

WESTINGHOUSE

STRING

ORCHESTRA

HANDBOOK

"Dedicated  
to  
Excellence"

## ***Orchestra Guidelines***

1. Each Westinghouse Orchestra member will have one orchestra rehearsal and one group lesson each week. On these days, students playing violin or viola will bring their instruments to school and hang them on the wire in the Orchestra Room before homeroom. Cases will be placed in your assigned slot. This will enable Mr. Beswarick to quickly tune all instruments before the rehearsal or lesson.

2. You will report to the Orchestra Room no more than two or three minutes before the scheduled time. All lessons will end at the scheduled time and students will return directly to class. Teachers are expecting you to return to their room within a few minutes after the end of the rehearsal or lesson.

3. Once in a long while, you may forget to bring your instrument or music. If this should happen, report for orchestra anyway. This should not happen too often!

4. It is your responsibility to notify me if your classroom has a party, field trip, or special activity at the same time as your lesson. In most cases, you will be excused from the lesson.

5. I expect you to practice at least 20 minutes per day, five days per week.

6. You will need to turn in a practice sheet each week at your lesson. Make sure that your parents initialize this after you practice each time and they will also need to sign it at the end of the week. (If you take private lessons, you do not need to turn in practice sheets.)

7. Always bring a pencil to your lesson and to orchestra rehearsal. Never mark music with a pen.

8. You will be playing several concerts each year. The concert dress will be as follows:  
GIRLS-"Sunday best" dress or skirt and blouse.  
BOYS-White shirt, dark dress slacks, long tie and dark shoes.

9. You are a member of an excellent group of young people. It is a group that I am very proud of and I know that I can count on you to behave well and in a businesslike manner at all rehearsals and concerts.

## Instrument Care

1. Always loosen your bow before putting your instrument away.
2. Never touch the hair of your bow. This will put the natural oil from your skin on the bow and it will not hold rosin.
3. Never let anyone else attempt to play your instrument. I have seen too many instruments get broken this way.
4. If a string is out of tune, try to tune it using the fine tuners near the bridge instead of the pegs. If it is badly out of tune, bring it in and let me tune it for you.
5. Bring the instrument to me if a string breaks (or if anything breaks). Please set it on my desk with a note explaining the problem. I will try to have it fixed before the end of the day. Never try to fix it yourself!
6. Put a soft cloth in your case and wipe the rosin off the instrument after you finish practicing.
7. Your instrument can be cleaned and polished with normal furniture polish. Be careful not to get any on the strings or the hair of the bow.