



Advanced Orchestra
Handbook
2025-2026

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www.wahsstrings-piano.org/

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Objectives of Handbook & Due Dates by Fri. 8/29/2025:

Complete the Start of Year Registration Google Form.	Put names on new black music folders. Ms. Quinn will give name labels. ✓	Be assigned a school instrument OR bring personal instrument to school. . ✓ Complete the CCSD Instrument Rental and pay the \$50 fee. (Check, Money Order, or Cash) and return to Mrs. Quinn by 8/29/2025..	Login to Canvas and complete the first assignment.
Transfer important dates from the calendar to your personal calendars.	Notify Mrs. Quinn of any conflicts with required rehearsals and performances using the Prior Commitment Form.	Begin practicing 15-20 minutes, 3 times a week. Increase practice sessions each week by 5 minutes until you get to 45 minutes.	Check out our new WAHS Strings & Piano website: www.wahsstrings-piano.org

Dear Parents & Students,

Welcome to a new school year! Music is one of the most rewarding opportunities our school offers—building not only musical skill but also lifelong appreciation, teamwork, and valuable “soft skills” that prepare students for college and career.

This year, I’m excited to share some highlights:

- Our Strings program is growing! Over 20 new freshmen and sophomores have joined us from CE Williams South, the Charleston area, and beyond.
- Advanced Orchestra earned an **Excellent** rating at CPA. We now offer **two levels**: Advanced and Beginning Strings. We’re looking forward to going for an even higher rating this year!
- Students will continue to participate in Region Orchestra, Solo & Ensemble, and other creative performance opportunities.
- All **2025–26 concert dates** are included at the end of this handbook.
- Our programs have been awarded **\$12,000 in grants** for new keyboards and classroom resources, plus a pending DonorsChoose grant to cover supplies like rosin, shoulder rests, rockstops, and other expensive items.

A little about me: I’m the new Orchestra & Piano teacher at WAHS after 18 years as Director of Music at James Island Charter High School. I hold a bachelor's in music education degree from the University of Miami in both piano and cello, a Master's in Music Education with an emphasis in Strings education from the University of SC, and an Ed.S. in Educational Administration from the University of New England. I’ve taught strings, piano, chorus, and guitar, and presented at state and national music conferences. Piano and cello are my main instruments, but I play and teach all strings.

I’m grateful for the warm welcome from students, families, and staff so far. I feel so grateful and fortunate to be here and plan to give you my utmost best. Please feel free to contact me anytime—email is best.

Together, we’ll create uplifting music and lasting memories. I’m looking forward to a wonderful school year and I hope I get to meet everyone soon.

Sincerely,



Strings 1-4, 1 Honors-4 Honors Learning and Developmental Goals

GOALS FOR THIS COURSE- The WAHS Strings program is a comprehensive instrumental program. The emphasis is to assist students in becoming successful musicians both within a group and to continue to grow their individual potential. Development of appropriate characteristic tone, technique, and expression will be emphasized as students continue their instrumental study through experience with a variety of music literature. Students need the opportunity to create and develop their musical preferences and styles while being equipped with strong foundational skills to ensure success.

The high school instrumental music experience reflects the highest degree of achievement in music prior to graduation, providing a variety of courses that reflect years of study, as well as interest, are considered part of the high school curriculum. Students in the WAHS Strings Program should be aware that Strings 1, Strings 2, and Strings 1-4 Honors are offered so that students are able to explore at various depths the Fine Arts Cluster as a viable choice of elective that contributes to a comprehensive high school education.

Students should define and use various Italian, German, and French musical terms to perform advancing levels of music. Having knowledge of analysis, structure, form, and the musical elements within a given composition permits the high school-level student to interpret various musical styles and forms, both orally and on his or her particular instrument. Students should become aware of the musical elements that contribute to the stylistic qualities of music.

SC Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts: Level 2 High School Instrumental Music

1. The student will sing and perform on instruments in a variety of music, alone and with others.
2. The student will **improvise**, compose, and **arrange** music within specified guidelines.
3. The student will read and **notate** music.
4. The student will listen to, describe, analyze, and evaluate music and music performances.
5. The student will examine and perform music from a variety of cultures and **stylistic** periods.
6. The student will make connections between music and other arts disciplines, content areas, and the world.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the Strings program is for those students continuing to play their instruments in Elementary and Middle School. Students will prepare several concerts throughout the year and

REQUIRED TEXTS PROVIDED BY WAHS:

Essential Technique Books 3 and 4, Hal Leonard Publishing

Habits of A Successful String Musician by Selby, Rush, & Moon; Gia Publishing

PRACTICE: Class preparation and practice are the responsibility of the student. Coming to class prepared and having music learned is the expectation. Owning an intermediate-level stringed instrument at home is highly recommended because of the level of the student. Students with beginner instruments should consider upgrading or trading it in. Students are welcome to come before and after school for extra practice time.

