

Lucile Erwin  
Middle School  
Orchestra Program  
Handbook



2021-2022

Mr. Daniel F. Smith  
Director

**\* Please note that most of this handbook was written pre-COVID-19.  
Subject to change by Larimer County and Thompson School District. \***

Welcome to the Lucile Erwin Middle School Orchestra! In the Orchestra Program, you will learn to perform on a stringed instrument, make new friends, and experience the many benefits of participating in instrumental music. We are very proud of our Orchestra Program at Lucile Erwin and happily welcome back old friends as well as our new students.

## **Course Descriptions**

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ORCHESTRA**

The purpose of this class is to receive beginning class instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students progress through the sequence of first year string technique via a skill-based curriculum. Opportunities exist for large and small group performance and numerous supplemental activities. Emphasis is placed on proper instrument setup, tone production, music literacy, and basic ensemble skills. Students will perform music at a Grade 1 level. Participation in one group concert per quarter is required.

***Required book is Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1 (Orange) - Students must provide their own book.***

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ORCHESTRA**

The purpose of this class is to receive continuing class instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students continue to progress through the sequence of string technique. While stress is placed on orchestral performing skills, opportunities exist for solo and small ensemble performance. Students will perform music at a Grade 2 - Grade 3 level. Participation in district-sponsored clinics and festivals as well as performing in one group concert per quarter is required.

***Required book is Essential Elements for Strings, Book 2 (Purple) - Students must provide their own book.***

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ORCHESTRA and ADVANCED CHAMBER STRINGS**

The purposes of these classes are to receive advanced class instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students continue to progress through the sequence of string technique. While stress is placed on orchestral performing skills, opportunities exist for solo and small ensemble performance. Students will perform music at a Grade 3 - Grade 4 level. Participation in district-sponsored contests, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade festival with Bill Reed MS, and recruitment tours, as well as performing in one group concert per quarter per group is required.

***Required books are:***

- ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only - Essential Elements for Strings, Book 3 (Green) & Book 4 (Chartreuse)***
  - ***Students must provide their own book.***
- ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade / ACS - Essential Elements for Strings, Book 4 (Chartreuse)***
  - ***Students must provide their own book.***
- ***ACS Only - Sound Innovations for String Orchestra, Intermediate Sound Development (Lime Green)***
  - ***Students must provide their own book.***

**There will be one concert per quarter for all grade levels, as well as additional performance opportunities for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

**All performances are REQUIRED and will be for a grade.**

## Standards Based Grading

Here at Lucile Erwin Middle School, we are proud to be an IB MYP school. Per school-wide policy, to adhere to our MYP IB requirements, our music students will be graded on a system that will correlate with the four IB Criteria (see below). We have listed our most important assignments below under their corresponding criteria. The IB Criteria also correlate with the State Standards for Music, which will become the method of grading for Electives beginning with the 2016-17 school year. All assignments will be graded on a Four Point Scale Rubric.

<b>Criteria A</b> Knowing and Understanding	<b>Criteria B</b> Developing Skills	<b>Criteria C</b> Thinking Creatively	<b>Criteria D</b> Responding
<b>Standard 1</b> Expression of Music	<b>Standard 2</b> Creation of Music	<b>Standard 3</b> Theory of Music	<b>Standard 4</b> Aesthetic Valuation of Music
Daily Rehearsals – Performance Aspects Dress Rehearsals Concert Performances Playing Tests	Composing Short Melodies Full Musical Compositions Musical Arrangements	Daily Rehearsals – Theoretical Aspects Thompson School District Music Assessment Written Theory Worksheets Theory Tests	Performance Attendance Post Concert Reflections Composer Biographies Listening Assignments

### Work Habits / Classroom Behavior Expectations

Alongside our Standards Based Grading System, Work Habits are now tracked separately.

Our orchestras are essentially musical teams. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline is not optional; it is required. A system of checks and warnings will be used to promote proper ensemble behavior. Students will receive a deduction for any infraction in the following areas:

- Class preparation
- In seat and quiet when the bell rings
- Quiet during rehearsal when not playing
- Demonstrates correct posture while playing
- Respect for self and others
- Participates appropriately during rehearsal

Each week, the student will be assessed on their preparation and participation on the same Four Point Scale as our Standards Based Assignments. For example:

<b>Emerging</b>	<b>Progressing</b>	<b>Meets</b>	<b>Exemplary</b>
The Student Needs Significant Musical Coaching During Rehearsal	The Student is Musically Prepared for Rehearsal, but Needs Minor Coaching	The Student is Musically Prepared for Rehearsal	The Student is Musically Prepared for Rehearsal and Assists Others
The Student Needs to Borrow Sheet Music	The Student has Sheet Music, but it is not Marked	The Student has Marked Sheet Music at Rehearsal	The Student has Marked Sheet Music at Rehearsal, at Home, and Assists Others in Marking
The Student Needs to Borrow an Instrument and Supplies	The Student has their Instrument, but is Missing Needed Supplies	The Student has their Instrument and Supplies at Rehearsal	The Student has their Instrument and Supplies at Rehearsal and Assist Others

In order to receive a Meets, the student must be a Meets in every row, straight down the column.

