

**Kell High School Orchestra**  
**Parent/Student Handbook**



**KELL HIGH SCHOOL**

*Orchestra*

**2024-2025**

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# Kell High School Orchestra Parent/Student Handbook

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## **Welcome to the Kell Orchestra Program!**

This handbook has been compiled for the parents and students of the orchestra program at Kell High School. It is designed to acquaint the orchestra members and parents with the requirements, expectations, and procedures in orchestra class.

The Kell Orchestra program is part of a tradition of excellence in instrumental music instruction and performance within the Cobb County Schools. I am very honored to be the director of this fine program!

To avoid conflicts with the stated policies, all orchestra members and parents are urged to read this handbook so that the student and parent expectations are understood. When the handbook has been read entirely, please complete and return the orchestra contract. This will indicate a basic understanding of the material presented in this handbook.

**To the Students:** Welcome to the Kell Orchestra! I am very proud to be your Orchestra Director and I hope you are ready for another successful year. I know that you will continue to enjoy the experience of being involved in a group that includes students who have outstanding citizenship and strive for musical excellence. As in past years, there is a lot of hard work that will be required of you during this year, and by trying your best and keeping a positive attitude you will reap all the rewards that will come because of your effort. My responsibility to each of you is to accept you for what you are NOW, not what you will be or what you have been, and to demonstrate to the best of my ability that music is a way of expression, a way of working together, a way of sharing and understanding ourselves and each other better. Let's have some fun!!

**To the Parents:** As the director, I am here not only to help the student, but also to work with each of you in achieving a quality education in music for your child. If it were not for your support, encouragement, and approval, the quality of your child's education would suffer. For more information on your role in your child's education, see the section of this handbook entitled Parent Involvement.

Communication is key in any partnership and extremely important when dealing with the amount of information that your son/daughter receives at school. I will do my best to help keep the website current and send periodic email newsletters that will help keep you up to date with important news and upcoming events. Please be sure to subscribe to our mailing list with your e-mail address so that you can receive the information.

A successful music program is the result of a unified partnership between parents, students, and the director.

Please reach out if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Musically,  
Mrs. Fuchs

# Kell High School Orchestra Calendar 2024-2025

Items in bold are mandatory and graded for all students  
Calendar is subject to change and updates throughout the year

Event	Date	Location
<b>Fiddle Fest &amp; Performance</b>	<b>Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 10am-5pm</b>	<b>Kell High School Auditorium</b>
Palmer/McCleskey Lesson Nights (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester) START	September	Kell High School Orchestra Room
All-State Registration DUE	September 13 <sup>th</sup>	N/A
Honor Orchestra Audition	September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Kennesaw Mountain High School
Solo & Ensemble Registration DUE	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	N/A
Fall ASO Field Trip	TBD	Woodruff Arts Center
<b>Fall Concert</b>	<b>Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm</b>	<b>Kell High School Auditorium</b>
District All-State Auditions	Saturday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pope High School
Solo & Ensemble	Saturday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Osborne High School
Honor Orchestra	November 8-9 <sup>th</sup>	Kennesaw Mountain High School
Rock and Roll-A-Thon	Friday, November 15 <sup>th</sup> 6pm-10pm	Kell High School Orchestra Room

Fall Community Performances	TBD	TBD
<b>Chorus &amp; Orchestra Winter Concert</b>	<b>Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm</b>	<b>Kell High School Auditorium</b>
Palmer/McCleskey Lesson Nights (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester) START	January	Kell High School Orchestra Room
Final All-State Audition	Saturday, January 18 <sup>th</sup> TBD	Westminster Schools
<b>Large Group Performance Evaluation</b>	<b>Mon-Weds, February 10-12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Walton High School</b>
Musical	Wednesday-Friday, March 26-28 <sup>th</sup>	Kell High School Auditorium
Spring Community Performances	TBD	TBD
<b>Spring Concert &amp; Awards Night</b>	<b>Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm</b>	<b>Kell High School Auditorium</b>
Baccalaureate (Seniors Only)	Sunday, May 18th	Piedmont Church

## *I. Course Scopes and Objectives*

### **A. Membership in the Orchestra Program:**

The orchestra program is open to all students demonstrating the desire, ability, and proper attitude to be a member of the group. Each student will have an equal and fair opportunity for participation in the orchestra program. Students will be placed in an orchestral ensemble at the discretion of the director based upon the student's achievement from the previous year and/or recommendations of previous instructors.

