THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE

A.M. Barbe High School

"Buccaneer" B.H.S.O.

(Barbe High String Orchestra)



(Est. August 18, 2014)

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"Buccaneer" String Orchestra Handbook

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A Special Thank You to our founding principals Mrs. Fraser & Mr. Randy Yellott, A.M. Barbe Administration, CPSB, & Staff for not only fostering, but allowing such a positive and diverse outlet of leisure and study which is intellectually, emotionally, and as well as socially beneficial to all students and faculty alike.

*** Approved February 26TH, 2014: Established August 18TH, 2014 (After-School Class)**

*** Approved February 7TH, 2018: Established August 14TH, 2018 (School Day Class)**

ORCHESTRA PROGRAM'S LONG TERM GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. **To encourage & inspire students to be successful in not only school, but also life.**
2. **To ignite, energize, and maintain student's mental power.**
3. **To promote positive reinforcement and motivation on a day-to-day basis.**
4. **To reveal awareness of the "real world" by encouraging responsibility.**
5. **To instill and affirm that all students/people are life-long learners.**
6. **To inspire creativity to flourish, the imagination to take flight, instill good discipline, teamwork, leadership, good musicianship, respect towards self, as well as others, and develop a better appreciation of various styles of music (fine art) from all periods of history and peoples.**
7. **TO ESTABLISH FIXED, PERMANENT, & SUSTAINING ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS BETWEEN S.J. WELSH MIDDLE SCHOOL & A.M. BARBE HIGH SCHOOL**

OUR ORCHESTRA MOTTO

"As we assemble ourselves and agree to unite in creating a sound for a journey of ONE voice, let us stand in respect and integrity of one another, take on the challenges of life with enthusiasm, and share in the power, appreciation, and joy of music."

– Mr. Gunter

ORCHESTRAL PURPOSE & PHILOSOPHY

Every person, whether young or old, deserves an educational experience of the highest attainable means. The students in the world of today need enthusiastic highly enriched diverse educational activities to better nurture, inspire, motivate, prepare, and equip them for the real world situations of everyday life. In doing so, they will have all the tools possible ever needed to go out into the workforce to be highly functional productive members of our society. The string orchestra is not just made up of talented students. This program is designed to foster the following beneficial characteristics of all successful people: wholesome education, respect, dedication, responsibility, integrity, commitment, appreciation, collaboration, discernment, perseverance, creative and critical thinking, self-control, punctuality, teamwork, higher thinking (right & left brain skills simultaneously functioning), and social skills. The route for a person to be successful is to work and perceive attainable goals/dreams of where to go and what to do. In the end it is all up to what an individual desires and wishes. Students must work in order to pass any other class. In any arts or athletics, students must practice their art/sport in order to better perfect their playing and performance. Playing is a musician's job – Practicing is the time & work invested into the musician's instrument for an unending, eternal product. This High School Orchestra perceives class as a training ground for all life's responsibilities, demands, and pleasures. Consistency, perseverance, and determination will be key in order to succeed, not succumb. We are a team who needs all players in attendance in order to SUCCEED TOGETHER. Welcome to The A.M. Barbe High "School Day" String Orchestra Class! I am looking forward to making music with all students varying from 9th grade to 12th grade desiring and fulfilling their wishes in a unique, rare experience, otherwise known as a string orchestra program. This program is in great hopes, paving the way for a hopeful future with strings instituted and successfully assimilated into our school curriculums-as all schools should be so fortunate to have the opportunities of strings available for all children who so desire to be involved !

DIRECTOR: MR. CHRISTOPHER DON GUNTER

Barbe High School's "Buccaneer" String Orchestra

FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. What is the orchestra & what is it all about? The string orchestra of Barbe High School is a high school credit course that meets daily in which previously "experienced" students (who make the class by an audition process) play their respective instrument of previous study where skills in not only music, but in life are mastered & refined: violin, viola, cello, string bass, *OR* harp (private teacher is requested for harp). All students all do perform in concerts and local/district/state contests/music assessments throughout the year. It's a fun-filled well-rounded experience for all to be a part of with regard to rigor! Due to classroom space logistics of the main campus at Barbe High, students in the Barbe High String Orchestra (B.H.S.O.) are bused from Barbe High to S.J. Welsh where the director is stationed.

2. Does the orchestra require auditions to be involved? Yes. This orchestra is not only a "continuation" and "feeder" of the S.J. Welsh Middle School "Colt" String Orchestra, but all hopeful students to join MUST have previous experience and be very well trained on their instrument. This program does not offer a beginner course since beginning strings is always taught in early middle school grades; nonetheless, lessons are encouraged if desiring to play an orchestra instrument.

3. What all does the audition involve? The following are REQUIRED for a successful audition to the A.M. Barbe High String Orchestra: 1 or more year(s) of experience on a given instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass), major scales (from back of Essential Elements Book II), a prepared piece of student's choice, & sight-reading.

4. Does it cost to join the string orchestra of Barbe High? Yes. Along with renting/purchasing an instrument from a local music store, the school orchestra calls for an annual due of $100 (checks made payable to S.J. WELSH MIDDLE SCHOOL, memo line-Orchestra) due by the close of the 1st 9 Weeks. The $100 due covers your child's organization t-shirt, music to be purchased, school instruments, replacement strings/ instrument repair supplies, field trips, costs to enter (entry fees) for music assessments, incentives, and even reward parties throughout the school year. We are Very Involved & Very Active Year Round!