### **Performance Expectations – Please Read and Reread This Section**

As this is a performance-based class, ***attendance at all performances is mandatory***. The dates and places are listed within the handbook. Please put these dates on your calendar now so that you can schedule around them.

- The performance of the orchestra is the primary function of the class and therefore attendance is ***mandatory*** regardless of the time, date, or location.
- Written excuses ***may*** be considered when submitted two weeks prior to the concert ***if*** the excuse has validity.
- A Doctor's Note is ***required*** for illness-based concert absences ***without exception***.
- Students must wear the appropriate concert dress for performances. Failure to be properly attired will result in a deduction of .5 points from the standards-based grade.
- **According to the State Standards, in order to Meet the Standard for a Concert Performance, the Student Will:**
  - a. Perform music in unison and two parts accurately and expressively at a minimal level of 1 on the difficulty rating scale (6<sup>th</sup>)
  - b. Perform music in three or more parts accurately and expressively at a minimal level of 1 to 2 on the difficulty rating scale (7<sup>th</sup>)
  - c. Perform music in four or more parts accurately and expressively at a minimal level of 2 to 3 on the difficulty rating scale (8<sup>th</sup>)
- **Therefore, if the concert is missed due to any type of absence, the student will arrange a small group performance of the music for their parents and/or family members within two weeks of the missed event. This performance should be recorded and submitted to Mr. Smith for grading within two weeks of the missed event. There are no other make-up assignments.**
- Unexcused absences or unsubmitted make-ups for performances **will result in Insufficient Evidence for that performance.**

Why is attendance mandatory at performances?

- Performing for an audience is the primary focus of this class.
- Concerts provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.
- Performances are the means by which the skills learned in the class are evaluated.
- Orchestral performance is a group effort; therefore every missing musician weakens the performance.
- We rehearse together and we perform together.

#### **Other Procedures and Routines**

- Be on time and in your assigned seat when the bell rings.
- Participate in all classroom activities – especially playing!
- Be prepared! Have your instrument, bow, rosin, music, pencil, and a notebook with you for every class.
- No food, gum, or soft drinks are allowed. Water is permitted.

#### **Concert Attire**

Young Men: Black slacks, plain white long-sleeved, button down dress shirt with a collar, black tie (8<sup>th</sup> grade only), black socks, and black dress shoes.

Young Ladies: Black skirt (**below mid-calf and no slits above the knee**), plain white long-sleeved, button down blouse with an opaque undershirt, black hose, and black dress shoes. **\*Appropriate length dresses and skirts are a must due to the demands of playing a string instrument while seated (especially the cello).**

Students in Advanced Chamber Strings will require formal concert attire, which can be ordered at:

<http://www.lemsmusic.com/orchestra-clothing-and-concert-attire.html>

## Care of Music

Each student is expected to maintain a current folder of all music handed out. It is important to take your folder home to practice your music, but you must always have your folder in class for rehearsal. Forgetting your folder will result in a reduction of your Work Habits grade. **Students who misplace or lose original music are expected to order a replacement through J.W. Pepper.**

## Equipment

- Keep instruments in good playing condition, especially if they belong to LEMS.
- Have rosin, shoulder rests, cello/bass strap, a cloth, a pencil, good strings, etc.
- DO NOT, for any reason, touch or play an instrument that is not checked out to you. This is for your own protection as well as the school's protection.
- Storage is available outside the Orchestra room for students who bring their own violins and violas from home. School instruments may also be stored in the classroom cabinets.