### **B. The Kell Orchestra Mission**

The mission of the Kell High School Orchestra is to provide a creative, engaging, positive, and purposeful musical experience for all members. We promote a culture of acceptance, mutual respect, leadership, and integrity and are proud members of our community.

### **C. Course Description & Objective:**

Each orchestra will study and perform string repertoire representing a wide range of musical history and styles. Students will perform advanced playing techniques including vibrato, shifting, and alternative bow styles. Students will learn a range of music theory techniques including key signatures, intervals, and chord construction. Students will perform in chamber ensembles. Students will compose and arrange music for string instruments.

### **D. Goals of the Kell Orchestra Program:**

1. To participate in the performance of music and learn the technical skills of playing an instrument, which will result in a positive learning experience.
2. To attain a mastery of the instrument and feel the satisfaction of achieving something worthwhile through concentrated effort, in both small and large groups.
3. To awaken a sense of creativeness and provide an avenue for self-expression.
4. To develop performance skills necessary for independence as a string player.
5. To elevate students to achieve and surpass the National Music Standards and State Benchmarks set forth by the National Association for Music Education, the American String Teachers Association, and the State of Georgia.
6. To identify and authentically perform various musical styles which developed throughout history.
7. To develop attitudes enabling students to continue participating in musical experiences throughout their life.

### **E. Course Selections/Orchestral Ensembles:**

**Concert Orchestra** is an intermediate level orchestra that continues instruction after middle school. The content of this course includes instruction in performance techniques with emphasis placed on technical and musical skills through the study of rudimentary exercises and mainly grade 2-3 string orchestra repertoire. Individual practice outside of class time is necessary for successful mastery of performance standards. [CCSD Course Name: HS Intermediate Orchestra.] *Prerequisite: previous orchestra experience in middle school and/or teacher recommendation.*

**Sinfonia Orchestra** is an advanced-level orchestra. This course includes advanced instruction in performance techniques with emphasis placed on technical and musical skills through the study of mainly grade 4-5 string orchestra repertoire. Individual practice outside of class time is necessary for successful mastery of performance standards. [CCSD Course Name: HS Advanced Orchestra.] *Prerequisite: Audition*

**Chamber Orchestra** is comprised of students at the highest skill level and serves as the elite string ensemble at KHS. Students in this course will demonstrate a mastery level of proficiency on violin, viola, cello, bass. Students should be prepared to complete rigorous performance assessments and spend time outside of class for performances. Individual practice outside of class time is necessary for successful mastery of performance standards. [CCSD Course Name: HS Mastery Orchestra] *Prerequisite: Audition*

## *II. Grading*

### **A. General Expectations:**

- Students come to class on time and prepared with all materials.
- Participate in rehearsal with appropriate effort, attitude, and conduct.
- Practice instrument regularly to make personal improvement each week.
- Complete all assigned playing exams and written work.
- Attend scheduled performances prepared and dressed in the appropriate uniform.
- Keep a positive attitude, be willing to learn, and have fun!

### **B. Grading Breakdown & Weights:**

#### **20% Formative**

##### Weekly Class/Rehearsal Performance

- Students will be evaluated on daily participation and performance during scales, exercises, and repertoire rehearsal. This includes arriving to class and rehearsals on time; being respectful to the teacher, fellow classmates, or any guest; coming to class prepared with all materials; demonstrating proper rehearsal behavior & positive attitude.

#### **70% Summative**

- Instrument Proficiency, Performance Evaluations, Orchestral Performances
- Theory/History Work and Written Work/Reflections

#### **10% Final Exam**

- May be in the form of a Written exam, reflection, audition or performance assessment

### **C. Home Practice:**

Practice is an integral part of orchestra class and learning to play any instrument. Every student enrolled in the Kell Orchestra program is expected to regularly practice all lessons, skills, techniques, concepts, and concert music taught in class. Students should plan on devote time for home practice. The required amount of practice time is determined by your level of mastery of the musical material. Every student is different, therefore there is no set “number of minutes” requirement. Musical success any performing ensemble achieves is directly related to the quality practice time the individual member brings to that ensemble.

