

**MILLARD NORTH HIGH SCHOOL**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ORCHESTRA/MYP LEVEL 4 ORCHESTRA**  
**HANDBOOK 2010-2011**  
*“The Pursuit and Achievement of Excellence”*

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Welcome to the 2009-2010 Millard North High School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra! I am pleased to have you as a part of our superb organization, and am excited to join you in continuing this orchestra's proud musical tradition.

*“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” ~ Aristotle*

This handbook serves as a guideline for orchestra activities and outlines individual and group expectations for the coming year. If necessary, changes may be made by the director. In this case, students will be notified during class, and an announcement will be placed on the orchestra bulletin board.

### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

I expect professional behavior from each individual at all times. This behavior is characterized by:

1. Respect for oneself, one's peers, and the instructor.
2. Arriving prepared at each rehearsal with all supplies and music.
3. Thorough preparation of one's part *before* the rehearsal.
4. Expressing a positive attitude regarding orchestra activities.
5. Consistent and prompt attendance at all classes, rehearsals, and performances.
6. A genuine effort and desire to create music.
7. Shared responsibility for shared success.
8. Proper instrument care and maintenance.
9. Having a nametag on your instrument(s) at all times.

### **THE RULES**

In order to ensure a safe, productive environment that allows each student to meet and exceed expectations, goals, and objectives, we will adhere to the following rules:

- Follow directions the first time given
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself
- Speak respectfully
- Be in seat with all materials when bell rings; be ready to tune 2 minutes after the bell
- Be careful of your surroundings – move with care and respect.

### **CLASS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Orchestra, as well as other subjects, has its own set of challenges. It is my goal that each student achieves mastery of his/her instrument so he or she may pursue music as a lifelong activity. As a result of this main goal, we reach the following objectives:

1. Demonstrate proper posture and playing technique.
2. Establish good listening skills in class and as an audience for others.

3. Participate in large group, small group, and solo activities.
4. Use performance literature and scales to improve individual playing ability.
5. Incorporate music history and theory concepts to increase understanding and enjoyment of the music.
6. Try your best, at all times, no matter what the circumstances.
7. Maintain excellent performance characteristics, and build on past successes to take the ensemble as a whole to the next level as evidenced by impeccable intonation, rhythm, style, dynamics and musicianship.

### **BASIC COURSE OUTLINE**

Students will receive more specific assignments as events warrant. Assignments follow district and MYP parameters.

#### First Quarter:

- a. Prepare and test Lifelong Musicianship assignments (see Grading Criteria for further information).
- b. Complete written assignments as given.
- c. Design individual and group mission statement.
- d. Prepare individuals for All-State Orchestra auditions
- e. Prepare and present Opening Concert

#### Second Quarter:

- a. Prepare and present December Concert
- b. Prepare individuals for honor orchestra auditions
- c. Complete assignments as given

#### Third Quarter:

- a. Prepare and present January Clinic Concert at Millard North High School
- b. Prepare and present combined high school/middle school concert in March
- c. Prepare solos/ensembles for UNO String Olympics
- d. Complete assignments as given

#### Fourth Quarter:

- a. Prepare solos and small ensembles and large group for ASTA Young Orchestra Festival
- b. Perform at ASTA Young Orchestra Festival
- c. Prepare and perform a spring concert.
- d. Prepare and perform at Commencement

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

The following materials are necessary for each class period:

- ✓ Your instrument and bow, properly maintained and with all working parts
- ✓ Rosin, soft cloth in case
- ✓ Your music – provided by MNHS
- ✓ Two pencils – sharpened and ready for use

**OTHER ITEMS (in alphabetical order):****ALTERNATIVE STYLES ENSEMBLE**

All students involved in orchestra are welcome to be a part of this group – the only requirements are to attend rehearsals promptly, know the music assigned, perform at concerts, and to participate to the fullest extent possible. The A.S.E. will perform on most school concerts, and may also participate in community outreach concerts at area venues. We learn and play music from many different styles and cultures including: jazz, swing, world beat, blues, rock, fiddle, and pop. Students are welcome to request songs for the group to perform, and may also arrange and/or compose pieces.

