**John F. Kennedy High School Orchestras**

## Calendar of Events for the 2014-2015 School Year

**DATE**

**Time**

**Event**

Thursday, 11/6/ 14

7:00 p .m.

Tri-Music Induction

Wednesday, 12/10/ 14

6:00 p.m. Call 7:00 p.m . Concert

Winter Concert I

Thursday, 12/18/14

6:00 p.m . Call 7:00 p .m. Concert

Winter Concert II

Friday 3/20/ 15 &

Saturday 3/21/15

7:30 p .m. & 2:00 p .m .

Musical

Thursday , 4/ 16/15

7:00 p.m.

JFK Unplugged

Thursday , 4/30/15

7:00 p.m.

Spring Concert I

Wednesday, 5/20/ 14

700 P.M.

Spring Concert II

TBD

By Appointment

NYSSMA

Monday, 6/1/14

6:00 p.m .

Music Boosters Dinner

**Group**

Inductees

9th Grade Orchestra

Advanced Orchestra &

String Ensemble

Pit Orchestra

All Interested

Advanced Orchestra &

String Ensemble

9th Grade Orchestra

All Interested

All Interested

\*\*\*Please write all mandatory dates on all of your household calendars and see the section in the handbook regarding the correlation between absences from performances and Marking period Grades. \*\*\*

ALL STUDENTS: PLEASE HOLD SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015 FOR CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS. PERFORMING GROUPS WILL BE SELECTED TO PERFORM AS PART OF THE FESTIVAL AT BROOKSIDE

*\* The Music Boosters Association has regularly scheduled meeting dates, and hopefully you can*

*become involved. Please check these meeting dates on the school calendar.* \*

Mrs. Kimberly Musial Orchestra Director

John F. Kennedy High School 992-1441

[kmusial@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us](mailto:kmusial@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us)

# John F. Kennedy High School Music Department Personal Commitment Contract

**2014-2015**

I, (print, students name) ------------

, have read the 2013-2014

school year Instrumental Music Event Schedule and the Music Department Handbook. I understand what my requirements are for having a successful year and understand my responsibilities as a member of the Kennedy Music Department. I am also aware that missing required obligations will result in a lower class average as stated in the handbook. I am 100% committed to my expectations and look forward to being a productive and enthusiastic member of the John F. Kennedy High School Instrumental Music Program.

Signed: \_ (student's signature)

I am confirming my child's full commitment to the JFK Instrumental music program. I am aware of his/her expectations, obligations, and responsibilities as outlined in the handbook. I have read all of the materials and marked all of the necessary information on our family calendar.

Signed: \_ (parent/guardian's signature)

**Please Return to Mrs. Musial Immediately**

John F. Kennedy High School Bellmore, NY

Music Department Student Handbook

## Orchestra

The purpose of this handbook is to inform music students and their parents of the program 's requirements, expectations, and to provide consistency among the performing organizations in the John F. Kennedy Music Department. The degree of success within an organization depends upon the development of standards and procedures.

The handbook's contents are meant to serve as a guide through which the procedures, expectations, and obligations of our performing ensembles may be realized. It is anticipated that with the use of this handbook, students and parents/guardians will become more cognizant of our mutual goals. We sincerely hope that the music education experience gained through participation in our departmental performing groups will be of lasting value.

Lorraine Poppe Principal

Kimberly Flynn Orchestra Director

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## Materials and Equipment

Instruments must be kept clean and placed in their proper storage areas when not in use. For the protection and care of all music department equipment please adhere to the following guidelines:

* Each student will be assigned a location to store his/her instrument and will be expected to keep their instruments in the assigned location when not in use. Nothing but items related to the instrument should be kept in the case.
* Each Orchestra student will be provided with a music folder and will be responsible for the upkeep of this folder and its contents. If a folder is lost, the student will be charged a replacement fee for the cost of the lost folder.
* New students must purchase a 11/2 inch 3 ring binder and sheet protectors. This binder will house the contents of their orchestra portfolios and can be left at

home. Students will only bring in their portfolios twice per year to be checked for completeness.

* In accordance with district policy, students assigned school instruments will pay a

$80 maintenance fee at the beginning of the school year. Students will then be responsible for the proper care and maintenance of the instrument. If damage occurs due to student neglect or negligence, it is expected that the

parents/guardians of the student will assume full financial responsibility for repairs or replacement of the instrument in question.

## The Use of Music and All Teaching Tools

* Each student will be responsible for the music they are given. Students will be assigned a folder with a storage bin number. It is the responsibility of the student to take proper care of the folder.
* Students are expected to place all music given to them neatly in their folder.
* When marking music is required, the students should only use a **pencil** to do so. Any music that is marked or defaced in another manner will have to be replaced by the student.
* PDF’s of music will be put on the website. Students are free to download these parts for home practice and the printed copies can remain in their portfolios.
* Students are encouraged to practice at home on a daily basis. Although practice parts will be provided, students are welcome to take their folders home. However, it is imperative that the folders are brought back to class each day, so that the students are able to perform during rehearsals and earn their daily participation points.