### **D. Concert and Rehearsal Participation:**

Participation in public performance is the culmination of the work we do every day in class. Being a member of an orchestra is the same as being a member of a team—if one person is gone, everyone is affected. There are 4 mandatory performances throughout the year, with the addition of Fiddle Fest, as well as a handful of after school rehearsals that will be scheduled based on need. All concerts are GRADED EVENTS and are considered co-curricular. Students are required to participate in the entire concert. A very important part of developing as a musician is listening to and critiquing live performances. Additionally, we are a Kell Orchestra team, and we support each other out of respect for our program and respect for the hard work involved in preparing and performing for our school and

community. Students start with a '100' for their performance grade based on attendance, timeliness, following procedures, and performance etiquette.

### *III. Classroom Conduct and Policies*

#### **A. "The Kell Orchestra Way"**

*Respect* yourself, others, and the Kell Orchestra

*Be Kind*

Be a *Leader* both Inside and Outside of the Orchestra Classroom

Keep an *Open Mind* and a *Positive Attitude*

#### **B. Conduct and Participation in Class:**

All members of Kell Orchestra are expected to fully participate in orchestra rehearsal each and every day. This includes bringing your music, instrument, and a pencil to every class. Orchestra members are expected to show **respect** for their director, officers, fellow orchestra members, parent volunteers, substitutes, and any others involved with orchestra activities.

#### **C. Orchestra Rules & Expectations:**

In Orchestra, students are expected to learn and demonstrate a strong work ethic, professional and respectful conduct, and good communication skills. In class, students are expected to:

1. Have a **respectful, responsible, and positive** demeanor toward yourself, each other, members of other music programs and your teachers, parents, and community members.
2. Be on time to class and in your assigned seat, warming up, and prepared to play within three minutes after the bell rings
3. Bring the materials you need- your instrument, music and a pencil- and leave the ones you don't: phone, work for another class, food/drink, and other distractions.
4. Stay seated and engaged during the duration of rehearsal.
5. Treat the Orchestra room and equipment with respect.
6. Follow instructions the first time they are given.

#### **D. Bathroom Policy**

To avoid unnecessary distractions, Students are encouraged to use the bathroom during class change. If a student has an emergency and needs to use the restroom during class, they may do so within the following parameters.

1. Per Kell School Policy, Students may not be out of the classroom during the first and last 15 minutes of the class period.
2. Students may not go to the bathroom during fundamentals time. This is to avoid students missing valuable instruction and getting behind!
3. Students must have a bathroom pass. If a pass is not available, students must wait until a pass returns.
4. Students can only be out of the room for a maximum of six minutes.
5. Students must sign out **LEGIBLY** with their name and the time they leave on the sign out sheet. When they return, they must mark their return time.
6. No pit stops!

If a student violates any part of the bathroom policy, they risk losing their bathroom privileges all together.



### **E. Food and Gum Policy:**

**Food is not allowed in the Orchestra circle.** Students should not eat during rehearsal. Hands should always be clean of food residue when touching an instrument. Students are expected to pick up all food trash.

**NO GUM IS ALLOWED.** Gum may not be chewed during the duration of Orchestra class. This is to protect the school instruments and equipment.

Failure to comply with the Food and Gum Policy will result in disciplinary action. Please respect the Orchestra room and equipment!

### **F. Phone and Electronic Device Policy:**

In an effort to keep students engaged and reduce distraction in class, phones should remain in student's bags until the end of class once the director has concluded rehearsal or when the director gives students permission to retrieve them. Headphones, Air pods, Apple Watches, or any other electronic devices should also remain away during the duration of the rehearsal.

This policy extends to the practice rooms.

### **G. Classroom Discipline:**

Students who fail to follow the rules, expectations, and policies will incur the following consequences.

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Teacher warning

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Teacher phone call home

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Teacher detention

4<sup>th</sup> offense: Administration Referral

### **H. Concert and Rehearsal Attendance**

Orchestra members are required to attend all scheduled classroom rehearsals and performances to maintain an exceptional performance standard. As a co-curricular course, rehearsals and performances are part of the educational process. Absences and tardiness affect not only the individual who is absent but also the entire ensemble. All after school rehearsals and concerts are considered part of the class requirement. Good communication between the director, student, and parents can prevent misunderstandings. It is imperative that students be at all after school rehearsals and performances. Please read the following expectations carefully and contact a director with any questions.