**ATTENDANCE**

Orchestra is a performance-based class. Therefore, regular attendance at performances and rehearsals are mandatory in order to completely enjoy the orchestra experience and to have the best ensemble possible. There are three areas where attendance is expected.

**Daily Rehearsals** – The student is expected to attend daily rehearsals with instrument, music and pencil, along with any other necessary materials. If the student does not have the materials necessary for class, then his/her grade will reflect incomplete work. The teacher will uphold the guidelines set forth in the MNHS student handbook for excessive absences and tardies.

**Extra Rehearsals** – Orchestra is a co-curricular activity, which means some of our commitments meet outside the school day. These may include extra practices such as full orchestra rehearsals that usually meet 7:00-7:45 a.m. on specified mornings approximately 2-3 weeks before a performance. These practices are **REQUIRED** and are part of the quarterly grade. Students who cannot make these rehearsals must provide a written excuse to the director two days prior to the rehearsal. The director will decide whether or not the excuse is legitimate. Students who miss extra rehearsals will lose points from their grade. If you have an approved excuse, you may complete an extra assignment to make up the missed points.

**Concerts** – **Orchestra is a performance-based class**, and because of this it is impossible to “make up” a missed performance. Students are expected to arrive 30 minutes before a performance with their instruments and music. Excused absences include illness or family emergency. Planned absences, such as family vacations, must be requested at least **14 days prior** to the concert date and are excused at director discretion. Emergencies, such as sickness, require a written note from the parent/guardian no later than 48 hours following the concert. If I do not receive notification within the specified time period, the student will lose the points for that concert. In the event of an excused absence, the student will need to complete an additional assignment to compensate for the missed performance.

**CELL PHONES/IPODS/MP3 PLAYERS**

Students may not use cell phones during orchestra. If the teacher observes a student using a cell phone to text, surf the web, place a call, etc., then the teacher will ask the student to put the phone away. If the student does not comply, the teacher will take the phone and the student may get it back at the end of the hour. If the student has the phone

out after the first offence, the teacher will take the phone to the student's grade level administrator.

Because Orchestra is a music class, there will be times that the student may use his/her Ipod or MP3 player. This will be at the director's discretion and must not interfere with instruction/rehearsal. If any technology device disrupts rehearsal, the director will follow the same procedure for phones outlined above.

### **CHAIR PLACEMENT, ROTATION**

Jonathan Lane, Orchestra Director at Shawnee Mission East High School in Kansas City, KS, states, "Rotational seating creates a friendlier environment. It gives orchestra members an opportunity to get along with each other, to get to know more members of the orchestra. It's non-competitive. . . you're focusing on how good we can be as a group. It's a greater team-building philosophy. .. It builds more leaders. I really believe rotational seating is one of the things that's helped propel my program to be one of the top programs" (from *The Creative Band and Orchestra* by Julie Lyonn Lieberman). As we approach the chair-placement process, it is important to understand that each individual must contribute as much as he/she is able at all times. This transcends the focus on individual attainments (which are praised in other areas of our program) to focus on the group. Although we will sometimes use assigned and auditioned chair placement for concerts, we will use rotational seating in class. This practice helps to encourage timid players and also helps section leaders get a good idea about how their section sounds as a whole. **It also reinforces that leadership is not based on *where* you sit, but on how well you set a good example for your peers, wherever you may be.**

### **CHAIR PLACEMENT AUDITIONS**

Chair placement tests are given to determine where the students will sit on each concert. This process helps ensure that each individual is contributing to the best group sound. Auditions will be held before each scheduled performance. Chair placement tests may follow a "blind" audition process, where students are numbered and play for a tape/video recorder with an unbiased proctor presiding. This is to ensure the most objective placement decision possible. They may also follow a live audition in front of the teacher and/or other professional musicians. Audition material may consist of music for the upcoming concerts, scales, sight-reading or etudes. Students will be informed of the grading criteria and audition requirements in plenty of time to prepare. The purpose of the auditions is to ensure regular practice and a thorough understanding of the individual's part; they also contribute an air of healthy competition in the sections.

