

**BLEVINS MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**BEGINNING ORCHESTRA EXPECTATIONS**  
**2011-2012**

**Course Objectives:**

Each Student shall:

- Learn technique and terminology for beginning orchestral performance;
- Develop skills necessary to perform alone or in a group;
- Learn appropriate etiquette both as a performer and listener;
- Perform to the best of their ability;
- Develop music-reading and sight-reading abilities;
- Achieve a high level of performance through the development of tone quality, intonation, style, technique, balance, and blend appropriate to a beginning ensemble;
- Increase musical understanding through the study of composers, music history, and the music of other cultures.

**Class Expectations:**

Each student shall:

- BE PROMPT
- BE PREPARED
- BE POLITE
- HAVE A P.M.A. (Positive Mental Attitude)
- PARTICIPATE
- PRODUCE (Take Care of Business)
- NOT chew gum or eat candy, or any other food/drink, in class.

**Grading Policy:**

In accordance with the Blevins Middle School Grading Policy, students will be evaluated on their performance related to established state and national content standards for Music:

- Assessment (90% of total grade);
- Practice (10% of total grade);
- Work Habits (reported each quarter, but not part of final grade).

Grades assigned will follow the adopted grading scale for Blevins Middle School:

- 4 (Advanced)
- 3 (Proficient)
- 2 (Partially Proficient)
- 1 (In Progress)
- 0 (Insufficient Evidence)

**Supplies:**

Students will be given a separate supply list.

**Concerts:**

*Beginning Orchestra* participates in several concert events throughout the year. A separate calendar of concert dates has been provided, and the information is also available on the board in the Choir room (Room 203). **Attendance at all concerts is required.** Any conflicts with a concert date should be discussed with Mr. Floyd no later than two weeks prior to the concert. Any absence from a concert, excused or unexcused, will require makeup work.

**Concert Attire:**

Students in *Beginning Orchestra* will wear black pants or floor length skirt (**no blue jeans, please**), and black shoes and socks (**no athletic shoes, please**). Students will purchase a shirt, tie, and cummerbund for around \$20 through the Blevins office. Please pay this fee in the Blevins Office as soon as possible so uniforms can be ordered.

# BLEVINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT CALENDAR 2011-2012

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Thursday, October 13, 2011	All Choirs and Orchestras Concert	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Tuesday, October 18, 2011	All Bands Concert	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Wednesday, November 9, 2011	PSD Middle School Choral Festival (Silver and Burgundy Singers only)	TBA
Monday, December 5, 2011	Musical Tech Rehearsal	3:30-8:30 PM (Auditeria)
Tuesday, December 6, 2011	Musical Tech Rehearsal	3:30-8:30 PM (Auditeria)
Wednesday, December 7, 2011	Musical Dress Rehearsal	3:30-8:30 PM (Auditeria)
Thursday, December 8, 2011	Musical Performance	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Friday, December 9, 2011	Musical Performance	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Thursday, December 15	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir and All Orchestras Holiday Concert	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Tuesday, December 20, 2011	All Bands Holiday Concert	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Monday, January 23, 2012	Music Tour to Elementary Schools (select groups only)	All Day
Thursday, February 2, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Band Rehearsal	6:00-9:00 PM (TBA)
Monday, February 6, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Band Rehearsal	6:00-9:00 PM (TBA)
Tuesday, February 7, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Band Rehearsal	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (TBA)
Tuesday, February 7, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Band Concert	7:00 PM (TBA)
Monday, January 30 & Tuesday, January 31, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Choir Auditions	TBA
Thursday, March 1, 2012	All Bands Concert	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Tuesday, March 6, 2012	All Choirs and Orchestras Concert	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Thursday, March 1 and Friday, March 2, 2012	Solo and Ensemble	3:30-8:00 PM
Monday, March 28, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Orchestra Audition Tapes Due	4:00 PM (TBA)
Tuesday, April 3, 2012	Talent Show Auditions	3:30-5:30 PM (Auditeria)
Thursday, April 5, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Orchestra Rehearsal	7:00-9:00 PM (TBA)
Monday, April 9, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Choir Rehearsal	6:00-9:00 PM (TBA)
Tuesday, April 10, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Choir Rehearsal	1:00-4:00 PM (TBA)
Tuesday, April 10, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Choir Concert	7:00 PM (TBA)
Wednesday, April 11, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Orchestra Rehearsal	7:00-9:00 PM (TBA)
Tuesday, April 17, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Orchestra Rehearsal	7:00-9:00 PM (TBA)
Friday, April 20, 2012	Greeley Jazz Festival (Jazz Band)	All Day (Greeley)
Monday, April 23, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Orchestra Rehearsal	7:00-9:00 PM (TBA)
Tuesday, April 24, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Orchestra Rehearsal	8:00-11:00 AM (TBA)
Tuesday, April 24, 2012	PSD Middle School Honor Orchestra Concert	7:00 PM (TBA)
Wednesday, April 25, 2012	Talent Show Dress Rehearsal	3:30-6:30 PM (Auditeria)
Thursday, April 26, 2012	Talent Show Performance	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Thursday, May 17, 2012	All Choirs and Orchestras Awards Concert	7:00 PM (Auditeria)
Tuesday, May 22, 2012	All Bands Awards Concert	7:00 PM (Auditeria)