WRITTEN NOTICES FROM PARENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL ABSENCES OR SCHEDULE CONFLICTS. Email is preferred. VERBAL OR WRITTEN EXCUSES FROM STUDENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

1. **CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Performances are mandatory and are classified as a major part of a student's grade. **Any** absence, except for an emergency, not brought to the director's attention for approval **prior** to the performance will be considered unexcused.
2. **EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Requests for consideration to be excused from performance must be turned into the director, in writing from the parent or guardian, at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled performance date.

Conflicts with individual religious beliefs are considered excused, given advance notice. Please notify the director with a written note as soon as you are aware that a conflict exists. There will be an assigned project to make up the grade. The directors will assign the parameters and topics.

3. **EXCUSED ABSENCE MAKE-UP GRADE:** To receive a grade for an EXCUSED absence from a rehearsal or performance, it is the student's responsibility to see the director to make up the missed rehearsal/ performance. This assignment can be (but not limited to) a report, a project, or recording submission. **NO ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER TWO WEEKS FROM THE DATE OF THE MISSED REHEARSAL OR CONCERT. PLEASE COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH MRS. FUCHS IF THERE ARE INDIVIDUAL OR UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY BE A PROBLEM.**
4. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:** An unexcused absence from a performance or an extra rehearsal will count as zero for the performance and the student may receive a lower participation grade.

Unexcused absences from concerts include, but are not limited to: homework, appointments, lack of transportation, club meetings, baby-sitting, birthday celebrations, oversleeping, shopping, sports practices or games, meetings, work, and vacation. These will not be accepted as valid excuses for missing a concert. Absences are excused only in cases of emergency. In the case of illness, parents or students should notify the director as early as possible. If an unanticipated absence occurs, a written request for excuse from a parent or guardian is due within two days of the absence

5. **EMERGENCIES:** In the case of illness and/or family emergency, the parent should send a written notice to the orchestra director as soon as they are aware that such a situation exists. If it is an emergency (i.e., something that happens 30 minutes before the performance/rehearsal is to begin) it may be impossible to get in touch with the director. Therefore, please follow this up with a written note as soon as possible after the fact. **THIS IS THE ONLY CATEGORY WHERE ABSENCES WILL BE EXCUSED THE SAME DAY, OR AFTER THE EVENT.**

#### **I. Conflicts with Orchestra:**

Rehearsal and performance calendars are normally given out well in advance. While not always 100% preventable, every effort will be made to eliminate conflicts with other major school activities. It is the policy of the orchestra to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of orchestra policy. Conflicts should be brought to the director's attention **IN WRITING** as soon as the student is aware of a discrepancy. A minimum of two weeks notice should be given, but earlier is better. Students should not expect to automatically be excused because of conflicts. Students are reminded that orchestra is an activity and does require a commitment of time inside and outside of the school day. All orchestra concerts will take top priority over most school sport and other extracurricular activities because orchestra is a co-curricular, academic class. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Fuchs with any questions.

#### **J. Make-Up Assignments:**

In the event a student is excused from a performance, or rehearsal, a make-up assignment will be given. The make-up assignment will require the students to perform for the director, individually, all the music from the missed performance plus additional material, which may include written work as deemed appropriate by the director.

#### **K. Concert Etiquette:**

Please follow the guidelines below for concert behavior. Parents should watch their students to observe this behavior, and teach by example. Do not talk during the performance. If you must talk, use a whisper voice while in the theater.

- It is appropriate to applaud when the first person walks on the stage.
- While a performance is in progress, please remain silent and seated.

- Whistling and “Calls” are never appropriate at orchestra concerts.
- Power off or silence all cellular phones and electronic devices.
- It is appropriate to applaud at the end of every piece. The conductor usually puts his/her hands down to signify the end of a piece.
- Take all crying babies and disruptive children to theater lobby.
- All patrons should stay seated and clear of the aisles in the Theater.
- Stay for the entire performance, not just one specific orchestra or group.