These auditions serve as playing tests and are included in your grade. In most cases, the student with the highest playing test grade will sit first chair, and the student with the next highest grade will sit second chair. After that, students will be distributed by stand, with the third highest grade sitting third stand and the fourth highest grade sitting fourth stand, etc. Students with lower grades will sit by students who earned higher grades. Please see the sections on "Challenges," "Section Leaders," and "Grading Criteria" for more information on chair placements and playing tests.

## **CHAIR PLACEMENT, VIOLINS**

Violinists are different than the other sections because there are two parts to contribute to a fuller sound. The first violin parts usually have the melody, higher parts that require more shifting. The second violin parts usually have more harmony parts that require less shifting. Violinists are expected to be able to play both parts, and may be required to switch between violin I and II parts during the course of the year.

## **CHALLENGES**

After chair placement is determined, students who are unhappy with their placement may challenge others in their same section that are placed higher in the section, provided these guidelines are followed:

1. Students may challenge anyone that sits higher than them in the section.
2. Students may only challenge the same person once.
3. The challenge excerpt(s) must be at least eight measures long, and that eight measures must include music notes that are somewhat challenging and that show the players' skill.
4. Challenges must be completed by the deadline set by the teacher. No challenges will be accepted after the deadline.
5. Challenge forms will be available in class.
6. The challenger must present the challengee the challenge notice **IN WRITING**. Both parties must agree on the date and time of the challenge, and the excerpt(s) to be performed. Both parties must sign the form and turn it in to the director two days prior to the challenge in order for the proceedings to be valid.
7. The challenge will be audio taped, with an unbiased proctor present. Only the proctor should speak on the tape.
8. Challenges must be completed **OUTSIDE** of class time.
9. Results will be announced the next class day. Students may consult privately with the director to discuss the reasons for the outcome.
10. If the challenger fails to show up for the challenge, except for reasons of extreme illness or family emergency, then he/she has automatically lost the challenge.
11. If the challengee fails to show up for the challenge, except for reasons of extreme illness or family emergency, then he/she will forfeit his/her chair placement to the challenger.
12. Both participants in a challenge earn points toward an orchestra letter (see **LETTER AWARD** section).
13. If a student is challenged within these guidelines, he/she **MUST** accept the challenge. Failure to accept will result in forfeiting his/her chair placement.
14. If these guidelines are not followed, the director may declare the challenge **VOID**, in which case chair placement will remain the same.

## CHAMBER GROUPS

Chamber music offers students more performance venues as well as new social connections and technical challenges. Students enrolled in orchestra may participate in small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, etc.). Small ensembles generally meet before or after school for rehearsals and coaching sessions. Students who choose to play in a small ensemble are expected to practice their part and show up to rehearsals on time and prepared. These ensembles are mainly student-run, with some director input.

There are several performance opportunities for chamber groups. These include the Chamber Music Concert at MNHS, UNO String Olympics, and District Music Contest. Some of our groups have also represented Millard North at Border's Books and Music, the Western Heritage Museum, and at retirement communities. If you are interested in forming a small ensemble, please sign up in class or speak with the director.

## COMMENCEMENT

Every year, the orchestra performs for the MNHS commencement. The audience at this event is the largest of any of our performances, and it is an opportunity to showcase the talents in our ensemble. Also, it is a gift to our graduating seniors and a tribute to their leadership. Attendance is **required** at commencement, and is part of the overall orchestra grade. If commencement is scheduled after school is out for the summer, grades **will be held** until after the ceremony. The only excused absences will be illness or family emergency, and the student must complete a make-up assignment in order to earn points for missing commencement. Please mark your calendars for Saturday May 28, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.

## COMPUTERS

We have two computers in the Multi-Purpose Room for student use. These are available for special assignments or on research days. **Students may not use them without permission from the teacher.** All computers in the music wing are equipped with SmartMusic and Finale music writing programs. Students will learn how to use these programs throughout the course of the year. The teacher's laptop, due to district restriction, is not for student use at any time.

## CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Unlike most academic classes, performance is vital to the orchestra class, and each member's presence at performances is essential for the success of the ensemble. It is important that each member make a commitment to concerts. Absences are not allowed, *except* in the case of illness or family emergency. If this is the case, **I must receive a note or a phone call from a parent prior to the concert.** If a student misses a performance due to illness or emergency, the student may complete a project to make up for their absence. An incomplete make-up assignment or an unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for the quarter. All Millard North High School performances begin at 7:00 p.m. Students should arrive no later than 6:30 p.m. to allow enough time to tune and warm up.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

It is important that each orchestra member dress professionally and appropriately for all orchestra concerts. Please note: **If you are not dressed appropriately, you will not be allowed to play the concert, which will result in a failing grade for the quarter!**

Gentlemen:	White shirt with black tie	Ladies:	Black uniform dress (\$60)
	Black dress pants		Black dress shoes
	Black trouser socks		Black nylons
	Black dress shoes		

In order to guarantee a standard and professional appearance, we have adopted uniforms. In the past, some students had difficulty finding appropriate clothes for performances. The MNHS dresses are reasonably priced (\$60 each), machine washable, comfortable, modest, and attractive. Gentlemen are required to wear a black necktie (not a bowtie). These may be purchased for \$15 from the uniform company at the beginning of the year if necessary, too. Ladies will be measured for their dress, which is required for each performance. The purchase price is the family's responsibility. However, if you can verify financial need, the Orchestra Parents Association and/or Millard Public Schools may be able to help. Students may also fundraise to purchase their uniforms.

## CONCERT DATES – *Please mark on your calendar(s).*

Unless otherwise noted, all MN concerts are in the MNHS auditorium.

*Dates marked with an\* denote mandatory performances for all students.*

<b>Saturday, September 11</b>	Orchestra Potluck at SW YMCA
<b>*Tuesday, September 28</b>	Orchestra Concert – MNHS Auditorium 7 PM
<b>Oct. 28, 30, 31, Nov. 1</b>	MN Musical <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>
<b>Thursday, November 11</b>	Barrage performs at MWHS!
<b>*Tuesday, December 7</b>	Orchestra Concert – MNHS Auditorium 7PM
<b>*Monday, January 24</b>	Millard District Orchestra Clinic – <b>MWHS Gym</b> , 7 PM
<b>*Tuesday, March 1</b>	Orchestra Concert – MNHS Auditorium - 7 PM
<b>Saturday, March 12</b>	UNO String Olympics
<b>Thurs-Sun April 7-10</b>	Orchestra Trip to Winter Park, Colorado!
<b>*Tuesday, April 12</b>	Orchestra Concert – MNHS 7 PM
<b>Friday/Sat., April 15, 16</b>	District Music Contest – Solos & Small Ensembles
<b>Thursday, May 5</b>	Music Banquet – MNHS – 6:00 PM
<b>*Saturday, May 7</b>	ASTA Young Orchestra Festival – UNL
<b>*Saturday May 28</b>	Commencement – Civic Auditorium – 10:00 A.M.

## DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOR

Most students enjoy orchestra and are happy to work together to achieve our combined mission. Some, however, detract from the potency of the class by participating in behaviors that impede our work. In order for orchestra to be a fun, educational, and productive experience for all, everyone needs to follow guidelines set forth by the teacher. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures.

The Orchestra classroom works on a “loose/tight” framework that offers students creative room to grow while still expecting attentive and respectful behavior when requested.

The following guidelines are expected during small and large group rehearsals:

- Follow directions the first time given
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself
- Speak respectfully
- Be in seat with all materials when bell rings; be ready to tune 2 minutes after the bell
- Be careful of your surroundings – move with care and respect.

If a student is unable to follow these guidelines, he/she will receive support by the following:

- First offense – warning/name recorded on discipline sheet
- Second offense – 15 minute detention
- Third offense – 30 minute detention, parents called
- Fourth offense – 45 minute after school in study center, parents called
- Fifth offense – 60 minute after school in study center, office referral
- Severe disruption – student sent immediately to the office.