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Practicing

* + In any academic subject with rigorous demands, students are required to practice the skills they have learned in class in order to hone their potential.

In music, practicing is a daily event. When a musician practices, he/she is re­ enforcing all of the materials that have been taught. It is suggested that a minimum of 3 hours per week are utilized practicing. I leave this up to the students to decide how they will break down their own time. Remember, practice makes permanent.

Rehearsal Guidelines

The success of a performing ensemble is a reflection of what is accomplished in rehearsals. In order to ensure that optimum conditions exist to facilitate striving for musical perfection, the following rehearsal procedures will be observed:

* + All students are to be in their seats and ready to work within two minutes after the late bell sounds.
  + Instruments, folders (everyone should have their own folder), and a pencil are expected at every rehearsal.
  + Proper posture for all students is expected at all times
  + There will be no gum, food, candy, schoolbooks, pocket books, jackets, electronic devices (unless announced), nor personal belongings of

any kind in the rehearsal area. Personal items are to be kept on the risers in the rear of the rehearsal room.

* + Remember - This is *your* time and *your* rehearsal. Use it well.

Sectionals

The music department schedules sectional rehearsals on a rotational basis. The rotation schedule was established to provide for the release of a music student from his/her academic class for additional music instruction. Skills covered in sectionals include warm-ups, technical studies, sight-reading, performance literature, and chamber music. Also, there will be testing done during the sectional time. Please see the grading policy for further information on page 6.

* Each student will have a sectional lesson approximately once every 10 days. However, since the lesson periods rotate, the student will only miss the same class once or twice per marking period.
* Students are expected to report to their sectional rehearsal unless:

1. They have a full period unit exam in their subject classes
2. They are reviewing for a full period exam to be given the next day
3. They are scheduled for a lab period
4. They have a group presentation
5. They are legally absent from school
6. They have a quiz that takes longer than 15 minutes to complete

* Students will be required to make up any sectional rehearsals that are missed during a free period/lunch or before/after school. If the sectional was missed and was unexcused (any reason beyond the six listed above), they must attend an after school make up on the Friday of the week of the missed sectional.
* Students are to make note of their sectionals in advance and should tell their teachers a day in advance of their sectional. Please do not go to class before coming to the sectional.

## Make Up Procedures

Make ups will be offered Tuesday - Thursday mornings from 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. by appointment, and on Fridays from 2:45-3: 15, but free periods may be utilized at the teacher's discretion. Students should confirm make-ups with the teacher. If the sectional is missed with an **unexcused absence,** the student will be required to attend the Friday make-up time as stated above.

## Attendance Procedures

When arriving at the lesson, each student must sign in and write the name of the teacher's whose class is being missed. After the lesson, I will e-mail the applicable teacher as an extra assurance that the student attended the sectional. In addition, a list of students who attended each sectional will be e-mailed to the attendance dean to ensure that students do not receive "cuts" from their classes.

Students are responsible for making up any work they miss in their academic class, and are to figure out in advance how they will get the material that was missed. Therefore, there is **no need** for the students to go to class before coming to sectionals. The student must, however, get any due homework to his or her teacher on time and may not use sectionals as an excuse not to hand in homework. Sectionals also, may not be used as an excuse for missing any assignment given by the regularly scheduled teacher.

Performance and Dress Rehearsal Responsibilities

Attendance is required of all music students at all scheduled school concerts. An unexcused absence from a winter or spring concert will result in a grade of zero on the student's performance average.

In the event of a student's anticipated absence from a required performance, parents must notify the orchestra director at 992-1441 immediately. Absence from a required performance will be excused for the following reasons only:

* Severe sickness - corroborated with a note from the family doctor
* Severe sickness or death in the family
* An act of God (car accident, severe sports injury, etc. . .)

There will be an assignment to replace the student's participation in the performance.

A list of performance dates will be issued at the beginning of the school year to each music student along with a performance commitment contract to be signed by the students and their parents/guardians.

* Dress rehearsals are scheduled before every required performance if needed. Attendance at these dress rehearsals is mandatory for all students. Students who do not attend the dress rehearsal will not be permitted to perform at the concert, resulting in the corresponding penalty. Therefore they will receive a zero for their performance grade. (The student cannot earn higher than a 70 average if this is the case).

The Definition of "AT" and "FOR"

* If a rehearsal is at 7pm, you should be at the rehearsal site at 6:45 for the 7pm rehearsal so that you are warmed up and completely ready at 7pm.

Attire

Proper attire is required for perform. If attire is inappropriate students will not be allowed on the stage, therefore forfeiting their performance grade.

