

The City Honors Middle School Orchestras are open to all middle school musicians who have studied a string instrument for at least one year. The purpose of these orchestras is to help students improve their technical skills on their respective instruments and to perform string orchestra literature. There are two middle school groups: one for 5th and 6th grade students which meets during 6th period lunch and one for 7th and 8th grade students which meets during 4th period lunch. Both groups rehearse on “A”, “C”, and “E” days only.

The following musical topics will be addressed:

- Ensemble playing techniques
- Scales
- Multi-cultural literature
- Creativity
- Ear-training
- Rhythm
- Sight reading
- Instrument techniques - bow and left hand

In addition to the orchestra rehearsals each student will be given one group lesson for each six day cycle. Lesson times will rotate through the day to minimize disruption with other academic classes. Lessons will focus on each student’s individual technical needs.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Attendance at rehearsals and concerts 80%
- Individual progress on lesson assignments 20%

Students are expected to be present at all performances. The middle school orchestras traditionally perform a winter and spring concert at school. The dates of those concerts will be posted soon. This year we are also scheduled to perform at Kleinhans Music Hall for the Tops Community Nights series which precede a Buffalo Philharmonic concert. City Honors has reserved two dates, one for middle school and one for high school. More information will follow as soon as it becomes available. Students are encouraged to participate in the Erie County solo festivals in January and the NYSSMA festival in the spring.

The middle school orchestras are planning to perform at Fantasy Island or Darien Lake in May. The groups may also audition for the Collage concert at Shea’s Performing Arts Center. That concert will also be in May.

Group lessons are also offered for beginning string players. Those students receive one lesson per six day cycle. When the beginners are ready they are encouraged to join the orchestras.

There is a participation fee associated with the orchestra. It is \$25.00 per year and includes the rental of an instrument if needed and a lesson book. The \$25.00 will be due by September 25, 2009.

I teach at City Honors on “A”, “C”, and “E” days. Please contact me at school with any questions or concerns. My phone number is 816-3350 room 112.. My e-mail address is pprokes@buffaloschools.org.

Mrs Patricia Prokes, string teacher and orchestra director

Course Syllabus for City Honors Orchestra 9/09

The City Honors orchestra is a string orchestra open to high school students by audition. Its purpose is to help students improve their technical skills on their respective instruments and to perform string orchestra literature. The orchestra rehearses from 7:30 A.M. to 8:10 A.M. every “A”, “C”, and “E” day. High school students may earn ½ music credit for each year of participation.

The following musical topics will be addressed:

- Ensemble playing techniques
- Scales
- Multi-cultural literature
- Creativity
- Ear-training
- Rhythm
- Sight reading
- Instrument techniques
 - Bowing skills
 - Left hand skills
 - Position work

Grades will be based on attendance at rehearsals and performances and an individual performance evaluation each quarter. Students are expected to be present at all performances. The orchestra normally performs a winter concert and a spring concert at school. We also hope to compete at Darien Lake late in the spring. The orchestra will perform at Kleinhans Music Hall for the Tops Community Night concerts which precede a Buffalo Philharmonic concert. We will also compete to be part of the annual Collage Concert at Shea’s Performing Arts Center in May. More specific information on these performances will be available soon.

Additional concerts may be held during school hours. All students will be encouraged to participate in the Erie County solo festivals in January and the NYSSMA festival in April.

There is a participation fee associated with the City Honors Orchestra. It is \$25.00 and includes the rental of an instrument if needed. Please observe the September 25th deadline for payment of this fee.

Because I will be spending most of my time at the middle school this year I will not be offering lessons at the high school on a regular basis. Students may receive help after orchestra on an “as-needed” basis.

I teach at City Honors on “A”, “C”, and “E” days. Please contact me at school with any questions or concerns. My phone number is 816-3130 room 210. My e-mail address is: pprokes@buffaloschools.org

Mrs. Patricia Prokes, string teacher and orchestra director