WAHS Performing Arts Department Equipment Use Policy

We are very fortunate to have access to great facilities and professional-level equipment at WAHS. A limited amount of school-owned instruments are available for student checkout throughout the school year and during the Summers. Students are expected to respect and maintain school-owned equipment while in use. Students can expect to cover repair/replacement costs if the damage is related to mistreatment. Any mistreatment of instruments/equipment may result in loss of privilege to use/check-out equipment.

Instrument Checkout & CCSD Rental:

Students will be handed CCSD Instrument forms if they were interested in renting a WAHS Instrument. The fee is \$50 for the entire school year! **Please send students with a completed CCSD Instrument Rental form, a \$50 check, money order, or cash by Friday, August 29th.**

*Rental includes: Instrument, Bow, Shoulder rest or rockstop strings, rosin, polishing cloth, and any reasonable repairs.

I recommend that instruments go home over the weekend and on one or two week days. (We don't meet on Tuesdays, so maybe students will want to take them home Monday so they have the opportunity to practice on Monday and Tuesday, and drop them back off on Wednesdays).

Please contact Mrs. Quinn if you need any usual repairs to the instruments including:

- New Strings on School Instrument
- Bridge issues (bending or snapped)
- Crooked Bow, very dirty bow hair
 - Buzzing Fine Tuners
 - Chin Rest adjustment
- Broken Rosin or Shoulder Rest
- ANY Cracks or any visible damage

The school will not replace strings or equipment for Personal/Home instruments

Mrs. Quinn can do minor repairs to personal instruments free of charge.

Please contact Mrs. Quinn should you need advice on what strings to buy or to take instruments to Gawlik Violins, Fox Music, Pecknel, or Music & Arts.

Class Attendance & Tardy Policy

CLASS MEETINGS: The Chamber Orchestra will meet every day during the second Block, and the Concert Orchestra class will meet every day during Block 4.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Functional instrumental skills are obtained through a cumulative process. Regular and punctual attendance at class is required. Daily attendance is expected in order to be successful in the course and our hands-on lessons are extremely hard to replicate for missing students. WAHS Attendance policy will be followed closely. Tardiness is unacceptable and can be dealt with according to the Attendance Office. More than 10 absences in a year-long class will result in the student not receiving credit for the class. See the WAHS student handbook for information on Tardy & Absence policies. New WAHS Attendance Policy for make-up days: Year-long students will only be allowed to make up a maximum of 10 days of class time Absences that do not count towards the number of excused absences: Court, Serious illness, or disabling injury with medical documentation, Death in the immediate family, and documented extraordinary hardships.

TARDY POLICY: West Ashley High School Tardy Policy:

In preparation for future employment and postsecondary education, students are expected to learn career-soft skills such as punctuality; therefore, students are expected to be in class and ready to begin work at the beginning of each instructional period. Each semester, as soon as all students have had a few days to find their classes, familiarize themselves with the campus and adjust to our routines, our tardy policy will be in effect.

A tardy student is not inside the classroom when the tardy bell rings. Teachers are directed to close and lock their classroom doors when the tardy bell rings and begin instruction immediately. Any late student must report to a Tardy station around the school. They will receive a pass into class and the computer will automatically enter their tardy into Powerschool Attendance. **WAHS will follow the Progressive Discipline Plan (PDP) when it comes to Tardies. Please familiarize yourself!**

Communication:

Mrs. Quinn will send out periodic **Wildcat Strings Journals** when there is important information about a concert, fundraiser, after-school rehearsal, concert recordings, and GOOD news! Feel free to email me at andreak_quinn@charleston.k12.sc.us if you have any questions. Feel free to leave me your phone number if you would like me to speak to you directly. Look in your inbox THIS WEEK for our first-ever edition.

Rehearsal, & Concert Attendance Policies

Rehearsal & Concert Attendance:

All members of the WAHS Orchestra are expected to attend **ALL** rehearsals and performances. Every member of each ensemble plays a substantial role in our overall success. Each is worth a grade in PowerSchool. Concentrated rehearsals are vital to us as a successful performing group because it gives us the opportunity to work and focus longer in preparation for a public performance. Public performances are the opportunity to showcase our hard work.