If everyone follows the rules, then benefits include:

- An awesome orchestra experience
- Personal growth as a musician
- Positive peer relationships
- Other perks as appropriate

### **FIELD TRIPS/FEES/SOCIAL EVENTS**

MNHS Orchestra may attend various out-of-school functions during the year. Please be aware that whenever we are outside of the school setting, we still represent Millard North. I expect appropriate behavior at all times, and will enforce school policy whether on or off campus.

Some field trips may entail fees. Trips that require extra money from the student and his or her family are not required activities. Examples of optional activities include All-State and honor orchestra application fees, and fees for out-of-town orchestra trips. Since these are optional activities that are not part of the student’s grade or class credit, the school does not pay for them and students who wish to participate are expected to pay for them.

During the year, orchestra members may also participate in orchestra-sponsored social activities. Any fees involved with these activities are the student’s/family’s responsibility. In order to promote spirit and unity, students may elect to purchase an orchestra shirt. Because this is not a required program expense, payment is the student’s responsibility.

### **FUNDRAISERS**

Each year, the MNHS Music Department offers several fundraising opportunities for our students. Funds raised from these activities go toward purchasing items for the orchestra, as well as clinician fees, and toward individual student trip accounts. Taking an active role in fundraising gives the students a sense of ownership in the program and also provides educational items that are outside our assigned budget (ex. Electronic

equipment, percussion instruments, professional sectional coaches, etc.). A certain percentage of student earnings will go toward individual trip/uniform accounts and the rest will go to the orchestra account to purchase new equipment as needed. Students are responsible for their fundraising products/money. If they lose their fundraising products and/or money collected, they will be required to pay for the missing items. We will observe the Millard Public Schools guidelines pertaining to fundraising.

## **GRADES**

The following grading system will be used for the Millard North High School Orchestra:  
1 = 93-100    2 = 85-92    3 = 77-84    4 = 69-76    5 = below 69

It is important to understand that orchestra is an **ACADEMIC CLASS**, where the tests (performances) have a high degree of visibility. The students are evaluated on criteria that affect their tests/performances.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

Students earn quarterly grades that are averaged together to determine the semester grade. Each quarter they will complete work in the following areas for a possible 100% grade:

### **I. Concerts – 30%**

Each required school concert is worth 100 points, except for commencement/senior project, which is worth 200 points. Students must show up and play for each concert in order to receive the full points. Students who have to miss a concert for illness/family emergency will complete a project due before the end of the quarter that is worth up to 100 points.

### **II. Lifelong Musicianship – 40%**

This category contains three parts:

- A. Lesson: (100 points):** Each student will have a 15-minute session before or after school with Mrs. Martinez at least once during the year.
- B. Daily Rehearsals (10 points per rehearsal/50 points per week):**  
Students will be graded on observed rehearsal behaviors. In order to receive full points, the student must be able to participate fully in all rehearsal activities and demonstrate his/her music upon request.
- C. Orchestral Technique:** Students will complete units of study on different musical topics including rhythm, bowing, conducting, compositional styles, etc.
- D. Self-Critique (50 points):**  
The student will complete one self critique each quarter over the progress observed.

### **In-Class Playing Tests (up to 100 points each):**

Depending on the concert schedule, we will complete at least one live playing test (in front of the teacher) and one blind playing test (taped) per

quarter. Please refer to the rubrics at the back of this packet for testing criteria.

### **III. Written Tests and Written Work –20%**

The Millard Orchestra Curriculum and the MNHS Music Department has a series of written tests to ensure each student progresses in musical knowledge. These will be given throughout the year. Most written work can and should be completed in class.

### **HOMEWORK**

Homework from other classes is to be completed AT HOME, before or after school, or during study halls, not during orchestra rehearsals. The organization and perseverance required to complete homework outside of school is an important life skill. Each member is a vital part of our organization, and each rehearsal is an important part of the performance process. Please be aware that working on homework from other classes will result in a lowered daily grade.