5. Where has the orchestra performed? In years past, BHSO (Barbe High String Orchestra) has performed in such places as Prien Lake Park, NPD (National Philanthropy Day Banquets at Treasure's of Marilyn's and Reeves Uptown Catering), Mickey Smith's Sax In The City, Lake Charles Symphony Bingo and Brunch at the Country Club, Dynamic Dimensions (Sulphur), Lake Charles Regional Airport, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital, Lake Charles Boston Academy, District Festival Assessment in Baton Rouge, S.J. Welsh Middle School, & Central Library.

6. Are concerts mandatory OR optional for orchestra students?
Yes. There are at least 2 major concerts per school year (Fall, Spring) that are required and are each counted for a grade. Mr. Gunter will allow ample time (news letters & BlackBoard announcements) for parents and students to "carve" out time usually months in advance so students and family may be able to attend. Some other events are optional, yet encouraged & "expected" as a regular active member. Concerts may be performed in various locations across town/parish/state.

7. How do I know what sized instrument I should get?
Mr. Gunter, the orchestra director, will recommend sizing and assist you in this matter; moreover, music stores can usually size students as well. This will be addressed when school starts. If there may be any financial distress concerning rental/purchase of an instrument, then please let Mr. Gunter aware of your situation and he may be able to assist.

8. Does the high school orchestra take trips anywhere? Yes, we take at least 2-3 field trips per year. The furthest we have been is Baton Rouge for District Festival Assessment (for an all day trip). We do plan to do more and go to other places and sites as time and the future allows.

9. Do we play all kinds of styles of music or one particular kind? In orchestra, we will touch and study a variety of styles with respect to music. Especially in the realm of string playing, there are multiple styles/ways of playing stringed instruments, not to mention along with the endless styles, which exist. It is important to study and perform in multiple styles, as every musician does in real world situations.

10. How will I know when there are concerts, special events, etc.? Students will periodically be given letters, reminders to go home with "the latest" of information that the orchestra is currently involved with. These letters may be found as well on *BlackBoard*. Mr. Gunter will communicate with "announcements" on *BlackBoard*; several letters, handouts, and several other important, and neat items (website links) may be found on Mr. Gunter's *BlackBoard* – Mr. Gunter is required to update this online resource weekly. Also, **Join Remind.com!**

11. Are there any benefits/perks to being involved in the "Buccaneer" String Orchestra, music? Yes, every year (first recipient was in the 2017 school year) there is a "senior orchestra member scholarship cash award." Along with that possibility, there are trips, meals that are included at events, music literature from a variety of styles to learn and discover, neat places to go and visit, and friends to make along the way as well. As an orchestra member, you will not only master playing your instrument and gain the advantages as playing in an orchestra, but you will make life-long memories and have something that may hopefully stay with you for life – MUSIC! Weddings/special events are always an option (opportunity to make money)…On one other note: McNeese & several other universities, regardless of your major in college, WILL GIVE AWAY MONEY (SCHOLARSHIPS) TO STRING PLAYERS!

12. SO, WHAT ALL does my child NEED in order to be involved in the BHS Orchestra?

The Following Are **REQUIRED** Items As An Orchestra Member:

1. **Teacher Approval** (Mr. Christopher Gunter) of the candidate student – An audition is required to be in this ensemble. The audition requires all major scales & arpeggios in the back cover of the Essential Elements for Strings Book II, a prepared piece of the student's choice, and sight-reading.
2. **$100 Dues/School Year** (orchestra operations) – Due by close of 1st nine weeks
3. **Orchestra Uniform:**
   GENTLEMEN will provide (purchase) their own SOLID BLACK formal tuxedo jacket, LONG SLEEVE button-down white dress shirt, SOLID BLACK tuxedo pants (black belt); SOLID BLACK socks & BLACK dress shoes (loafer or shoe-string). See a local formalwear shop for attire. The director will provide a school bow tie and cummerbund. This is the required attire for concerts, district, & state assessments.
   LADIES will be measured for their orchestra dress and the school will then order and distribute to all female members. The formal dress will be $80 ($85 for ladies sizes 14-28) and all checks must be made out to S.J. Welsh. SOLID BLACK hose (stockings/hose/knee-highs). NO LEGGINGS ALLOWED - feet MUST be covered with hosiery. Ladies must have flat closed-toe BLACK shoewear. NO HIGH HEELS. This is the required attire for concerts, district, & state assessments.
4. **Join Barbe High String Orchestra on REMIND.COM** for reminders and announcements.
5. **Last 2 Pages from our orchestra handbook** which may be found on BlackBoard, (String Orchestra Handbook Contract & Acknowledgement/Personal Information/Volunteer Form & Media Release Form)
6. Student's **personal instrument outfit** (instrument with bow, rosin, case) whether rented or purchased; NO school instruments are available for student loaning (for home use); school loaning (in class time) – Yes
7. **Essential Technique for Strings (Book 3)** - (Classroom Method Book) buy either the violin, viola, cello, *or* string bass book
8. Personal **metronome & tuner**
9. **All for Strings Book 2 (Theory Workbook 2)** – (Theory Book) buy either the violin, viola, cello, *or* string bass book
10. **½" or 1" Black Binder/Black Folder with brads** for music on concerts/performances
11. **Pencil (Everyday)!**

A.M. BARBE HIGH STRING ORCHESTRA (B.H.S.O)

ORCHESTRA–I PREREQUISITES

This course requires previous experience, an audition process, and all previous comprehensive concepts of learning from what was taught, expected, and provided in the middle school string orchestra of S.J. Welsh Middle School (former middle school members): Music reading must be at a proficient reading level for entry into high school; instrument assembly and maintenance must be very well maintained and expected; correct playing position and sound tone production are paramount to this course. Instruction offers continued focus on the further refinement of tone quality, technique, aural skills, and music literacy. NOTE: This course will require a "teacher approval" from the director of the orchestra program prior to any involvement; an audition will be carried out using an applied rubric (see attached) for acceptance into the high school orchestra course of A.M. Barbe High School.