The only excusable absences for rehearsals and concerts are as follows: Pre-arranged school conflicts, illness or disabling injury with a doctor's or parent note, death in the immediate family, religious holiday, or extraordinary hardships with a parent note.

For ALL absences, the following procedure must be followed by all students and parents:

- The Director must be notified in advance using the Prior Commitment (Pg. 4 of the WAHS Strings Handbook) OR use the electronic Prior Commitment Google form:
- Day-of notes are not permitted. Multiple absences are not permitted.
- For illness or emergency, a parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.
- Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student.

Unexcused absences or "no shows" are not permitted. Unexcused absences may result in a student losing privileges, removal from performances, or dismissal from the program.

It is the Instructor's discretion who is allowed to perform at any and all WAHS Music Functions. If students fail to participate in class, have their required materials daily, and show defiant or inappropriate behavior, they will have to record each and every piece for the concert or rehearsal and submit a recording prior to the event. (See Prior Commitment Form on Pg. 4 of the WAHS Strings Handbook).

Concert Behavior & Etiquette

1. WAHS Music Students are representatives of the school any time they are at any performance, field trip, or music function. The expectation for outstanding behavior as performers or observers is a requirement.
2. All music class rules apply to performers. Follow instructions the first time given.
3. At no time should students talk, or use any electronic/communication devices, during performances or while others are performing.
4. At no time should there be any disruptive, defiant, or inappropriate behavior during performances or functions. Students will be removed from performances, be given an Unexcused absence, and given a score of 50 for the failed assignment.

WAHS Orchestra Prior Commitment Form

If the student has a conflict planned before the required rehearsal or concert is announced, the parent must communicate this conflict in writing to the director. Established religious holidays are excused but should be communicated by the parent using this prior commitment form. Multiple conflicts will not be excused. Please complete this form and return it as needed. If an event is added to the calendar later in the year, parents will be given ten days to submit this form notifying the director of the conflict.

Name of Student _____ Today's Date _____

_____ Parent initial if the student has **NO prior commitments** that conflict with the required dates on this year's performance calendar.

Prior Commitment: If the student has a prior commitment that conflicts with one or more of the required dates, please use the space below to describe the Date, Time, and Name of the WAHS Orchestra Event that the student cannot attend, and also the reason (wedding, school event, religious service, etc.) for the conflict and why the student cannot attend:

If this event is excused, the student may be required to make up their grade by submitting/sharing a recording via google drive before the date of the missed event. Students must record themselves performing all of the music from the event that will be missed. Ten percent will be deducted from the grade and every day the recording is late.

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

Assessment, Grading, Exam Exemptions

The Student's grade will be based on four main categories:

1. **Rehearsal Performance** (20% of grade) This grade will be based on weekly performance in rehearsals, after school rehearsals, and self-assessments on rehearsal performance. Students begin with FULL points, and they are deducted from their weekly Rehearsal Performance Grade.
2. **Minor: Quizzes/Written/Rehearsals:** (35% of grade) These assignments are made up of quizzes (1), performance tests (2), Written Assignments (1), and other performing arts curriculum work.
3. **Performance Assessments:** (45% of grade) Performance Assessments (1-2), After School Rehearsals (2), Concerts/Events (1-2), and Concert Reflections (1).

The SC Uniform Grading Scale has been updated for all progress reports are as follows:

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60-69
F	59* and below

Exam Exemptions- There are **NONE!**

****All students will take a final exam and are not eligible to be exempt.****

Class Materials

Required: *Orchestra will need ALL the following materials for class each day:*

1. Instrument (Owned, private rental (FREE) or provided by the school)
2. Violins and Violas- Required shoulder rest (Everest, Kun, Wolfe)
3. Cellos and Basses- rock stop or belt.
4. Tuning App or Metronome with A=440Hz
5. Rosin (lighter for violin/viola, medium/dark for cello/bass)
6. Soft Cloth for wiping the instrument.
7. Pencil with working eraser at EACH rehearsal
8. Orchestra Folder is brought to class each day.

Books (Provided by WAHS)

Essential Technique Book 3 (Green Book. Provided by WAHS and to be returned at the end of the year.)

Recommended:

1. Music stand for home use and use at other special events.
2. Solo Literature (Suzuki) and Etude Books
3. Chromebook or Laptop to access Canvas.

Fundraisers

The district provides a very reasonable budget for Strings. Unfortunately, it doesn't cover fraying the cost of travel, uniforms, and purchasing new quality bows, instruments, and music necessary for our program's success.

