including performances at the malls, assisted-living centers, hospitals, churches, bookstores, company banquets, hotels, conference centers, weddings, etc...

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Description of Orchestra Classes:**

*The Centennial High School "Chamber Orchestra"* is a performance group comprised mostly of upper classmen. The students are selected based on talent, skills, and achievement, with the understanding that there will be out-of-school performances and rehearsals required of all members during the school year. The students are eligible to be a member through auditions and with the approval of the Director. The course will cover the mechanics of string instruments: note reading, rhythm, pitch discrimination, expression, and music literacy at a higher level. Students receive one hour elective credit for all music courses.

*The Centennial High School "Philharmonia Orchestra"* is a performance group comprised of 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The students are selected through auditions and/or with the approval of the Orchestra Director. The students are selected based on talent, skills, and achievement, with the understanding that there will be out-of-school performances and rehearsals required of all members during the school year. The course will cover the mechanics of string instruments: note reading, rhythm, pitch discrimination, expression, and music literacy at a higher level. Students receive one hour elective credit for all music courses.

### **Additional Ensembles:**

#### *Centennial High School Symphony Orchestra :*

This is a full-orchestra that includes students from strings, winds, and percussion. The wind and percussion students in this orchestra are a group of selected students from CHS Band through auditions and/or recommendation from the Director. The CHS Symphony Orchestra will rehearse once a week in the evenings and sometimes during class.

#### *Chamber Strings :*

Chamber Strings is a selected ensemble that comprises members of the Centennial High Orchestra that performs in special, smaller ensemble settings. The students are chosen based on their musical skills, dependability, and the commitment for success. The members of the Chamber Strings will sometimes be asked to perform at functions with a short notice; therefore, the students must be flexible. Additional rehearsals may be required.

#### *Other String Ensembles (String Quartet, etc...):*

All students are encouraged to participate in small chamber ensembles, such as string quartets, quintets, trios, etc.... The students' musical understandings and appreciation about the composers and their work will be much enhanced through the performing of chamber music. The students will benefit much both musically and socially by participating in small ensembles. The students will generally rehearse before and/or after school.

## **Purpose**

Our Orchestra's purpose is to:

- Serve the school and community through quality concert performances.
- Furnish members with an invaluable experience in music as an art form.
- Develop individual responsibility and self-discipline.
- Further school spirit.
- Encourage and develop leadership and teamwork.



## **GRADING SCALE**

The grading scale and quality point values for final semester grades are as follows:

<b><u>Letter Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Numerical Grade</u></b>
<b>A</b>	90 - above
<b>B</b>	80 - 89
<b>C</b>	70 - 79
<b>F</b>	Below 70
<b>W</b>	Withdrew (numerical grade is used for 1 to 100)/Pass or Fail
<b>NG</b>	No grade (no transfer grade or on roll less than 20 school days in the grading period)
<b>INC</b>	Incomplete

### **RECOVERY POLICY at Centennial High School**

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.

Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

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## **ADVANCED ORCHESTRAS ("Chamber" & Philharmonia")**

An orchestra member's semester grade will be derived from rehearsal and performance attendance (35%), playing and/or written tests (25%), classroom participation (25%), and the final exam (15%).

Grading for Festival preparation during the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> semester for the Advanced Orchestra class involves individual check-offs on each of the ability to accurately perform 90% of each selection in order to participate in the festival. First chair at 100%.

### **Course Material/Method Books**

The students will be exposed to music of all genre and styles.

In addition to many different types of music that they will perform in class, the students will also use supplemental books throughout the course of the year, depending on their ability and progress. Listed below are some of the supplemental books which will be used throughout this year:

Advanced Techniques for Strings  
Essential for Strings  
Essential Elements 2000 for Strings  
Harmonized Rhythms

Replacement of each book is \$7.

### **Testing**

Playing tests and check offs will be given regularly by Director. A numerical grade will be assigned after each test. Written tests will be given throughout the semester.

### **Homework**

The students' grade will be lowered when homework is turned in late—one letter grade lowered per/day. All students are responsible in learning music and completing all written/oral homework. All students will be responsible for numbering the measures in his/her music within 3 days of issuance. This is not to be done during class. The section leaders will check parts and report failures to the Concertmaster (mistress).