* Orchestra Ladies: Solid black shirt with sleeves below the elbows. Solid black pants or skirt falling below the knees. Black dress shoes.
* Orchestra Gentlemen: Solid white long sleeve dress shirt, solid colored, long tie of your choice, solid black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.
* Advanced Orchestra Ladies: Solid black shirt with sleeves below the elbows. Solid black pants or skirt falling below the knees. Black dress shoes.
* Advanced Orchestra Gentlemen: Solid black long sleeve dress shirt, solid colored, long tie of your choice, solid black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.
* String Ensemble Ladies: Solid black shirt with sleeves below the elbows. Solid black pants or skirt falling below the knees. Black dress shoes.
* String Ensemble Gentlemen: Solid white long sleeve dress shirt, bow-tie (preferably ones that clip to a closed neck), solid black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes. Jackets may be worn depending on the event.

All clothes should be wrinkle free and ironed!

## Disciplinary Procedure

* As per student handbook

## Fundraising

Throughout the year, various fundraising events will be held for a number of functions, including trips. Each student's account will be recorded and if there is a balance at the year's end, it will be carried over to the following year. If a student is not taking an instrumental music class the following year, the student may donate the money to another student's account or to the organization's music fund. For the 2014-2015 school year, all students will be given the opportunity to fundraise, even if their particular ensemble is

not going on an overnight trip. This will allow the students to save money from year to year to be used in the future.

## The John F. Kennedy High School Orchestra Grading System

**Grading**

Grading is based on individual improvement throughout the year. Individual goals will be established, so that every student experiences the success of the best possible music education.

There will be four areas from which your grade for each quarter will be determined.

* Classwork: 30%
* Output/Attitude: 30%
* Sectionals: 30%
* Exams and Portfolio: 10%

## Classwork Guidelines: 30%

Students are expected to exhibit the traits of a **professional musician** at all times. Therefore, each member of the ensemble should:

* Be on time
* Keep silent while the teacher is speaking and other musicians are rehearsing
* Act respectfully towards everyone in the classroom
* Respect the music, the instruments and the art form
* Refrain from chewing gum!
* Exhibit proper posture
* Be prepared (instrument, shoulder rest (if needed), and a **pencil** each day
* For safety reasons, keep your belongings in the storage area or away from the rehearsal space while we are rehearsing
* Keep the classroom clean and orderly

## Output/Attitude Guidelines: 30%

It is expected that each student strive to improve his or her performance at each and every rehearsal. It is simply not acceptable to sit with sloppy posture and not put forth effort each day. As ensemble playing is similar in ways to a team sport, a positive attitude and expended effort is required for the entire group to succeed. Negative attitudes are contagious; orchestra should be a place to express yourself creatively, without judgment or fear.

## Sectional Guidelines: 30%

Students are expected to exhibit the traits of a professional musician, therefore:

* Adhere to the guidelines for classwork (above)
* Practice!
* Be responsible for the work you miss in the regularly scheduled class
* Make-up missed sectionals in a timely manner

Please see the sectional guidelines section of this document for making up sectionals that are missed. If a student cuts a sectional, a phone call will be made to notify the parents of the cut and the policy for making up a sectional.

## Exam/Performance Guidelines: 10%

Students will be administered 1-2 exams per quarter. These exams will be a combination of the demonstration of performance techniques on the student's instrument and also written exams.

Each exam will be given a minimum of one week notice prior to the exam date. Playing exams will include:

* Scale tests
* Excerpts from the orchestral literature being studied in class
* Technique (shifting, vibrato, bow studies)
* Sight-reading Written exams will include:
* Musical terms
* Rhythmic identification
* Key signatures
* Time signatures
* Other topics covered in class

Portfolios are a great way for students to see their growth and progress in the orchestra program. Not only is it a measure of student growth, but upon graduation, students will be able to look back upon all of the music that they have learned while in high school.

Portfolios will contain:

* All concert music performed and will be checked twice per year (after the winter and spring concerts) for completeness.
* All music and returned assessments should be kept in plastic sheet-protectors.
* Dividers should be used to separate each year for easy access:

Please take advantage of extra-help in order to adequately prepare for exams!

All performances unless otherwise noted in the music calendar are **mandatory.**

In case of a legal absence from a **performance,** the teacher will assign a 10 page research paper using 3 academic sources (not wikipedia) on a topic of the teacher's choice. The date of completion of this paper will be set by the student and the teacher together, with a written contract signed by the teacher, parent/guardian and the student.

Missing a performance, without a justifiable /legal reason as stated in the performance guidelines section, will result in not being able to earn all of the points possible in the performance area.

## Extra Credit

You will receive extra credit if you participate in any (or all) of the following ways:

* Volunteer for any type of functions (both in school and in the community)
* NYSSMA participation
* Perform in the Pit Orchestra
* Attend a professional music concert or Broadway Show (information for upcoming professional performances are posted on our bulletin board). Please bring me a program from the performance and a ticket stub as proof of your attendance.