#### *IV. Materials*

##### **A. Required Materials (by August 9, 2024):**

1. All students need an instrument and bow in good playing condition with the following accessories: Rosin, Polishing/cleaning cloth, Case tag labeled with student’s name, address, phone number, and email address. Violin/Viola students must provide their own rosin. School rosin is to be used by students using school owned Cellos.
2. **Violin and viola** students must use a shoulder rest.
3. **Cello and bass** students must use a rockstop, especially when playing on wood or tile surfaces. Rockstops help prevent floor damage at school and at home.
4. Pencil for marking music. Please do not use a pen.
5. Fresh, High-Quality Strings – It is recommended that students (especially violin/viola) plan for the worst by keeping an extra set of quality strings on-hand.
6. Metronome/Chromatic tuner (App) -- A metronome is an electronic device that helps a student keep a steady beat. A chromatic tuner can aid students as they learn to tune on their own. Most phones support free apps that suite this purpose. Tonal Energy Tuner is fantastic and includes a metronome.

##### **B. Instruments:**

Students that do not own their own instrument will be issued a school instrument to use for the school year. The instrument will include a case, bow, shoulder rest or rock stop, and four strings. Students must provide their own rosin. Loss of any parts of the instrument issued will be charge to the student. Replacement costs will be included on the agreement signed by the student and parent. Failure to return the instrument or reimburse Kell Orchestra will lead to failure to walk at Kell Graduation.

##### **C. Sheet Music:**

Each member will be assigned a Kell Orchestra music folder and assigned their own copies of sheet music. Students will be assigned a slot number in the music filing cabinet where they will store their folder. If another folder is found in your slot, please bring it to the director or one of the librarians to correct the problem. Students are responsible for keeping track of their folder and turn it in at the end of the school year. Folders are property of the Kell Orchestra and failure to turn in folder at the end of the year will result in a fine.

Students are expected to have their folder, music, and pencil at every rehearsal. It is highly encouraged that the students take their music home to study, however they must be returned for class use.

##### **D. Orchestra Uniforms:**

Every orchestra member must have an orchestra uniform available through the school. The fee to borrow the uniform is the dues for KOBA (\$150). All uniforms will be fitted at the beginning of the year and are due back to school after the final concert in May. The uniforms should be returned dry cleaned and ready for the next person to use. Failure to return the uniform or any part of the uniform will lead to a replacement fine. Failure to pay the fine will lead to failure to walk at Kell Graduation.

Two uniform options available to students:

- Floor length black dress with flutter sleeve, black dress shoes
- Black tux pants, black button-down shirt, black suit jacket, black dress shoes, black socks

All students are required to provide their own black shoes to wear for performances.

## *V. Operating Procedures*

### **A. Daily Class Procedure:**

#### **Before School:**

1. Bring your instrument and music to the orchestra room and place it in the appropriate storage area as soon as you arrive to school. Please do not leave your instrument in the hallway, or in the main room.
2. You are welcome to practice or rehearse until the first bell. ☺
3. While in the Orchestra Room, be respectful of those rehearsing
4. PLEASE THROW OUT YOUR GARBAGE before leaving our 'orchestra home' and if you move chairs or stands, please put them back in the set-up before you leave.

#### **During Class:**

1. Arrive to class on time.
2. Leave book-bag and case in the designated area in the back of the classroom. NO BACKPACKS OR BAGS ALLOWED IN THE ORCHESTRA CIRCLE.
3. Be in your seat within three minutes after the tardy bell rings.
4. Place your instrument case closed in the designated area.
5. Check the announcement screen: have all necessary materials (instrument, music, tuner, book, pencil, shoulder rest, rosin, etc.). Have materials you may need BEFORE class starts.
6. Tune your instrument using your tuner. An A will be playing when you walk in the class for you to tune to.
7. Begin warming up on passages that you need work on while waiting for tuning to begin. Use this time for individual practice.
8. Be attentive during class and follow directions the first time they are given. This saves time and will make progress fast and effective!
9. Pack up your instrument and music and return it to its appropriate space. Cello and Bass players must loosen bows and put in endpins and return their instrument to the appropriate space on the racks.
10. Director dismisses the class (not the bell).

During rehearsal, students are expected to remain seated and stay actively engaged.

#### **B. Lockers:**

All instruments will be kept in a locked locker in the orchestra room while not being played. Lockers will be assigned to all students at the beginning of the year. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure the locker is properly locked at all times. The school is not responsible for items stolen from the lockers.**

#### **C. Orchestra Practice Rooms and Equipment:**

Students are not to play or move any instruments or equipment without the orchestra director's approval. Chairs, music stands, etc. moved to practice rooms must be returned to their original location in

the orchestra room. Practice rooms are available for use before and after school at Mrs. Fuchs' discretion. When a practice room is in use, the light must be on and window is free of obstruction. All equipment and lights must be turned off when you leave the room. Inappropriate use of the practice rooms will result in disciplinary action at the director's discretion and banning from further use of practice rooms for the year.