Orchestra meets daily for 2ND Period as one class (violins, viola, cello, string bass, and harp). Even though the orchestra features performances year-round as one large ensemble, the orchestra class only requires a minimum of 2 required public concerts in a given school year (Fall and Spring Concerts - 2 grades). Several other performance opportunities (banquet, holiday, social, community, and adjudicated events such as district & state instrumental music assessments festivals) are revisited year after year, invited and explored as a said school year allows. Fifteen Grades are collected every nine-week period. Students may not make anything lower than the grade of a "C" (75) as an overall grade on a Report Card while in Orchestra; if this occurs, the said student is on probation for the remainder of the school year until the overall GPA is improved – if not improved, then the student in question will be removed from the course.

A due (fee) of $100 is due at the close of the 1st nine-week period. If the fee is not remitted by the close of the first 9 weeks, then the student will be removed from orchestra. An orchestra uniform is also required (gentlemen – tuxedo, ladies – dress): see handbook for further attire details. Regular attendance is expected and demanded as in any other course. Be prompt to class and all performances, events. Class size could become an issue with regard to only one orchestra class period that is available; therefore, class size will be understood as a "controlled class size." As demand increases and scheduling may allow, parents, community may always inquire for a future second orchestra class period.

Other unique opportunities in which students must continue to audition throughout a given year: LMEA Louisiana All-State Orchestra, Louisiana Southern Parishes Honor Orchestra (LSPHO), ULL (Lafayette) String Day, Solo & Ensemble Festival, & any and all applicable joint special performances in a given year with the high school band and chorus programs.

The following are further detailed concepts that demonstrate mastery:

- At least 1 or more years of experience (auditioned based with discretion of the director)
- Major Scales: C, G, D, A, F, & Bb – one octave, up and down, for all instruments
- G, A, Bb Major Scales – two octaves for violin
- C, D, F Major Scales – two octaves for viola & cello
- Ability to judge basic intonation – flat/sharp
- Basic tuning abilities using pegs and fine tuners
- Understanding of whole, half, quarter, eighth and dotted half rhythms
- Understanding of sixteenth, dotted, and syncopated rhythms
- Understanding of 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, 2/2, & 6/8 time signatures
- Demonstrate a solo/small ensemble at a high level of proficiency (No pop/jazz)
- Advanced sight-reading
- Private lessons are encouraged, but are not required

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. **ALL STUDENTS** involved are required to commit to and thereby **show up** and **be responsible**: just like joining a sport's team- if and when you miss, **YOU are responsible** for where the *class* left off last! NO EXCUSES! You MUST stay on top of your work (practice).

2. All orchestra members ***NEED*** to be in attendance as much as possible! There is no joy in not being prepared & not knowing your music, even worse, failing or even be removed from the class. There will be at least "**1**" concert in the Fall and "**1**" in the Spring; there WILL be multiple performances year-round. We usually have our large concerts every semester (fall, spring). These times, "concerts", are regarded as chances for the orchestra program to show its family & friends the "fruits of your labors".

3. IF YOU ***JOIN***, THEN YOU ARE ***EXPECTED*** **TO SHOW-UP ON TIME AND BE READY TO WORK WITH A GOOD ATTITUDE!** DO NOT BE LATE FOR ANYTHING YOU ARE INVOLVED IN:
If You Are On Time, Then You Are Late. If You Are Early, Then You Are On Time.

4. IF FOR SOME UNFORTUNATE REASON **YOU WILL BE ABSENT – I would prefer a parent e-mail/note for or prior to the next class meeting. Parents, please contact** (christopher.gunter@cpsb.org).

5. Parents, **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS** contact me for anything and everything…**Students are FORBIDDEN to ever contact a teacher electronically as always (CPSB Policy).** I am even willing to give out my cell phone number to parents (**ONLY)** upon request for any assistance.

6. Since this is a performing arts program, based on what we accomplish as a class, we will base our performances upon on how well attendance occurs and individual home practice is seriously taken (*45 min.-1 hour*). *If students are not progressing on their chosen instrument and practice report sheets are not being turned in for a weekly grade, then definite parent phone calls/e-mails will be made to correct the issue(s).*

7. Special awards/recognitions may be announced for perfect/best attendance. Other various merited awards WILL be presented too at concerts/annual orchestra awards banquet - BHS Orchestra Banquet held annually!

8. Treat this class as any other class of the regular school day – with the *same expectations, rules, and procedures as outlined in the student **A.M. Barbe High Handbook**. NO CELLPHONES ARE **EVER** ALLOWED IN CLASS OR PERFORMANCES!* **Unexcused absences will not be tolerated-If YOU miss a mandatory event, a doctor's excuse is required within 3 school days following the missed event to maintain a passing grade.**

9. If absences are *necessary*, return promptly to school as soon as you are able. **PLEASE DO NOT MISS THIS CLASS.** If only "1" person is out, that is all it takes to "hold" us all and yes, yourself, your section.