### **HONOR ORCHESTRAS**

There will be several opportunities throughout the year for students, grades 9-12, enrolled in orchestra, to audition for select honor orchestras in Nebraska and Iowa. These include UNO Honors Orchestra, Hastings Honor Orchestra, Wesleyan Honor Orchestra, and the Dorian Orchestra Festival. Any fees involved in the audition and/or participation process are the student's responsibility. Due to recent updates to district policy, MNHS Music Department will not transport students to/from the honor orchestras, nor will we be chaperoning or supervising them while they participate in the honor ensembles. We will help students prepare for and send in audition tapes, and will communicate all information sent to us by the universities sponsoring the events. Information about these will be posted on the instrumental music office window and on the orchestra web site.

### **INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE**

In order to achieve excellence and have a good overall sound, it is imperative that each orchestra member commit to daily practice. Just playing during class is not enough to hone your abilities and really listen to and improve your sound. If daily practice is not an option, I expect you to practice on the weekends (Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday) and on school breaks. It is important that you do this to a) build the physical strength and endurance necessary to play the instrument well, b) to learn your part thoroughly so the orchestra sounds its best, and c) improve as a musician so you can get the full benefit that lifelong musicianship has to offer. I will not assign practice cards, but instead expect you to shoulder the responsibility to make our orchestra THE BEST. Please consult the practice tips on the orchestra website. MN Orchestra students are expected to maintain a high level of technical and musical ability. In order to achieve the highest possible ability level, students MUST practice at home.

**Good/Basic Expectation** – The student practices every day on weekends and school breaks for at least 20-30 minutes per day. The student will practice his/her Enrichment packet and school music.

**Excellent/Average Expectation** – The student practices every day for at least 30-60 minutes per day. The student will practice his/her Enrichment packet and school music, with other extension music as desired.

**Superior/Exceeds Expectations** – The student practices every day for two or more hours. The student practices scales, etudes, and solos assigned by the student, the director, or private instructor.

### **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE**

Students enrolled in the IB Middle Years Programme will have two segments of their developmental workbook collected for submission to the IB coordinator each year. Also, students enrolled in IB MYP need to begin work on their culminating projects halfway through freshman year. If music is your passion, make music your project!

Students enrolled in IB MYP Level 5 will look at orchestra concepts through the areas of interaction. The areas of interaction include Environment, Community and Service, Health and Social, Human Ingenuity, and Approaches to Learning. Assessment will be criterion referenced based on the MYP rubric.

### **INSTRUMENT CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Just like a car, your instrument works best if you take care of it and complete preventative maintenance tasks routinely. You must rosin your bow daily, and you need to have your own rosin. Tighten your bow when playing, and loosen it when you are done. Bow hair needs to be replaced once a year with real horsehair. Most music shops with a string repairperson can complete this for you, usually between \$35-60. Have an extra set of strings on hand, and plan to replace them once per year (more often if you play a lot). Invest in a good brand, like Dominant or Pirastro for the best sound. The bridge needs to be shaped and placed correctly, as well as the sound post. Taking your instrument in to a string repairperson can insure this. Check your instrument for cracks or open seams – take it in to the music shop as needed to remedy these. Wipe your instrument down everyday with a clean, soft cloth to remove rosin, dirt, and sweat. Put instrument and bow in your case when not in use to prevent accidental damage.

Now is also a good time to investigate “step up” instruments and bows, especially if you are playing a student model. Please see the director for more information.

Finally, **DON'T USE SOMEONE ELSE'S INSTRUMENT WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION!**

### **LETTER POINT SYSTEM/AWARDS BANQUET**

At the end of the year, the music department celebrates the accomplishments of our students. The formal ceremony for this is the Music Banquet, scheduled for Thursday, May 5, in the MNHS Mustang Center. At this ceremony, student achievements are recognized with orchestra letters and other awards. It is often more difficult for underclassmen orchestra students to earn letters, so it is important that students take advantage of every opportunity to earn points throughout the year.