- September 2-22, 2025: Believe Kids Fall Catalogue Fundraiser paired with a Crowdfunding option called FundGive for those who prefer to donate directly to our program. Prizes and Incentives for individual and class top-sellers!
- Possible Spring Fundraiser- TBA

Class Rules:

1. Follow Directions. Adhere to WAHS Student Handbook policies.
2. Enter and exit in an orderly manner. Upon arrival, independently unpack, retrieve all learning materials, and warm up in the first five minutes of class.
3. Respect all people, instruments, and property.
4. Keep Hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
5. No Cell phones, food, drinks, gum, or candy allowed in the Music room.

Positives:

Verbal Praise, Calls Home, Individual Incentives, Notes Home Emails, Class-Wide Incentives

Consequences:

1. Non Verbal/Verbal Warning # 1
2. Behavior Log/Verbal Warning. "Last Out"- Student will talk to teacher in the last five minutes of class.
3. Parent Contact and 30-minute after school work session.
4. 2, 30-minute after school work sessions and Discipline Essay. Possible Guidance Referral.
5. Office Referral

Severe Clause

Any extremely disruptive behavior like fighting, vandalism, extreme defiance, or bullying will result in immediate referral. Teacher reserves the right to skip any step.

Technology/Cell Phone Policy:

1. **Devices are not to be used during the instructional day.**
2. Devices are to remain powered off and stored securely away so that they are not visible at any time during the instructional day.
3. Devices may be stored in student backpacks, cars, or bags during the instructional day.
4. **Headphones, earbuds, and Bluetooth devices must be removed and away during the school day.**
5. If devices are found to be in use during the instructional day or in instructional areas, they will be confiscated.
6. Using a device for academic dishonesty (such as cheating) or engaging in harmful behaviors like bullying, harassment, or other unethical or illegal behavior will result in additional consequences in accordance with the CCSD Progressive Discipline Plan.

Exceptions:

- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), medical plan, or Section 504 accommodation that requires device use will be permitted to do so.
- Emergency situations, as deemed by administration, may also allow for limited use.

Disciplinary Actions

- Warning. After this, violations of this policy will follow the [CCSD Progressive Discipline Plan](#). (page 6).

Concert Behavior & Etiquette

1. WAHS Music Students are representatives of the school any time they are at any performance, field trip, or music function. The expectation for outstanding behavior as performers or observers is a requirement.
2. All music class rules apply to performers. Follow instructions the first time given.
3. At no time should students talk, use any electronic/communication devices, during performances or while others are performing.
4. There should never be any disruptive, defiant, or inappropriate behavior during performances or functions. Students will be removed from performances, be given an Unexcused absence and given a score of 50 for the failed assignment.

Concert Dress/Fees: Class A & B for Strings

We take great pride in uniformity and class! Appearance is a key factor for any performing musician. We will measure students in class to pair them with uniforms by mid-September. This leaves necessary time for purchasing of new items and alterations as needed.

Ladies:

Chamber Orchestra Ladies: Bel Aire dress from Stage Accents is \$68.00

Class A- formal uniform Dress (purchased and altered length by student) will be used in the 5+ Major performances/competitions we will participate in. Dress shoes. Jewelry is minimal and not flashy:

One necklace, one bracelet, stud earrings.

Class B- Shirt with WAHS Strings Logo and ensemble name with jeans, khaki-colored long-pants. This will be used for all school-day functions, recruitment performances or spirit days.

Gentlemen:

Class A- Class A- Black dress shirt, and black and purple satin skinny ties (Provided by the school). Families will need to provide black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Class B- Shirt with WAHS Strings Logo and ensemble name with jeans, khaki-colored long-pants. This will be used for all school-day functions, recruitment performances or spirit days.

****All Students**** Uniforms are to be wrinkle-free and clean prior to all performances, and students should look neat and clean for all concerts. They should be maintained and hung in their garment bags at all other times. All tears, lost items, or other uniform issues should be reported to Mrs. Quinn as soon as possible!

Washing/Cleaning Instructions:

Men's Dress pants/shirt- Laundered and Pressed (Dry cleaning is unnecessary). Please don't wash the satin ties

Dress- Washed and Hung to Air Dry only! (No machine dry)

Music Shirts- Washed & Dried normally (Logos may wash better if you wash them inside-out.)

Uniform Return:

- All T- Shirts can be kept! Try to keep your shirts for at least 2 years until we have a re-design.
- **Formal Uniforms need to be returned Clean** (See instructions above. It is not required/necessary to Dry Clean Uniforms—machine wash with water/detergent and hung to dry with no wrinkles is good.