10. Practically all students in this day and age all possess cell phones and there are **NO EXCUSES** why a student(s) should come to class and not have any idea about what has been "going on" - Also, parents have access to my e-mail and the school phone to contact at any given time.
11. The director will inform a student "up-to-speed" with what was missed most definitely, but it is the student's "job" to be responsible for his/her work (see my BlackBoard website on our school's CPSB.ORG website)!

12. **REMEMBER** it is the **student's responsibility** to stay on top of their music/home practice!

13. When events such as Solo & Ensemble are held and the program spends funds (taken out of our orchestra account) to "pay" towards our event once students declared to be involved (sign-up) fail to come through on performance(s) or in other words, the student is a "NO SHOW", then the day(s) after the said event, the no show student WILL OWE $10.00 per no show entry(ies). The no show penalty "pay-back" fee is to help our program offset the lost cost the said student declared to sign-up for. This is only fair. If NO SHOW penalty fee(s) is not paid in by the close of a school year, then the student will have it tacked on to their student fees at the beginning of the following school year. The student who was a no show will also MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE the following year in Solo & Ensemble or other similar events the following school year, unless the no show happening was the product of an "emergency situation." Emergencies *may* have their no show payback fees waived.

14. Tardiness and excessive tardiness will NOT BE TOLERATED!

15. On occasion, an "Availability Sheet" (usually around the holidays and the close of a school year) will be passed out for a grade. The Availability Sheet is basically a parent note requiring all students to return back to Mr. Gunter by a set-up deadline for a grade. Anytime this Availability Sheet is sent home, it must be sent back to Mr. Gunter by the assigned deadline. Again, the sheet is for a GRADE! Whether or not you are available to make all, some, one, or none of the listed events on the Availability Sheet, it is your responsibility to make a good grade (A or F) on this simple assignment by simply returning it. The object of the Availability Sheet is to give the director a better idea of how many students will be available for various "extra" events (concerts/background music) around town or elsewhere that is asked (invited) of our organization or asked for by your director to be a part of. Upon returning the sheet, you are then **COMMITING** yourself to events and are then **EXPECTED** to be **ON TIME** & **INVOLVED**! As a team member who says they are willing to do something and does not, may lose out on privileges (especially in the case of a no show). So, if you say you are going to go through with an event you chose and agree on with your parent, then you need to make your appearance and be with the rest of your orchestra class wherever we may be performing. Keep Your Word and Hold Your Feet to the Fire! Have Follow Through, Go Through With Things, Give Them Your Best, & Always Finish What You Begin…This organization is not about *just you*, but the whole group.

16. All orchestra members **NEED** to be in attendance for such an ensemble to be successful **BOTTOMLINE**!

GRADING POLICY

In a performing ensemble music class it can be very *easy to pass*, do well, and be happy; and yes-equally *easy to fail*, do not do so well, and be unhappy about one's progress… This is a class for all-year committed members! There are 4 nine-week periods in a school year. A minimum of **nine grades must be collected for every 9-week period**. Reminder: This is a **non-rotational** music enrichment elective which lasts the **span of a whole school year,** similar to chorus/band. Nine-weeks and Final Grades will be based on **Participation**, **Written Work**, **Performances**, and especially **Practice Report Sheets**. **Again, If YOU miss a mandatory event, a doctor's excuse is required within 3 school days following the missed event to maintain a passing grade, along with a make-up assignment on either the history of an instrument, composer, or time period.** The following items will count throughout the school year per 9-week period:

Practice Report Sheets (available in class at door or Gunter's BlackBoard Website) – 30%

Practice Report Sheets (aka "practice sheets") start out at Zero Minutes, Zero Hours. Due every Thursday, the increase in "logged time" on the practice sheets gradually increases as each week passes and the students' grade FOR AN AVERAGE OF 3 WEEKS (3 Large Averaged Grades – Weeks 1-3, Weeks 4-6, Weeks 7-9) begins to progress upward hopefully towards an overall "A" grade (additive grading). This grading scale method is achievement-based and additive in nature (i.e. game scoring/earning money). ***Do Not Forget that weekly parent signatures on the sheets are required!*** **15 Grades are collected for an ENTIRETY of one 9-Week Period. Practice Sheets are 3 of 15 grades (3 grades, 3 sets of 3 weeks averaged).**

***** Students who are faithfully on top of their practice sheets will have the 4th 9 weeks "off" of "logging" their practice times and will receive straight A's in their practice sheet grading! A Donut Party may be awarded too for good practice throughout the given school year.**

Daily Participation, Chair Tests (Playing Tests), Worksheets / Quizzes – 60%

Required Concerts / Performances – 10% (+) Each (Minimum of Two: 1-Fall, 1-Spring)

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. **ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR A.M. BARBE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK.**

2. Always show **RESPECT** to **ANY** *Authority, Visitors, Classmates, Instruments*, *Equipment, Books*, and any other *Materials* put into use for class. Instructional materials & music is meant to NEVER be thrown away! Respect the Director and the director **WILL** Respect You! Without mutual respect, nothing will get done.

3. (**SELF-CONTROL**) Keep Your Hands, Feet, Materials, & Instrument To Yourself. Enough Said.