Orchestra members have the opportunity to earn a letter for orchestra participation, which may be worn on a Millard North letter jacket. Awards are as follows: First year letter award = chenille letter, second year = orchestra pin, third year = music staff pin, fourth year = instrument pin. Earning a letter shows a certain level of achievement and ability in the activity. In order to be considered for a letter, you must keep track of your points on the letter point sheet. This sheet will be available in class and on the orchestra website. **It is your responsibility to keep track of your letter points and to turn them in by the due date.** These points are on top of your grade, but are not part of your grade. Also, please note that letter points are awarded to students who show leadership and commitment to the orchestra. *Any student who has not shown exemplary conduct will not be considered for a Letter Award.* The final decision for awarding a letter will always rest in the judgment of the director, even if the points have been achieved. Please see the sheet entitled “Letter Award Worksheet” for a breakdown of the point system.

Other awards announced at the ceremony include: (Award recipients receive a plaque or certificate denoting their achievements, and their name is placed on a permanent plaque that remains at the school.)

**The Arion Award** is awarded to a junior or senior who has shown outstanding leadership, musicianship, and community involvement.

**The National School Orchestra Award** is awarded to a senior who demonstrates outstanding skill as a solo and orchestral player.

**The Director’s Award** is awarded to a junior or senior who demonstrates outstanding leadership and musicianship in Sinfonia Orchestra.

**The Outstanding Senior Award** is awarded to the senior who has provided outstanding service and leadership to the orchestra. All orchestra members vote on the award recipient.

**The Orchestra Spirit Award** is also a peer-nomination award, and is open to any orchestra member. The person voted to have the most spirit for orchestra and orchestral activities receives this award.

**The Freshman Orchestra Spirit Award** is a peer-nomination award, and is open to any 9<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra member.

## **ORCHESTRA PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

“Children will be active in some direction; we should see that their activity is properly directed. Both play and work should tend toward the same end – the fuller development of the individual.” ~ Mary Kimball Morgan. Anyone, especially current and former orchestra parents, are welcome to join and participate in the MNHS Orchestra Parents Association (OPA). The purpose of OPA is to support orchestra students through providing chaperones, fundraising, trip and activity planning, newsletter distribution, and providing refreshments at concerts. OPA also works to support the orchestra director, so she may focus more time on teaching and less on non-teaching activities. An elected parent board governs OPA. Although OPA assists in making decisions and planning, the director has final say in all matters.

## **SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

Millard North High School has been allotted a certain number of large instruments for students to use. Students who use these instruments pay a yearly fee of \$90 that goes toward the district budget for routine maintenance and repair. Students who use these instruments are primarily responsible for their care, however it is the duty of each orchestra member to be careful around these instruments and treat them with respect. If a student damages a school instrument through reckless or negligent behavior, then he/she or his/her family is responsible for paying for repairs or replacement of said instrument.

The same is true for school equipment, which includes music stands, stand racks, music shelves, amplifiers, speakers, stereo equipment, cords, etc. We will use this equipment for many years, so we need to keep it in top condition so it looks nice and so we do not waste taxpayer money on unnecessary replacement/repair cost.

## **SECTION LEADERS**

Section leaders are orchestra students who: demonstrate technical mastery of their part, coach sectional rehearsals, exhibit a genuine interest and concern for their section and the ensemble as a whole and who have a good attitude about their position as leader in this ensemble. Section leaders are expected to attend all rehearsals, have appropriate materials ready, make musical decisions about bowings, fingerings, etc., and demonstrate appropriate leadership capabilities at all times. Section leaders are those who score the highest in the taped auditions and/or those whom the director deems worthy of this responsibility. Section leaders may be challenged according to the guidelines provided (see CHALLENGES). If, at any time, a section leader does not fulfill his or her duties to the section, he/she may be replaced at the director's discretion. Section leaders earn points toward Letter Award Consideration.

## **SECTIONALS**

Sectionals are opportunities to work with others in your own section to ensure you are producing the most unified and polished sound. There are two types of sectionals: those completed in class, and those outside of school. In-class sectionals take place during class time in other parts of the music wing. During these rehearsals, the section leader will work on trouble spots, etc. These are part of your *daily* grade. Full participation from all section members is expected.

