THS Student Contract 2026-2027

<u>This must be signed and initialed by both the student and the parent and returned to Mrs. Newell.</u>

<u>Course Description:</u>

The high school orchestra is for students with **<u>prior</u>** middle school playing experience or students that have taken private lessons prior to Tupelo High School. The high school orchestra program is **<u>not</u>** a beginner class.

The purpose of this class is to further students' playing ability and musical knowledge. It is designed to challenge students through performance opportunities as individuals, in small ensembles, and in large ensembles. The class also prepares students for participation in collegiate orchestras and ensembles through the study of music pedagogy and music theory.

<u>Classroom Rules:</u>

1. Be prepared for class with your instrument, music and pencil.
2. Be respectful to others and all property. Keep hands/feet to yourself, ask before touching someone's belongings.
3. Ask for help and offer help to others. Ask questions, voice your concerns, be kind when answering.
4. Strive to act responsibly **<u>at all times</u>**. Be respectful to not only the director but also other students. Keep all rooms/storage areas clean at ALL times.
5. Arrive to class **<u>ON TIME with the required materials</u>**!

<u>Expectations:</u>

Quiet, Respectful Rehearsal Demeanor and Discipline is operative to work in a team atmosphere where we lift each other up!!!

1. Be ON TIME and PREPARED with instrument and music out and ready to begin as the bell rings.
2. No Food, beverage, candy, or gum unless permission is given.
3. Instrument cases **<u>MUST</u>** be labeled with your name prominently displayed and should be stored in your designated area at all times.

   <u>DO NOT LEAVE INSTRUMENTS LAYING AROUND THE BAND HALL!</u>!
4. During rehearsals, phones, computers, headphones, and all other technology should be put away and remain on SILENT.

Grades:
Major Grades: 50%, Minor Grades: 30%, and Exam 20%
Grades will consist of: rehearsals, concert attendance and performances, scale proficiency, theory/notation drills, along with written assignments. **All performances are MANDATORY.**

Please notify Mrs. Newell PRIOR to performance day in the case of a conflict/emergency.

Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be submitted in writing with a parent signature and phone number. Concert dates are given out the first week of school and are listed on Canvas.
Weekly assignments will be posted on Canvas. They will open on Monday, close/end on Sunday, please make sure to turn in assignments in a timely manner. Points will be deducted for assignments turned in after the due date.

Chair Placement:
Students will be assigned concert chair placements based on a playing test or at the directors discretion. The playing test will consist of: 2 scales (3 octaves), 2 prepared pieces, and sight reading.

Concert Attire (Formal Events)

- Option 1: Black shirt with black dress pants or long skirt (floor length), black shoes/socks.
- Option 2: Black dress (floor length)
- Option 3: School Supplied Uniform (dress, jumpsuit, tuxes)

Concert Attire (Informal Events)
Orchestra T-Shirt and Jeans (no holes)

Other activities:
Students will have the opportunity to perform at various events, these are not a "given" and are not promised nor guaranteed. These events will occur at the discretion of the director. Students participating in these events are to act accordingly at all times. Students are expected to be on their best behavior while representing the orchestra program and the school district.

Overnight Trip:
In the event of an overnight trip, parents are responsible for fees involved. Students are expected to be with their chaperone when on excursions. Females and males should **NEVER** be in the same hotel room. Males should sit with males, and females should sit with females on the bus. Students should be in their room at curfew and not exit the room until the call time the next morning. **The use of vaping and/or breaking of the rules will result in parents picking up their student at the parents expense, with no refund.**

Communication:
Director: Mrs. Teletha Newell
Email: ctnewell@tupeloschools.com
Band app- please use the QR code below to join the GWO group. This is an excellent way to communicate, post pictures, and have dates on a calendar.

Academic Expectations:
Students will miss school during the year for various performances. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with schoolwork and to communicate with teachers **PRIOR** to the absence.

Parent Initials:_____ Student Initials: _____

Rehearsals/Performances:
Students are expected to be at **ALL** rehearsals and performances. Not participating in rehearsals and performances will result in a **zero**. If there is a conflict, Mrs. Newell should know well in **advance**.

Parent Initials:_____ Student Initials: _____

Competition/Overnight Trip/Fundraisers:
Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and pass off all music in order to participate in an overnight trip. Students that fail to pass off music and attend rehearsals will not be allowed to attend the trip and will not receive a refund. There will be several fundraisers throughout the school year to assist in the cost of the competition trip. **It is up to the parent whether or not to participate and parents may elect to just pay for the trip. All payments must be turned into the secretary on time. If a student fails to follow established rules and expectations, parents or guardians may be required to pick up their student at the destination of the trip at the parent's expense.**

Parent Initials:_____ Student Initials: _____

Grooming:
Students must maintain short/cut fingernails in order to play their instrument properly. Short nails are defined by the "Palm Test." With the palm of the left hand facing, a student should **NOT** be able to see the fingernails over the tips of their fingers. If the nail can be seen above the fingers, it must be trimmed. Long nails will prevent proper playing position, damage strings and possibly cause injury.

Parent Initials:_____ Student Initials: _____

Drugs:
Orchestra is a drug free organization. Any violation of the school substance policy will result in swift and severe consequences. **This is a zero tolerance policy and is to be followed during school hours and out of school hours, including any trips in which we may attend.** Students violating during a trip will require a report to administration.

Parent Initials:_____ Student Initials: _____

Discipline:
Orchestra is a positive environment for musical exploration, musical learning and performance. All members are expected to be humble, inclusive, respectful, positive, supportive, encouraging, and willing to make mistakes. Negative attitudes and behavior, disrespect, and dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Parent Initials:_____ Student Initials: _____

THS Orchestra Handbook Acknowledgment Form

I (print parent name) _____ have received and read a copy of the 2026-2027 THS Orchestra Handbook, and I am aware of all expectations (student's and parent's) and responsibilities involved as a member of the THS Golden Wave Orchestra. By signing this form, I understand that my child is required to adhere to **ALL rules and procedures and will suffer consequences should he/she break the rules.**

Parent Signature:_____ Date: _____

I (print student name) _____ have received and read a copy of the 2026-2027 THS Orchestra Handbook, and I am aware of my expectations and responsibilities involved as a member of the THS Golden Wave Orchestra. By signing this form, I agree to adhere to **ALL rules and procedures, and I assume responsibility should I break them.**

Student Signature:_____ Date: _____

Please include Parent contact information!

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent **preferred** email addresses: _____

_____

Teacher Initials:_____

Dates Received: _____