4. **NO FOOD, GUM, OR DRINKS ALLOWED IN THE REHEARSAL SPACE AT ANY TIME**. **If you MUST HAVE WATER (medical need), then please inform director and that is O.K.**

5. **WE ARE A TEAM. We are all working together for a common goal, to make music. All "TEAM PLAYERS" ARE NEEDED in ATTENDANCE. We ALL Count on each other. We must all attend rehearsals in order for US to Be as ONE VOICE!**

6. Do not just "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself", but "Love Your Instrument As Yourself". ---REMEMBER: Your Instruments/Supplies are a huge investment by your parents/guardians & Money does not grow on trees. Please take special care of them and respect them; **TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS, THEY NEED TO LAST!!!**

7. "PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT…BUT…PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT PERFORMANCE." Please Practice Daily for the length of time the director assigns. Practicing is the only way in order to become better at what **WE** do. **Practice SHOULD BE *minimum* of 45 minutes-1 hour per day max, 6 days a week.**

8. Trips and Performances outside of the school will be recognized as privileges. Privileges are not required nor expected…Please always be on your best behavior ***BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER*** these special events so **WE** may all enjoy what's in store and ahead for us without one person ruining it all for future times. We are representing OUR SCHOOL, OUR FAMILIES, OUR CITY, & OUR DIRECTOR!

9. Be prepared to play everyday of class with all materials required: instrument, rosin, music, and **PENCIL!**

10. If "it" is not yours, then leave "it" alone. We have a Lost & Found Box & a Lost & Found Music Box.
11. If you are ever in doubt or ever have a question, ask the director and he will SOLVE the problems at hand.

