

Cross Middle School Orchestra Handbook 2021-2022

Orchestra Director: Mr. Toru Tagawa

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. My name is Toru Tagawa, and this is my 4th year as the Orchestra Director at Cross Middle School. I am also the Orchestra Director at Canyon del Oro High School where all our school concerts take place. I am looking forward to working with all of you and making great music. At Cross, we have two orchestras, the Intermediate Orchestra (6th and 7th Graders) and the Advanced Orchestra (7th and 8th Graders or Advanced 6th Graders).

In both orchestras, we will cover a variety of literature from J.S. Bach to Full Orchestra Music. We will be learning about composers, scales, key signatures in addition to playing your instrument.

Please fill out the Orchestra Handbook Signature after reading this document. [Cross Orchestra Handbook Signature](https://cdoorchestra.com/cross/CrossOrchestraHandbookSignature) at <https://cdoorchestra.com/cross/>

Parents, please sign up for Remind
Remind: 81010 text @crossorch

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Toru Tagawa, 520-696-5797

Orchestra Teacher, Cross Middle School

E-mail address: ttagawa@amphi.com, website: <https://cdoorchestra.com/cross/>

Important Dates

October 6 (Wed) Fall Concert at 6:30pm, CDO Auditorium, 5pm Call

December 8 (Wed) Winter Concert at 6:30pm, CDO Auditorium, 5pm Call

March 2 (Wed) CDO Feeder Concert at 6:00pm, CDO Auditorium, 5pm Call

May 11 (Wed) Final Concert at 6:30pm, CDO Auditorium, 5pm Call

5pm Call - means students are to arrive at the site at 5pm. There will be food provided for students by the Canyon del Oro High School Orchestra Booster Club.

Concert Attire for Performances

Orchestra T-Shirts, nice pants or jeans, closed toe shoes

GENERAL BEHAVIOR & PARTICIPATION

- Students should become familiar with the school rules and regulations. Students are expected to follow the rules and regulations that the school has put forth for academic learning.
- Participation point(s) will be deducted for excessive, inappropriate, or disruptive behavior.
- Points can also be deducted for disruptive behavior, excessive tardies, absenteeism, cell phone use during class, failure to take part in class discussions, etc.

In-Person Class Policies

- Students are expected to create a positive learning environment for you and your colleagues. Please be considerate of others, and show respect to everyone. This applies as soon as you enter the Orchestra room.
- Students should own their own instruments in good condition, and bring them to school on orchestra days (cellos and basses are exempt from bringing them to school).
- Students must have necessary accessories such as pencils, rosin, shoulder rest, spare strings, cleaning cloths, endpin holder, mute, etc.
- No food or drink are allowed in the classroom. Water is allowed.
- Students are to follow the CDO code of conduct. Example, cell phones must be turned off during the class time, appropriate attire, etc.
- Fingernails must be kept short in order to play the instrument.
- Classroom music/books must stay in the classroom. Students are only allowed to mark in pencil.
- No large jewelry, No perfume or cologne.
- As soon as you are ready, you are to warm up (Scales, Excerpts).

Grading

Students grades will be determined by the following requirements:

Daily participation: 40% (You will receive a maximum of 4 points per day). You will lose a point for not participating.

Quiz/Test: 40% (Playing test, Written test, Final exam, etc)

Attendance for Extra Rehearsals: Required.

Concert Performances: 20% (**each concert is 20% of the total grade**)

Turning in Forms and Payments: You are expected to turn in forms and payments ontime.

Grading Scale:	A	90% - 100%
	B	80% - 89%
	C	70% - 79%
	D	60% - 69%
	F	59% - 50%

Students must perform at all concerts and festivals. Only illness, family illness, family death, or religious holidays will be considered excused absences for a performance. Work is not an excused absence. Written permission from a parent or a doctor is required.