### **NO FOOD, DRINKS, OR GUM ALLOWED IN THE PRACTICE ROOMS.**

#### **D. Concert Calendar:**

The concert calendar is given to every student at the beginning of the school year and will also be displayed in the orchestra room and available on our website. It is subject to revision at any time; however, every effort is made to announce additions and changes as early as possible. Students will be informed in class and will be e-mailed to the parent and student e-mail addresses given in the first week of school. Please take the time to place the relevant dates on your personal and family calendars. All events that are in **bold** are mandatory for every orchestra member. Concert invitations that arise with less than two weeks notification will be subject to an orchestra vote prior to accepting the invitation.

#### **E. Fundraising:**

Fundraising is an essential part of a non-profit organization. All fundraisers are done to lower the cost of activities for the students. Throughout the year, students and parents will be asked to participate in these activities. Specific fundraisers will help to offset the costs of various trips and activities. Any additional fundraising funds will go to benefit the entire orchestra program. Student participation is expected in order to earn an orchestra letter.

#### **F. Traveling & Social Events:**

Throughout the year, the Kell High School Orchestra will have the opportunity to travel to various events. When leaving the school grounds, all school rules remain in effect. This includes travel to and from the event on the bus/plane and at the actual event. It is important that each orchestra member is aware of the Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco guidelines for all extra and co-curricular activities. Specific travel rules will be published at a later date, as the need arises. Rules are created to ensure the safety and well-being of each person who is involved with the trip. **There will be no tolerance for any violation of rules while on an orchestra trip. Failure to comply with school rules will lead to the student being immediately removed from the trip.**

Social events will be scheduled throughout the year to encourage orchestra camaraderie. The same school/county rules and regulations are enforced at these events. The student and booster club officers, with the approval of the orchestra director, will determine these functions.

#### **G. Orchestra Dues:**

Orchestra dues are an annual fee of **\$150.00** per student and are collected at the beginning of the school year. For families with multiple students in the program, we ask for **\$75.00** for each additional child.

Orchestra dues include:

✓ Supplemental instruction through workshops, clinics, and fall/winter camps ✓ Equipment such as tuners, shoulder rests, batteries, rock stops, rosin, etc. ✓ Yearly purchase of new music ✓ Guest instructors, performers, or clinicians ✓ Bus transportation on some orchestra field trips ✓ Entry fees for performance evaluation or other performances ✓ Fees for performance sites and maintenance ✓ Student recognition awards – certificates, medals, and orchestra letters ✓ Food on competition days, for workshops, and hospitality events ✓ Assist with purchases of new instruments and equipment ✓ The Kell Orchestra T-Shirt!

This fee is one of the lowest for all of Kell's performing groups/sports. Dues are the main source of funding for the program. With the payment of your dues, you will not be asked for any additional money for uniforms, instruments, concert hospitality, etc. We understand the cost of dues is a big ask for families and have organized several fund-raising activities such as program advertisements, product sales, and our annual Rock-and-Roll-A-Thon, to help off-set the cost of personal dues.

#### **H. Student Money Collection:**

All payments **TO THE BOOSTER CLUB** should be made payable by check (no cash, if possible) to **KOBA (Kell Orchestra Booster Association)**, PayPal, or Square. Please include the student's name and reason for payment on the check. Paying by check or card allows better security and accuracy in the massive task of counting and handling money for such a large organization. If a check bounces, the person writing the check will be responsible for the additional bank fees.

#### **I. Auditions**

Auditions will be held in April of each school year to accurately place students for the following school year. Every student in Orchestra is asked to audition **UNLESS** they would like to stay in Concert Orchestra. Students who would like to move up or stay in Sinfonia and Chamber Orchestra must complete the required audition. There will be an optional audition in December for students who would like to audition for Chamber Orchestra.

### *VI. Student Involvement*

#### **A. Private Lessons:**

Although not required, private lessons give students the opportunity to get more individualized attention on their instrument. With individualized instruction, a student can build the technical skills necessary to become a very proficient performer both as a soloist and orchestral player. It's amazing to see what students can accomplish with private lessons! Every student in the KHS Orchestra program is encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to study privately. A list of private teachers can be found on our Orchestra website.