CONSEQUENCES

~~~REMEMBER THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR *ALL* YOUR ACTIONS~~~

Do right, and remember you reap what you sow~~~



- 1st Offense – Red Card Appears with a Warning to "extinguish" the NEGATIVE Behavior and class "rolls right along." You may even hear – "This is a red card moment…" if the red card is not within reach.
- 2nd Offense – Red Card Re-appears and student reports to the Reflection Center ("clipboard will be handed to the offending student"). Student will then complete a reflection(s) and from then will return the clipboard to the director and be asked to re-join class.
- * If a said student refuses a reflection, then an alternative class punishment will be determined to counterbalance the NEGATIVE behavior and the blank reflection will still be turned-in to the discipline office; perhaps with a write-up accompanying it. Parent will be contacted for the misconduct and the student in question could face a loss of privileges from the school year or even worse, suspension from the orchestra program. **3 Class/Concert/Trip Meetings (MAXIMUM) of misbehavior from an individual(s), will result in removal of the orchestra program with a schedule change BACK TO MAIN CAMPUS!!**
- **An Automatic "write-up" will be issued for student(s) pushing, shoving, fighting, or play fighting.** A student who cannot control his/her self MAY NOT be involved in trips, special events, etc.

CHEWING GUM WILL NEVER BE TOLERATED !!!

Gum offenders will rid their mouth, complete a Gum Reflection, and then "scrape" gum with the class gum scraper for the remainder of the hour or until the director is satisfied.

Gum is unsafe in a musical ensemble, messy, sticky, and difficult to be thrown away when the chewer is finished with it, and even annoyingly noisy and repulsive. There will never be an option or alternative day for Gum. NO GUM!

…There is always Lunch & Trash Detention…for all gum and non-gum offenders…

All S.J. Welsh/A.M. Barbe/CPSB Disciplinary actions, on part of the school, teacher, or any other authority figure will be immediately put into action upon the nature of misbehavior. Furthermore, with a substitute teacher, if there is any misbehaving, a said student will automatically be written-up upon the return of the director and may be revoked of any rewards/trips/incentives/etc.

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

1. Instruments are available for all Cello & String Bass students in Room T-1. Violin, Viola students MAY bring their personal instruments back and forth; however, storage will be in Room T-2.

2.NOTICE: FOR YOUR PARENTS AND YOURSELF – DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT, EVEN IF IT IS IN THE CASE, UNATTENDED, DROPPED-OFF, ANYWHERE EVER!! KEEP YOUR INSTRUMENT WITH YOU- Come Back when room is OPENED !!

3. Students are responsible for all the music they receive. All missing and damaged music must be replaced. Instruments are **REQUIRED EVERYDAY! Do not forget your instrument!**

4. All instruments must be in good playing condition and will be maintained by the student & teacher, especially for school owned & loaned instruments.

5. Students are expected to **BUY, OWN,** and **KEEP THEIR VERY OWN PERSONAL** rosin, shoulder rest (violins), Xeros cello straps/rock stops (cellos), cleaning cloths, pencils, etc. Mr. Gunter does have "back-up" strings supplied if strings "pop".

6. DO NOT PLAY OTHER CLASSMATES' INSTRUMENTS.

7. DO NOT PICK-UP AND ATTEMPT TO PLAY ANYONE'S INSTRUMENT(S). THIS IS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS!!!

8. Student's names should be labeled in some form or fashion **on the OUTSIDE OF HIS/HER INSTRUMENT CASE** (plain as day). Student names should and preferably be clearly printed on a tag outside the case.

9. Students will be "assigned" a cubby/file for their music to be stored during the school day – this will allow students a place to "store" their music and keep a sense of classroom order regarding music (paper, books, and folder). – **RETURN YOUR ORCHESTRA ITEMS WHERE THEY BELONG OR THEY WILL GET LOST!**

10. If students come to school without their instrument, the student will do class work/alternative work. Students cannot and will not be allowed to just "sit" and do nothing in class – EVER. Please do not leave/forget your instrument at home- it will do you and your class no good! **BE RESPONSIBLE, YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.**

11. Room T-2 is for Class Rehearsals, individual or group practice, & violin, viola storage. T-2 IS NOT FOR SOCIALIZING OR SHOW AND TELL.

12. If a string pops, bow hair falls off the bow, shoulder/chin rests slide off, etc. **DO NOT GO TO THE STORE DIRECTLY**-come see Mr. Gunter, unless he sees the problem arise, he will handle the issue on the spot/ after class/after school- Repairs at school are of **No Costs**! Repairs at the store Will Cost **You!**

13. **ALL BACKPACKS** are to be placed against a designated wall when school lockers are unavailable.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

The actions of each musician directly & indirectly affect the productivity of each rehearsal/class meeting. Students are expected to behave in a manner respectful of each other and of the director. The following is a list of expectations for each musician during every rehearsal.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES OF DAILY ROUTINE & HABIT – THE STUDENT WILL:

1. **Be in the room on time getting necessary equipment ready as soon as the BELL RINGS.**
2. **Be prepared** for every rehearsal with **Your music**, **Your assigned instrument**, & **Your pencil**.
3. **Not talk** when the director is instructing or working with another section of the class (time is very valuable), but study/"shadow bow", finger through your part in question, mark mistakes with pencil, etc. Our time in class together is very valuable! Make friends outside of classtime.
4. Demonstrate proper rehearsal **decorum** when director steps up to the podium (posture, attention).
5. **Not do homework**, reading of books from other classes while in rehearsal.
6. **Keep fingernails trimmed** to allow for proper playing positioning. Long nails impede playing!
7. **Treat others and the director with respect before, during, and after all rehearsals & performances.**
8. Have adequately **prepared and practiced their music outside of rehearsals (practice sheets).**
9. Participate in sporadic chair tests/chair challenges and **maintain good attitude/work ethic** despite the chair placement you will receive.
10. **Get organized, stay organized, & keep a habit of organization** & you will set yourself up for success not only in orchestra, but in every other aspect of school and your life!
11. **** Chair Tests (for occasional grades) & Chair Challenges (optional: for fun!) are only meant to motivate and "push" the orchestra members to do better and excel, thereby increasing **EVERYONE'S chances for success**!

4 SIMPLE STEPS TO SUCCESS

1. Practice Slowly **3. Practice With An "Open" Ear**

2. Practice With Thought & Intent **4. Practice With A Pencil**

COURSE OFFERING DETAILS

