



Weaver Orchestra Handbook

Mrs. Ginny Faulkner, Director email: virginia_faulkner@hboe.org

Welcome to an exciting year of orchestra at Weaver Middle School! I am looking forward to a fun and productive year of music making. In this class, I hope you will learn many new things, enjoy playing your instrument and make new friends in the process. We have an exciting year planned! Through our hard work, dedication and teamwork, our orchestra will reach its fullest potential. Together, we can achieve great things!

Course Philosophy

It is the philosophy of this course that each student has the opportunity to explore instrumental music performance in a supportive, caring and encouraging environment that holds its participants to high standards of performance achievement. Orchestra students at the middle school level are exposed to a variety of new skills, techniques and music that will enable them to grow in their music making abilities.

Course Goals

- To further the student's musicianship and playing skills through a variety of performance opportunities and literature
- To provide greater performance opportunities through a variety of ensembles
- To prepare the student for successful participation in future orchestras.

Course Objectives: To further develop the student's:

- Right hand (bowing) skills
- Left hand (fingering) skills
- Ear training (aural) skills
- Rhythmic skills
- Overall musicianship skills (understanding of dynamics, phrasing and style)
- Sense of responsibility to a performing group.

Class Expectations

1. Be prepared to participate daily.
2. Bring all necessary equipment to class every day. This includes your instrument, music, pencil, Ipad and positive attitude.
3. Be on time to class every day. Promptness to class and rehearsals is very important. Students are expected to be in the rehearsal room when the bell rings. You will have 3 minutes to get out your instrument and music and be seated.
4. Be a good citizen by practicing:
 - Respect for yourself, peers, teachers, and musical property
 - Attentiveness
 - Consistent effort and positive attitude
 - Willingness to ask questions when clarification or additional help from the teacher is needed.
5. Take your instrument home regularly to practice in order to improve your performance skills and the group's performing ability.

Required Materials

The following are required materials for all orchestra students:

- Good quality instrument, bow and case
- Rosin and cleaning cloth
- Extra set of strings (violin & viola) – normally provided by your rental shop
- Shoulder rest (vln/vla) and Rock stop (cello/bass)
- 1" Binder
- Music and pencil
- I pad
- Music stand (for home practice)

I Pad Apps

Please download these apps on your Ipad and put them in a folder titled "Orchestra." You will find them in Self Service.

- Ins Tuner
- Tempo
- Musical Terms Free

Grades

Orchestra students will be evaluated each 9 weeks in the following areas:

- Daily Rehearsal Grade (40%)
- Performances (25%)
- Playing & Written Evaluations (20%)
- Practice Logs (10%)
- Homework (5%)

*Practice Logs – Practice is the key to improvement! Students are required to maintain a log of consistent practice. The goal is to practice a minimum of 90 minutes over at least 3 days per week in order to receive full credit. Practice logs should be signed weekly by a parent or guardian.

Performances

Because we are a team, it is important that all members attend scheduled performances. Only illness or emergency situations will excuse a student from a performance. In case of an illness or emergency, an email must be sent to the director as soon as possible. An unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the 9 weeks grade. Points lost through an excused absence can be made up through an assignment given by the director.

Concert Dress

All performances listed on the calendar require our Weaver Orchestra “concert dress.”

- White dress shirt/top
- Black pants (no jeans please)
- Black dress shoes (black socks)
- Ties are ok.
- No printed materials.
- Please do your best to look professional.

Instrument storage

Students will be issued a locker in the music room for storage of their instruments during the school day. In some cases, it will be necessary to share a locker. A school lock will be issued during the first week of class. Lost or missing locks are the student’s responsibility. Students will be responsible for replacing any lost locks.

Weaver Orchestra Calendar 2025-2026

All performances are required unless otherwise indicated. Students are typically asked to arrive **45 minutes before** the performance time.

**Please mark the dates for your orchestra's performances on your family calendar.

Concert Orchestra 2 & Concert Orchestra 1 Fall Concert (Not involving Cadet Orch.)

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Hilliard Davidson High School PAC

Cadet Orchestra Fall Concert (Not involving Concert Orch 2 or Concert Orch 1.)

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Hilliard Davidson High School PAC

Holiday Concert (All Orchestras.)

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Hilliard Davidson High School PAC

Cadet Orchestra Mid-Winter Concert (Not involving Concert Orch 2 or Concert Orch 1.)

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Weaver Middle School Cafeteria

Concert Orchestra 2 Mid-Winter Concert (Not involving Cadet Orch or Concert Orch 1.)

Date: Monday, March 2, 2026

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Hilliard Davidson High School PAC

Central Ohio String Festival (Concert Orchestra 1 only)

Date: Friday, March 6 (after school) or Saturday, March 7, 2026

Time: TBA

Place: TBA

Weaver Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Event

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Time: Times TBA

Place: Weaver MS

*This event is for those who want to play a solo or participate in an ensemble. It is not a required performance for all orchestra students. More information to come in January.

Spring Concert (All orchestras.)

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Hilliard Davidson High School PAC

*You may also want to include these Davidson HS Concert dates – not required, but great to observe!

Holiday Concert 12/11

Mid-Winter Concert 3/4

Spring Concert 5/6



Weaver Orchestra Contract

Please go to our Orchestra Handbook module on Canvas and read through the Weaver Orchestra Handbook with your parent or guardian. After reading the handbook, putting all pertinent dates on your family calendar, and downloading the required apps to your Ipad, please sign and return this contract to Mrs. Faulkner no later than:

Friday, August 29th, 2025.

We have read the Weaver Orchestra Handbook and understand the classroom expectations, performance expectations and grading policy. We have recorded the scheduled performance dates on the family calendar. We understand that concert dates take precedence over other activities that arise after the signing of this contract.

Student name (PRINT): _____

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