**Blevins Music Department may be asked to perform at additional events. These events will be added to the calendar as they occur. Information will be sent home when events are added to the calendar so that parents and students can plan appropriately. Updates will appear in bold print.**

# BLEVINS MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Students need to be prepared in order to get the most from class time, practice time, and performances. Instruments, music, and some supplies are needed at all times. The following supplies are needed for orchestra students at Blevins Middle School:

<b>Violin</b>	<b>Viola</b>	<b>Cello</b>	<b>Bass</b>
Set of spare strings	Set of spare strings	Spare A & D strings (C and G strings will be required later)	No spare strings needed
Appropriate rosin	Appropriate rosin	Appropriate rosin	Appropriate rosin
Soft cleaning cloth	Soft cleaning cloth	Soft cleaning cloth	Soft cleaning cloth
<b>SHOULDER REST</b>	<b>SHOULDER REST</b>	<b>NO SHOULDER REST</b>	<b>NO SHOULDER REST</b>
<b>PENCIL</b>	<b>PENCIL</b>	<b>PENCIL</b>	<b>PENCIL</b>

Beginning Orchestra students will use the following book:

### **Essential Elements 2000 for Strings—Book 1.**

We will use this book for the majority of the year. You may purchase this book for around \$9.00 at a local music store.

Symphonic Orchestra and Concert Orchestra students will use the following book:

### **Essential Elements 2000 for Strings—Book 2.**

We will use this book for the entire year, along with concert literature. You may purchase this book for around \$9.00 at a local music store.

### **Instruments**

Students are expected to have their instruments at school each class day. When students do not have their instruments, they cannot participate fully in the learning activities. The first time a student forgets his/her instrument, they will be required to call a parent/guardian to inform them of the situation. If the instrument is forgotten again, the student will be assigned detention to make up for the lost instruction time. Conferences between parents/guardians and Mr. Floyd may also be required.

### **Playing Tests**

Students will be evaluated frequently to determine their skill level.

Material from the method books, scales, and excerpts from the orchestra concert literature will be used for the tests. Students are encouraged to retake the playing tests until they have mastered the material. **The goal for Blevins string players is to succeed!** Because playing in orchestra is a group activity, success by all students will ensure success of the entire ensemble.

- There will be a playing test from the method book or concert literature each week;
- Symphonic Orchestra and Concert Orchestra students will also have scales assigned during each quarter.

Most playing tests will be taken using Smart Music software. Blevins Middle School maintains several subscriptions to Smart Music for student use. However, it is highly recommended (but not required) that families purchase a subscription to Smart Music for use at home. More information is available at [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com) or from Mr. Floyd.

## **BLEVINS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA STUDENTS/PARENTS REGARDING THE CARE AND RETURN OF MUSIC**

The Blevins Music Department provides a substantial amount of music for student use during the school year. The cost of music used by our Choir and Orchestra groups is over \$3000 per year (some music is purchased new and some is from our existing library of music). Each year, copies of songs are lost, damaged, and even destroyed beyond use. This places an immense strain on the already small budget of the department.

In effort to control these losses, each student will be provided with a folder in which to keep his/her music. These folders will be assigned by number to the student, and the music inside will match the number of the folder.

Music will be turned in after each performance—or if the director decides that a piece of music is not suitable for the group.

**Students will be responsible for returning the music loaned to them in good condition. Students who do not return music in good condition will be assessed the appropriate fee for the replacement of the music.**

Please help keep our music in good shape!

If you have any questions, please see Mr. Floyd

**ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR STUDENT CONTRACT 2011-2012**  
**BLEVINS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Please return this form to Mr. Floyd by Friday, September 2, 2011.

**TO THE STUDENT:** After reading the information presented for your classroom (expectations, information, and calendar) with your parent or guardian, please read and initial each item below:

As a member of a BMS Choir or Orchestra, I know or understand the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ My responsibilities in the classroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My responsibilities for performances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My responsibilities in regard to the care of the materials I use in class.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My responsibilities in regard to the care and return of music and/or instruments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My responsibility to communicate with my parents in regard to future performances and events so transportation can be arranged/provided.

Student's name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN:** After reading the information provided for your child, please read and initial each item below:

As a parent or guardian of a Blevins Choir or Orchestra student, I know or understand the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ My student's responsibilities in the classroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My student's responsibilities for performances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My responsibility for performances (as parent/guardian—ensuring attendance of student).
- \_\_\_\_\_ The 2011-2012 Blevins Concert Schedule (provided separately).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Materials and instruments (if used) must be cared for properly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fees will be charged for missing/damaged materials and/or school supplied instruments.

**Parent/Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_