### **Attendance Policies for Performance and Rehearsal**

Orchestra members shall regard performance as their primary purpose for belonging to this organization and shall make every possible effort to be attendance unless there is an emergency situation. Unexcused absence from a public performance could result in dismissal from the Orchestra and/or lowering of grade and receiving demerits.

Students are expected to be present at all rehearsals and performances in order to receive full credit and remain in good standing with the Orchestra.

Emergency situations may arise for not attending an orchestra activity. Students should contact the Director with an acceptable reason prior to the activity to avoid any grade penalty. A written explanation should follow.

Absences will be excused for personal illness or a death in the family.

An absence from a final rehearsal could result in a student not being allowed to perform with the orchestra for the upcoming performance(s).

### **Dismissal**

The Director reserves the right to remove a student from organization for:

- An unexcused absence from a performance
- Use of drug or alcoholic beverages while representing the Orchestra or Centennial.
- Continued failure to demonstrate a cooperative behavior and attitude

Parents shall be notified immediately regarding the above circumstances for dismissal. Students dismissed from performing organizations shall continue to function in daily class until the end of the semester. He/she will have an alternative assignment during that time. A grade will be assigned based only on class work/assignment and participation.

### **Tardiness to Class:**

Students are expected to be in class before the bell rings. The students need to understand the nature of our class in which much preparation (such as tuning/warming up, getting music, instrument, etc.... prior to actual class instruction) needs to take place.

Tardiness will not be tolerated in this class. A telephone call will be made to parent if the student is tardy more than once per semester. Tardiness can count toward the loss of school privileges as well as deduction towards student's classroom participation grade. Students must also serve private detentions. The student may also be demoted to lower chair.

Please Do Not Be Late to class!!!



## INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS

### **Chair Assignment**

Students will be assigned seating and parts in their section according to their demonstrated playing ability during auditions.

Section leaders and assigned parts will be determined following these auditions. Section leaders will assist other students in learning the assigned music.

First stands shall make every effort to be at all rehearsals and be in their seats before rehearsal begins. The first stands should be one of the first persons to learn the music. Failure to learn quickly will result in demoting to lower seating.

### **Auditions for “Chamber” and “Philharmonia” Orchestra**

Students will play two assigned scales and arpeggios of three octaves (two octaves for string bass), prepared excerpt given by the director, and sight reading music.

#### *Assigned scales:*

Violins: **G** Major scale with arpeggio  
**A** Major scale with arpeggio

Violas: **C** Major scale with arpeggio  
**D** Major scale with arpeggio

Celli: **C** Major scale with arpeggio  
**D** Major scale with arpeggio

Basses: **F** Major scale with arpeggio  
**G** Major scale with arpeggio

### **Challenges**

A student may challenge for a higher chair following a written request to the Director and informing the person being challenged. A challenge form will be used.

Current music and sight-reading may be used for challenges during the school year. A prepared solo will be used for initial audition only.

Challenges involving a change in part will not be allowed four weeks prior to a scheduled performance.

### **Private Lessons**

Individual progress can be enhanced through private tutoring.

Orchestra members are encouraged to seek private instruction in order to improve their performing and contribute to the Orchestra's progress. The Director will assist interested students in contacting private teachers.



### **MERIT SYSTEM**

Merits are points given to students for extra work or outstanding achievement worthy of recognition. Students accumulate merits to qualify for awards given at the annual Spring Orchestra Banquet. Merits do not affect a student's semester grade.

Demerit points will be given to students not following rules of orchestra, such as missed rehearsals, chewing gum in class/rehearsal, leaving music on the stand, negative behaviors, etc....

# MERIT ACCUMULATION

## 2007-2008

*Orchestra Letter/Bar - 15-34 merits*  
*Star - 35+ merits*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Orchestra Officer/Volunteer (6 pts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extra effort in helping with orchestral needs (2 pts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have Met Section Leader Responsibilities (3 pts per Semester)
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Excellent” Ratings at the Solo & Ensemble Festival  
 SOLO-(3 pts) ENSEMBLE (2 pt)
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Superior” Ratings at the Solo & Ensemble Festival  
 SOLO-(5 pts) ENSEMBLE (3 pt)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participation in High School All-State Orchestra Auditions  
*Auditions* DIST. (5 pts) STATE (additional 5 pts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ High School All-State Orchestra Member(10 pts)  
 First Chair at All-State (add. 10pts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fulton County High School Honor Orchestra  
*Auditions* (4 pts) *Honor Orchestra Member* (additional 8pts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Governor’s Honors Participant in Music (15 pts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Major Fund Raising Sales (4 pt) Highest (additional -8 pts)  
 2<sup>nd</sup>,3<sup>rd</sup>,4<sup>th</sup> (add. 5 pts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Private Lessons on Major Orchestra Instrument (2 pts per month)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Membership in Performing Organization Other than  
 CHS- Requiring Weekly Rehearsals—ASYO, MYSO, etc...(1 pt. Per month)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural Concert Attendance (2 pts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership in CHS Foundation for the Fine Arts (5 pts)