1.) School owned loaner instruments are first come, first serve (String Bass students only). There is a contract to be completed by the parent/guardian and student. Once the contract is returned and signed, the school owned loaner instrument is the student's for the entirety of the current school year. Also, there are no charges (costs) for the use of a school loaned instrument. Therefore, the majority of students **MUST** *rent/buy* their **own** violin/viola/cello for membership in this organization (personal cellos/basses will remain at home).

2.) CLASS BOOKS: **Two** books must be purchased by a local music store or online: Advanced Orchestra –I – ***Essential Elements Book 3 (Same as 8th Grade year) & All For Strings Workbook 2***. Also, **Black binders will be required for district and state festivals!**

3.) APPROVED by CPSB - S.J. Welsh/A.M. Barbe – Orchestra Period:
As seen on a child's master schedule/report card: **ADVANCED ORCHESTRA – I, II, III, IV**

4.) There will be a **one-time annual non-refundable cost** of **$100.00 for the whole school year to join.** This due will be applied to purchasing items necessary and will also include the purchase of a school approved organization t-shirt. The t-shirt is school approved to wear during the school day/performances (class/club

t-shirt). If parents or any family members are interested in an orchestra t-shirt, it will cost an additional $15.00 per t-shirt-see "Parent/Guardian Student Contract." "The Grand Donut Party Due$ Race" between orchestra classes begins as soon as school starts-a race between classes to collect $100 dues for a donut party!

5.) **Deadline** to join the school orchestra is (audition based) the last school day prior to the Labor Day Holiday (listen for announcements when school begins & check-out Mr. Gunter's BlackBoard on the S.J.Welsh CPSB website)!

6.) (Aug.-May.), FIVE offered meetings per week (**Everyday ALL YEAR -see your school day schedule**).

7.) PARENTS/GUARDIANS & STUDENTS**:** If at any time a student no longer desires to be involved or cannot for any reason be involved in the class, there **WILL BE NO REFUNDABLE DUES REGARDING THE ONE-TIME $100.00 DUE–NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please understand that the $100.00 is a flat rate due at the beginning of the year to help allow your child and the whole organization to thrive and function to it's fullest potential during the year.

8.) A party/celebration of some sort may be arranged & granted at the close of a concert on a given day other than the day of a concert. Parties are arranged for students' awesome abilities of working so hard and putting on their very own performances. **Performances are a required and expected necessity for the orchestra member**. There is usually a Halloween Party, a Christmas Party, & an End-Of-The-Year Party (all after-school and NO EXTRA CHARGE for party attendance)!

9.) Regarding student safety and class success: if by suspicion a student(s) may be skipping class, wandering around, or is mischievous by any means, **the student(s) will be placed under immediate discipline action**.

10.) General Parent Information, Letters, Concert Reminders will be sent home every few months (in enough advance for scheduling) & posted to BlackBoard (please check regularly) & REMIND.COM - explaining all current items & concert dates as the year rolls along. Feel free to simply e-mail Mr. Gunter at christopher.gunter@cpsb.org anytime for any questions or concerns.

11.) NOTICE – Being that THIS organization will be **on** and **off** school campus throughout the year due to performances, etc. **students are held to high expectations being in the school string orchestra program and of course as students of A.M. BARBE HIGH (representing our school)** may be written up and placed under immediate discipline action for any indecent behavior(s)/incidents as outlined in the A.M. BARBE Student Handbook. **Remember, it is a GREAT PRIVILEGE & VERY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS ENSEMBLE (High School Credit).**

12.) Parents/Guardians ARE and WILL be solely responsible for any damages acquired to school issued instruments/other students' personal instruments (repair costs/replacement costs) over the course of a said school year in the unfortunate event that YOUR CHILD should accidentally/purposefully damage such instruments. **It is imperative that ALL CASES are ZIPPED or LATCHED SHUT when not in use. If a student's instrument is not completely shut when in the orchestra room and another student/teacher/ person may pass by it and the instrument FALLS OUT, etc., the owner/renter/loanee of a school instrument will be held responsible, not the passerby student/teacher/person.**

CONCERT ATTIRE, EXPECTATIONS

ORCHESTRA UNIFORM – FORMAL

GENTLEMEN will provide (purchase their own) SOLID BLACK formal tuxedo jacket, LONG SLEEVE button-down white dress shirt, SOLID BLACK tuxedo pants (black belt); SOLID BLACK socks & BLACK dress shoes (loafer or shoe-string). No athletic shoes, boots, sandals, or flip-flops allowed. No white athletic socks! See a local formalwear shop for attire. The director will provide a school bow tie and cummerbund. Jewelry & cologne: should be kept to a minimum. Earrings are prohibited for all gentlemen. The director has the right to ask you to remove a piece of jewelry that might cause a distraction or impede performance. This is the required attire for concerts, events, district, & state assessments.

LADIES will purchase their dresses through the school. Ladies will be measured for their orchestra dress and the school will then order and distribute to all female members. The formal dress will be $80 ($85 for ladies sizes 14-28) and all checks must be made out to S.J. Welsh. SOLID BLACK hose (stockings/hose/knee-highs) are necessary. NO LEGGINGS ALLOWED - feet MUST be covered with hosiery. Ladies must have flat closed-toe BLACK shoe wear. NO HIGH HEELS, athletic shoes, boots, sandals, or flip-flops allowed. No white athletic socks! Jewelry & perfume: should be kept to a minimum. Small earrings are acceptable, nothing dangling. The director has the right to ask you to remove a piece of jewelry that might cause a distraction or impede performance. This is the required attire for concerts, events, district, & state assessments.

ORCHESTRA UNIFORM – CASUAL (ALL)

Orchestra T-shirt with NICE BLUE JEAN BOTTOMS with closed-toe footwear: No sandals! No flip-flops!

NOTICE: This is the appropriate dress for ALL concerts and venues involving students, unless otherwise stated: ANY STUDENT(S) WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THE ABOVE CONCERT ATTIRE (FORMAL/CASUAL) - **WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN A GIVEN CONCERT/PERFORMANCE. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to PROVIDE for their child's outfit.**

CONCERT EXPECTATIONS:

1. Be prepared and arrive early. 2. Be aware and remain quiet. 3. NEVER USE A CELLULAR PHONE INSIDE A PERFORMANCE EITHER TO TEXT OR CALL. 4. Do not get up, walk around or leave during a performance. 5. Show appreciation by applauding. 6. Participate by responding to the action onstage. 7. Concentrate to help the performers. 8. Do Not BRING or EAT FOOD, DRINKS, SNACKS, OR GUM. 9. Remain the entirety of the given performance out of respect for the other performers (students), willingness to be considerate, be a witness to the improvement and furtherance of your peers and others, and yes to ENJOY! You MUST SIGN-IN "at the stage floor" once the concert concludes in order to receive full credit and enjoy parties!