#### **B. Additional Performance Opportunities:**

**Solo and Ensemble Festival:** Every year, orchestra members have the option to participate in a Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event. These events provide individual assessment and motivation for many students to perform as a soloist or in a small ensemble. They will perform for a judge, be evaluated on their performance, and receive written comments. Students who are interested in being involved in this activity are strongly encouraged to have the additional help of a private teacher. More information will be made available closer to the event.

**District Honors Orchestra:** Each year, students may audition to participate in the Honors Orchestra. This event brings together our most advanced students from all CCSD high schools to rehearse and perform challenging music. Additional rehearsals and performances are required. A special guest clinician works with the honors orchestra each year. More information will be made available closer to the event.

**GMEA All-State Orchestra:** The All-State Orchestra is formed each year to bring the top musicians from the state together to perform a concert. There are four high school orchestras: 9/10 string and full orchestra and the 11/12 string and full orchestra. Auditions are held in two rounds, usually October and January, and the event takes place in March.

**Youth Orchestras:** The Atlanta metro area is fortunate to have a plethora of additional performing opportunities available for string students. Please see the orchestra website for a list of area youth orchestras.

### **C. Student Leadership Team**

All orchestra students are invited and encouraged to join the Student Leadership Team! The first meeting will be **Wednesday, August 7th, 2024**. The team will play an important role in being a liaison between the members of the orchestra, Mrs. Fuchs, and KOBA. The team will assist Mrs. Fuchs with various tasks throughout the year and coordinate social events for the students.

Not every student will be assigned a specific role, but some of the necessary roles include:

**President and Vice President:** The President and Vice President of the Kell Orchestra Leadership team presides over all business meetings of the orchestra, leads the orchestra in fundraising events, oversees duties and responsibilities of all other orchestra officers, and represents orchestra membership at officer meetings. The managers must be a senior or junior.

**Secretary:** The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at formal Leadership meetings, updating the Orchestra Leadership website, updating the Leadership bulletin board, and keeping the calendar up to date. In addition, the Secretary works with the Student Services team to find and facilitate social events and community service projects for the Kell Orchestra.

**Historian:** The Historian is responsible taking digital pictures of rehearsals, trips and other events pertaining to the orchestra. They will print some pictures for posters and give pictures to the webmaster for posting on the KHS Orchestra website and social media accounts. They will also be responsible for producing and finding help to produce a slide show or video for the Awards Ceremony at the end of the year.

**Librarians (two per class):** The Librarians are responsible for the issue, collection and filing of all music, accomplishing library work, and keeping the library facilities neat and orderly.

**Operations (Concert set-up crew, Room clean-up crew):** The operations officers are responsible for the daily set-up of the orchestra room and movement of equipment to and from rehearsals and performances outside the rehearsal room. The operations officers also recruit extra help as needed from within each orchestra.

**Student Services Team:** The Student Services team works directly with the Secretary and is responsible for setting up social events and community service projects both on and off campus as well as projects that do not include performance with a musical instrument. They are responsible for establishing students into individual, small group performance ensembles for campus service and community service events. Finally, they are responsible for finding student volunteers to participate in on and off campus volunteer projects that do not require a performance ensemble.

### **D. Orchestra Letters**

Participation in any quality organization requires commitment, hard work, sacrifice, and responsibility. Students who exemplify such qualities form the backbone of the Kell Orchestra program and deserve to be recognized. Each student will have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter by using a merit system. Students who qualify for a letter in subsequent years will receive a bar to attach to the letter. Letters will be awarded at the banquet in May.

A student must earn a total of 45 points in order to receive a letter. Remember that regardless of how many points a student acquires, he/she must not have any absences from a concert throughout the school year.

### **Point System**

Participation in any quality organization requires commitment, hard work, sacrifice, and responsibility. Students who exemplify such qualities form the backbone of the Kell Orchestra program and deserve to be recognized. Each student will have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter by using a merit system. Students who qualify for a letter in subsequent years will receive a bar to attach to the letter. Letters will be awarded at the banquet in May.

A student must earn a total of points in order to receive a letter. Remember that regardless of how many points a student acquires, they must not have any absences from a concert throughout the school year.