It is also beneficial for students to meet outside of school for sectionals. These generally meet before the school day and are run by students. It counts toward your Practice Club/Lesson grade if two or more section members attend and if they work for at least 30 minutes on assigned orchestra music. The section leader does not need to be present, but is encouraged to attend.

## **SHEET MUSIC**

Millard North High School has an extensive music library that includes music for full orchestra, string orchestra, small ensembles, and solos. We purchase new music every year from money allotted to us from the school budget to keep our library up-to-date and to aid in choosing more interesting performance selections. Every student must

understand that he/she is responsible for maintaining the music library. This obligation includes keeping personal copies borrowed from the music library in clean and presentable condition, writing on the music in pencil and erasing markings before turning music in, giving the music to the director or the orchestra librarian after use. It is very frustrating to have scores that are missing parts or that are in disrepair. If a student loses or damages his music, he/she will be fined for the replacement cost.

**FAQ:**

**I have music from middle school/last year/four years ago, do you want it back?** Yes. The earlier the better.

**I loaned my music to \_\_\_\_\_ and they did not return it. Do I still have to pay for it?** Yes. If this person borrowed your music, it is your responsibility to get either the music or the money from them. The music assigned to you is your responsibility, no matter who uses it.

**Someone stole my music. Do I still have to pay for it?** Yes. Once again, this music was assigned to you. Additionally, we have found that when music appeared to be “stolen” it was often just misplaced by the person to whom the music was checked out.

**I swear I already turned my music in! Do I still have to pay for it?** Yes. If the director or music librarian does not have your music, then you must still pay to replace it. Too many students have sworn that they have turned in music, only to find it in their rooms six months later.

**TARDIES**

Students are expected to arrive on time for each class. Everyone should be in their seats, ready to tune, with instruments and music ready 2 minutes after the bell. Those who arrive late to class show a blatant disrespect for their peers, the director, and for the ensemble. If you arrive to class later than the bell, I will count you tardy on the attendance report. Third, sixth and ninth instance of tardiness will result in office referrals and detention.

**TRANSPORTATION**

There will be opportunities for the orchestra students to travel. When we travel as a large group/ensemble, MNHS will provide buses (for example – traveling to District Music Contest, Music Mentors with the Omaha Symphony at the Holland Center, Commencement, etc.). If a bus is provided, MNHS expects and prefers students to ride the bus. There are some occasions where a bus is unnecessary (ex. – small ensemble performances, orchestra mentoring projects) and we may need students or parents to drive and possibly transport other students. In either case, please make sure the student’s transportation form is on file in the MNHS Administration Office.

**WEBSITE**

The orchestra maintains a website that features information about concert dates, upcoming events, practice tips, orchestra paperwork, music links, as well as an electronic version of this handbook. Information is updated periodically, so please check the site for current events. The website may be found at [www.millardnorthorchestra.com](http://www.millardnorthorchestra.com).

### **YOUNG ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL**

Students in ninth grade orchestra do not perform at District Music Contest. Instead, they have the unique opportunity to perform at the American String Teacher's Young Orchestra Festival on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Students enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra are expected to participate in this event. They will be bused to the UN-L campus, where they will perform rehearsed selections for a qualified judge. After their performance, they will receive a mini-clinic with constructive feedback and positive remarks. Students may also perform solos and small ensembles for a judge. Please mark your calendars for this important activity.

Please return this page to Mrs. Martinez by Friday, August 27 to receive 100 Written Work Grade Points.

We have read and understand the 2010-2011 Millard North Orchestra Handbook, especially the sections on attendance, grade requirements, and concert schedule. The required concert dates are marked on our calendar(s). We understand that attendance at concerts is mandatory and we agree to abide by the classroom and grading guidelines.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Orchestra Info – If your information has not changed from last year, you do not need to complete this section!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mrs. Martinez sends a lot of important information/updates via email – ESPECIALLY through Infinite Campus. Please make sure she has your current address!

Student Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Brand Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**We strongly encourage you to join the Orchestra Parents Association.** Dues are \$25 per family if received on or before September 11, \$30 if received after Sept. 11. Please make checks payable to MN-OPA. Thank you!