## Instrument Rentals

Instruments may be rented from the school on a **first-come, first-served basis** at a cost of **\$40 for the academic year** or **\$60 for the calendar year** from August to August or May to May. Rental forms will be sent home during the first two weeks of school. Your form and payment must be returned to Mr. Smith between **August 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. It is the **student/parents' responsibility to provide an instrument for orchestra once all of the school instruments have been rented**. Rentals may be obtained from:

- Boomer Music (<http://www.boomermusiccompany.com>)
- Music & Arts (<http://tinyurl.com/LEMSOrchestraRentals>)
- Sol Vista Violins (<http://solvistaviolins.com/home>)

## Instrument Repair

We are very fortunate to have qualified string instrument repair specialists in the Loveland/ Fort Collins area. If your instrument becomes damaged or needs routine work or maintenance, please contact:

Boomer Music	Music & Arts	Sol Vista Violins
Fort Collins	Fort Collins	Lafayette
970-223-2424	970-223-5837	720-365-0305

## Recommended Private Lesson Instructors

<u>Violin</u>	Chealsea Allen	563-579-4720
	Hannah Barnes	303-916-8820
	Jephtha Bernstein	970-682-2565
	Bob Kreutz	970-215-8537
	Loni Obluda	719-248-5018
	Kristin Rangel	970-237-2388
	Leslie Stewart	970-219-5985
<u>Viola</u>	Chealsea Allen	569-579-4720
	Cynthia Drexler	970-231-8752
	Sue Temple	970-221-4641
	Margret Miller (CSU)	970-491-5529
<u>Cello</u>	Jenny Crum	860-995-6554
	Becky Kutz Osterberg	970-219-3391
	Haide Lefebvre	970-305-1275
	Beth Wells	970-443-1847
	Barbara Thiem (CSU)	970-484-1063
<u>Bass</u>	Mr. Smith	970-613-7628
	Forest Greenough (CSU)	970-978-3075

## Communication

Communication with students and parents will happen through several mediums. First, please sign up for the Band app. **This is MANDATORY for all students.** Parents, as well as students, can send safe, documented messages through this system directly to me as well as receive important information and updates.

Download the BAND app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), sign up with your TSD School Email (students), parents can join with their personal email

- [6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra](#) – Click hyperlink to join (If under 13, please use the year 2007 for birth year)
- [7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra](#) – Click hyperlink to join (If under 13, please use the year 2007 for birth year)
- [8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra](#) – Click hyperlink to join (If under 13, please use the year 2007 for birth year)
- [LEMS Orchestra Parents](#) – Click the hyperlink to join
- [Simply Strings Orchestra Boosters](#) – Click the hyperlink to join if you'd like to be involved in our Booster Organization

<http://www.facebook.com/erwinorchestrapride>

<https://www.instagram.com/lemsorchestras>

- Please like our Facebook and Instagram pages today to share photos and videos of your students during their time in the LEMS Orchestra Program.

<http://www.lemsmusic.com/orchestra.html>

- This is also where you can find any documents that your students are given in class in case they are misplaced.

[daniel.smith@thompsonschoools.org](mailto:daniel.smith@thompsonschoools.org)

- Please e-mail me with any questions you might have! 😊

## Acknowledgement of Handbook

This will be the first grade that your student receives this semester.

Please go to the following link to sign the Handbook Acknowledgement Form:

<http://bit.ly/LEMSOrchHBSig>

Please sign this document by No Later Than August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.





## Important Orchestra Dates

<u>Date / Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
09-13Aug21	Instrument Rental Week	BOOMER MUSIC
<b>07Oct21 – 6pm</b>	<b>Fall Orchestra Concert</b>	<b>LEMS</b>
19Oct21 – All Day	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade to the CSO	DENVER
25Oct-05Nov21	Music Dept. Fundraiser	LEMS
<b>02Dec21 – All Day</b>	<b>LEMS or LHS @ Mtnvw Fest</b>	<b>MVHS</b>
<b>09Dec21 – 6pm</b>	<b>Winter Orch Concert</b>	<b>LEMS</b>
10Dec21	ACS Spring Auditions	LEMS
15-18Dec21 – All Day	Mr. Smith @ Midwest	CHICAGO
26-29Jan22 – All Day	Mr. Smith @ CMEA	COLO. SPRINGS
28Jan22	LHS Auditions Due	LEMS / LHS
<b>03/10/17/Feb22</b>	<b>LEMS Elem. Music Tour</b>	<b>TSD</b>
03-05Feb22 – All Day	Mr. Smith @ All State	FORT COLLINS
<b>08Feb22 – All Day</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orch Fest</b>	<b>TVHS</b>
<b>17Feb22 – 6pm</b>	<b>Electives Showcase</b>	<b>LEMS</b>
28Feb22 – 5pm	Try In Night	LEMS
<b>02Mar22 – 6pm</b>	<b>Spring Orch Concert</b>	<b>LEMS</b>
25Mar22	ACS Fall Auditions	LEMS
<b>04May22 – 6pm</b>	<b>May the 4<sup>th</sup>! Orch Concert</b>	<b>LEMS</b>
<b>13May22 – All Day</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade @ Elitches</b>	<b>DENVER</b>

**Dates Subject to Change with Ample Notice**