CONCERT ABSENCE: To be excused from a concert, the student must bring a written note from a parent. **A student who is sick and absent from school the day of a concert or if there is a family emergency the night of the concert, a note from parent must be turned in on the next school day that the student attends.** The student must also complete a report on a music topic chosen by the director. That report will be due on a date determined by the director (by the close of the grading period). The grade for the report will be averaged into the concert grade. This allows the absent student to be excused from concert participation. If there is an unexpected emergency between the end of the school day and the concert, please inform the director as soon as possible. A concert grade of 0 will be given to a student who misses a concert, and does not bring a note from home by the next school day after the concert. Make-up work is only allowed with a note from home – bottom-line!

Fall/Christmas Concert Participation: Mr. Gatti's Pizza (holiday field trip); Spring: Orchestra Banquet

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL GENERAL INFO, CONCERTS, SOLO & ENSEMBLE & DISTRICT FESTIVALS

Further Info/Dates TBA (to be announced) through parent letters going home/BlackBoard…

AUGUST-

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (1st Official Day of Orchestra Class)

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Holiday (NO SCHOOL) - **DEADLINE to join the "Buccaneer" String Orchestra (prior to this HOLIDAY!!)**
ORCHESTRA Contract & Media Release Form from the back of this Handbook are due within a week after Labor Day!

AUDITIONS FOR LMEA ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA

OCTOBER-

(CLOSE OF 1ST 9 Weeks) - Deadline for Student's $100.00 due (checks made out to A.M. Barbe High School; memo line – String Orchestra)

NOVEMBER-

Possible Fall Concert, ***see newsletter/BlackBoard***

A.M. Barbe High School Veteran's Program

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY BANQUET BACKGROUND MUSIC FIELD TRIP

LMEA ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA (BATON ROUGE)

DECEMBER-

1st Sunday of December (McNeese State University's Annual Production of the LAKE CHARLES HANDEL'S MESSIAH CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA at F.G. BULBER AUDITORIUM of McNeese State University– 3:00 p.m.- **FREE**)

Louisiana Southern Parishes Honor Orchestra (Auditions)

Possible Christmas/Holiday Concert, ***see newsletter/BlackBoard***

Volunteer Orchestra Performance at Central Library (A Christmas Caroling Performance) the library at Claude & Ernest Street

JANUARY-

Preparation for Festival Assessment

Louisiana Southern Parishes Honor Orchestra (Baton Rouge)

FEBRUARY-

Further Preparation for Spring Activities, ***see BlackBoard, newletters***

Permission Slips for festival trip will be due, as well as auditioning to go on trip!

MARCH-

ULL (Lafayette) – String Day –Saturday, TBA (FREE)

LMEA District Festivals in Lake Charles, Baton Rouge (TBA – ***see newsletter, BlackBoard)***

Possible Spring Concert (Pre-Festival Concert)

APRIL-

L.C. SYMPHONY BEETHOVEN BINGO & BRUNCH BANQUET BACKGROUND MUSIC

MAY- *Possible Spring Concert* ***(see newsletter/BlackBoard);*** Solo & Ensemble Festival Assessment

JUNE, JULY – Music Lessons, Music Camps, Lake Charles Symphony POPS Concert at the Coliseum in the Civic Center (Saturday Night Performance with Pizza and Drinks!!!) –Buy tickets at door or have parent/guardian contact Mr. Gunter. http://www.lcsymphony.com/

A.M. BARBE ORCHESTRA

BUCCANEER STRING ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK CONTRACT & Acknowledgement/Personal Information/Volunteer Form

(Re-submit this form every school year)

I have read and agreed to adhere to the above stated policies, rules, expectations, and requirements of the A.M. Barbe High School "Buccaneer" String Orchestra Program. I understand the consequences of missing class & required events. I also understand my responsibilities as a member. The Deadline to Join is prior to the Labor Day Holiday (must audition for course if new student). This contract MUST be turned in to the director no later than the week after the joining deadline. I am aware as well that there will be a non-refundable $100.00 cost for participation in this ensemble due by early October (close of the 1st 9 weeks). This will cover t-shirt, music, and misc. class items. I will pay for my orchestra formal uniform too (separate from my $100 dues). Checks may be payable to S.J. WELSH MIDDLE SCHOOL, memo line, string orchestra. Furthermore, I also understand that I will not participate in any privileges until my $100.00 due is remitted.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____DATE_____

PARENT SIGNATURE_____DATE_____

STUDENT INFORMATION

(PLEASE PRINT)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Student ID# _____ Instrument_____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip Code_____ Apt./Lot #_____

Home Phone #_____

Student Shirt Size (this school year): _____

PARENT/GUARIAN INFORMATION

(PLEASE PRINT)

First & Last Name(s) _____Cell # _____

Employer _____ Work # _____

Email Address (Primary)_____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone #_____

Parents, please sign-up to assist with any of the listed areas below where you could possibly be of service to help with our orchestra program. Please check all that apply:

_____ ***CHAPERONE CONCERTS/TRIPS*** _____ ***AVAILABILITY TO ASSIST WITH ERRANDS/TRIPS***

PLEASE LEGIBLY WRITE BELOW THE SIZE(S) OF T-SHIRTS FOR FAMILY, IF APPLICABLE.
$15.00 PER FAMILY MEMBER T-SHIRT (EXCLUDING THE STUDENT'S T-SHIRT): _____

A.M. BARBE ORCHESTRA

BUCCANEER STRING ORCHESTRA MEDIA RELEASE FORM

(Re-submit this form every school year)

Permission to Use Photograph, Name, & Recordings of Students who are involved in the

classes of the A.M. Barbe High School "Buccaneer" String Orchestra Program

2200 West McNeese Street

Lake Charles, Louisiana 70605

Phone: (337)–217–4410

christopher.gunter@cpsb.org - Director, Mr. Christopher Gunter

I, an orchestra member and student, grant to A.M. Barbe High School, its teachers and staff the

right to take photographs, make recordings, place my name in concert programs, and media articles of myself in connection with the classes of the string orchestras, etc.

I further authorize Barbe High to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Barbe High may use such photographs of me

with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for

example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

PLEASE CHECK EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

I AGREE TO THIS MEDIA RELEASE: _____ I REJECT THIS MEDIA RELEASE: _____

I have READ and UNDERSTAND the above as the undersigned.

Printed Student Name _____

Signed Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

Date _____

*****If this form is not returned, the said student's name will be AUTOMATICALLY OMMITTED from ALL concert programs, press releases, and will not be allowed to be involved in ANY & ALL audio/video recordings, media releases, etc.**