OTHERS: List anything below that you consider to be worthy of consideration for merits not listed above. Points will be assigned if there is good reason.

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## **FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT**

### **Director's Office**

Students shall enter the Director's office only for official business. This area is off limits to all students except those engaged in work or meeting. Please do feel free to come in to the office to seek help/advice or discussions.

Students are requested not to interrupt during conferences. Office telephone may be used with permission.

### **Rehearsal Rooms** (Orchestra Room/Auditorium/Band Room)

Each orchestra member shall assume the responsibility of picking his/her music, instrument, books, clothing, etc. and storing such items properly at the end of each rehearsal or performance. Any music and/or items left in rehearsal room and rehearsal areas may result in a lowering of student grade.

Food, drinks, gum, etc. are absolutely not allowed in rehearsal room and rehearsal areas (without permission). Beepers, pagers, and cell phones are also not allowed during rehearsals.

Chairs, stands, equipment must not be removed without permission.

All equipment must be stored properly on shelves or racks.

### **Instrument Storage**

All instruments must be properly stored in bins at all times when not in use. Instruments too large for shelving will be assigned in the auditorium storage area.

Storage bins are to be kept clean and free of litter and personal items.

### **Library**

The librarians/helpers will assist students with all music needs. Students other than the librarians/helpers are not allowed to remove music or return music to library filing cabinets.

### **Lost Music Fines**

Each orchestra member shall be issued with his/her name on it. Students not receiving issued parts shall immediately inform a Librarian in order to obtain it. All students will have their own parts at **ALL** rehearsals (**NOT JUST YOUR STAND PARTNER**).

Music damaged or lost will be paid for by the responsible person at the determined replacement rate.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

### **Males:**

Tuxedo with black bow tie, white shirt, black cummerbund  
Black socks and Black shoes

### **Females:**

Long black dress (to the ankle)  
Black stockings with black shoes

Please contact Mrs. Karen Walker or a parent volunteer if you have any questions regarding uniform.

- The uniform needs to be properly fitted and worn properly. Any student not properly dressed will not be allowed to perform until the problem is corrected.



## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

### **\* Centennial High School Orchestra Website**

<http://www.fultonschools.org/teacher/kimy/>

\* Much of the orchestra-related-information will be available on our orchestra website.

### **Instrumental Music and Athletics**

Music students are encouraged to participate in any sport they choose provided rehearsals of the music group can be attended. The Director and Coach will try to work out a compromising schedule for the student. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Director and Coach of the situation.

### **Scheduling**

Orchestra members who are confronted with scheduling problems should consult the Director for assistance.

Students who have earned first chair status in their respective primary ensemble sections must be enrolled in the regular scheduled class. Students need to be enrolled in the regular scheduled class to participate in performances. Exceptions are seniors who have unresolved schedule conflicts involving classes necessary for graduation and/or AP class conflict in which the director has approved for participation.

### **Parent Conferences**

Parent conferences are encouraged as needed. Please feel free to contact the Director for an appointment.

770-650-4230 ext. 185 (CHS Music office)  
ykkimy@gmail.com (email)



### **Centennial High School Orchestra Representatives to the FFA:**

Mrs. Ruthanna McConnell, CHSFFA Co-President for Orchestra  
Mrs. Lisa Richardson, CHSFFA Co-President for Orchestra

### **Centennial High School Administration**

Dr. John Bartley, Principal  
Tammye Coachman, Assistant Principal  
Jodi Edge, Administrative Assistant  
Stan Fouts, Assistant Principal  
Ashley McGill, Assistant Principal  
Tiffany Butera, Administrative Assistant

### **Fulton County Schools Music Department**

John LaForge, Coordinator of Music