• **Replacement costs:**

- Extra T-shirt- \$15
- Strings Dress (WAHS owned)- \$80
- Men's Shirt and Tie- \$50
- Tie Only- \$10 each

****I realize our formal uniforms are not gender-neutral. According to new SC statutes, a parent/guardian must contact the director if there is an issue and uniforms have to be substituted.**

Canvas Instructions:

- Students must Sign in to their Gmail account.
- Go to Google Apps (9 dots) and our classroom is:
- Once in, the first message is a Google Form to complete student and parent information.
- A working phone number and email are required.
- You will be able to sync our music calendar with your Google calendar.
- Please see instructions sent out by WAHS before school on more directions for Canvas.

Required Practice Habits

Phase 1: Week 1-3 Practice at least 4 times a week between 20-30 minutes each session.

Phase 2: Week 4-6 Practice 5 times a week between 25-35 minutes each session.

Phase 3: Week 7-9 Practice 5 or more times a week between 35-45 minutes each session.

Tips

Find a quiet space with good lighting where you won't be distracted

Set up your music stand and keep your music out and necessary supplies. (Metronome, music, rosin, etc.)

KEEP YOUR INSTRUMENT SET UP and outside the case if at all possible. **Taking your instrument out of it's case is the HARDEST part to practicing.**

Practice what you like FIRST. It's like having desert before dinner. What's not to like about that? Then practice scales, exercises, etudes, solo literature, and school repertoire.

It's ALL about building good habits!



WAHS Strings & Piano CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025-26



Piano or Strings	Date	Approval Process	Who	Event
Strings	September 26, 2025 (Friday)	Not started ▾	Advanced Strings Students	Region Orchestra Virtual Auditions- Videos Due on 9/27/2024
Strings	November 24-25, 2025 (Friday-Sat.)	Not started ▾	Advanced Strings Students Accepted into Region IV Orchestra (Live event)	Region Orchestra- Wando HS
Strings	Oct. 23, 2025 - Thursday	Approved ▾	WAHS Concert Orchestra (CEWS- Pettis, WAHS- Quinn)	Fall Festival- CEW South Campus Side-by-Side "Round Up" Fall Concert
Piano	December 4, 2025, Thursday	Under revi... ▾	12/4 Advanced Piano Recital	WAHS Auditorium 7 pm; Students arrive at 6:00 pm; House Opens at 6:45 pm
Piano	December 12, 2025, Friday	Approved ▾	SCMEA Fall Piano Festival James Island Charter HS (Hosting. 2 rooms of judges)	J. Barry Goldsmith Auditorium & JICHS Orchestra/Choir Rm. 932
Piano & Strings	Dec. 16, 2025, Tuesday OR December 9, 2025 (with Band)	Approved ▾	Strings & Piano Winter Showcase OR Band & Strings Showcase (CEWS- Pettis, WAHS- Quinn)	WAHS Auditorium 7 pm; Students arrive at 6:00 pm; House Opens at 6:45 pm
Piano	Saturday, February 7, 2026	Approved ▾	SCMEA Piano Division Masterclass & Honors Piano Recital	USC Recital Hall 9-11:30 AM
Strings	March 5, 2026, Tuesday	Under revi... ▾	WAHS Concert Orchestra (CEWS- Pettis, WAHS- Quinn)	Fall Festival- CEW South Campus Side-by-Side "Round Up" Fall Concert
Strings	SCMEA Concert		WAHS Concert Orchestra	Lucy Beckham High School. Time Slot TBD

	Performance Assessment March 2026 Date (TBD)			
Piano	April 22, 2026 - Wednesday	Under revi... ▾	SCMEA Spring Piano Festival Advanced Piano Students	JICHHS
Strings	May 2026 Date TBA Time Slots TBA	Not started ▾	Strings Students	Solo & Ensemble- Ft. Dorchester HS
Strings	May 6, 2026, Friday	Under revi... ▾	WAHS Concert & Beginning Orchestras	WAHS Auditorium 7 pm; Students arrive at 6:00 pm; House Opens at 6:45 pm
Piano	May 8, 2026 -Friday	Under revi... ▾	Piano Recital	WAHS Auditorium 7 pm; Students arrive at 6:00 pm; House Opens at 6:45 pm
Piano	May 16, 2026- Saturday	Under revi... ▾	Selected Advanced Piano Students	SCMEA Spring Piano Festival Master Class & Recital College of Charleston Recital Hall??? TBD 1:30-3:30 PM.