Chamber Orchestra 400  
Sinfonia Orchestra 350  
Concert Orchestra 300

### **Point System**

- Concerts 30 points each
- Sectional Leader 10 points
- LGPE 40 points
- Orchestra Trip (overnight) 40 points
- Orchestra One-day Trips 15 points
- All-State Orchestra
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Audition 10 points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Audition 20 points
  - Participation 50 points
- District XII Honor Symphony
  - Audition 20 points
  - Participation 50 points
- Governor's Honor Program
  - Each audition 10 points
  - Participation 50 points
- Solo in Concert 10 points
- Musical Pit Member 50 points
- Summer Music Camps (proof of participation) 20 points
- Fundraising (per fundraiser) 15 points
- Member of Student Leadership Team 50 points
- Other Music Concerts (program or ticket required) 2 points each
- Member of another music organization 10 points
- Private Music Lessons (all year) 30 points
- Kell Orchestra Social Events (per event) 5 points
- Kell Orchestra Volunteer Hours 10 points per hour

### **Point Deductions**

- Concert Absence- ineligible for letter jacket



- Concert Tardy 5 points minimum
- Inappropriate Rehearsal Behavior 5 points minimum
  - (talking, unprepared, chewing gum, disrespect, etc.)

### **E. Fine Arts Diploma Seal**

The Kell Fine Arts Department was selected by the Georgia State Board of Education to be awarded the Fine Arts Diploma Seal Pathway. Music students who select this distinctive pathway AND meet the criteria may apply for this honor in the spring of their senior year. Students will be awarded the Fine Arts Diploma Seal at graduation. Students must complete four years (8 semesters) of Orchestra to be eligible.

### *VII. Parent Involvement*

**CONGRATULATIONS!!** Your decision to provide your child with a quality education in music is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to continue to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity, and achievement. Numerous studies indicate that parental attitude, support, and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With strong support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

*Should there ever be any doubt in your mind about any phase of your child's participation in the orchestra program, I am always willing to talk with you. Feel free to call, set up a meeting, or e-mail anytime!*

#### **A. Benefits:**

**For the student,** music participation enhances: Problem solving, goal-setting, physical coordination, selfconfidence and esteem, poise, teamwork, self-expression, memory skills, concentration, and much more!

**For the family,** music participation offers opportunities for shared family experiences, including: musical event attendance, family music making, performing for, and with, family and friends, learning about the lives of composers and the cultural heritage of many civilizations, a sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family.

*Always keep in mind that your support is an essential element in your child's success with music study.*

#### **B. Parent Volunteer and Chaperones:**

Orchestra is always looking for parent volunteers to help throughout the year! If you are interested in being a parent volunteer, please email Mrs. Fuchs or sign up on our Orchestra website.

#### **C. Kell Orchestra Booster Association (KOBA)**

The Kell Orchestra Booster Association (KOBA) is an integral part of the Kell Orchestra program. It is run by parents of students and handles many of the extra-curricular events associated with orchestra. This includes field trips and fundraisers. KOBA also provides uniforms, clinicians, equipment, repairs, and any additional funding necessary to keep the orchestra program going. Cobb County provides a budget for the Kell orchestra program but that does not cover all of our costs. KOBA uses orchestra-wide fundraisers to raise money for the program but also relies heavily on dues paid by orchestra families. Dues are \$150 per school year. For families with multiple students enrolled in orchestra, the cost is \$150 for one child and an additional \$75 for each sibling.

KOBA also provides assistance to Mrs. Fuchs and the orchestras through chaperoning, uniform fittings, and event coordination. If you are interested in assisting, please email [kellorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:kellorchestra@gmail.com)

*VIII. Kell Orchestra Handbook Contract and Information Form*

Parents and Students: Once you have read this handbook in its entirety, please complete the KHSO Handbook Contract and Information Form together.

**Please return this signed page to Mrs. Fuchs by Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.**

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Student First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CCSD Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

CCSD Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size (circle one):        S        M        L        XL        XXL

Parent/Guardian 1 First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 1 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 1 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2 First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I affirm that:

- I have read and understand the policies stated in the Orchestra Handbook.
- By enrolling in Orchestra, I agree to comply with the policies, procedures, and expectations.
- I have this year's calendar and am responsible for attendance at all required events.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_