

Northwest Iowa Symphony Youth Orchestra

Handbook 2017-2018

WELCOME

Welcome to the Northwest Iowa Symphony Youth Orchestra! Your membership in NISYO shows commitment to growing as a musician and also dedication to pursuing musical excellence. This handbook will give you a better idea of the procedures, policies, and practices that we will follow. These guidelines will allow us to become a quality orchestra and will enable us to offer to our supporting community the very best of ourselves.

MISSION

The Northwest Iowa Youth Symphony Orchestra seeks to provide a youth orchestra program that motivates and inspires progressing instrumentalists in the pursuit of musical excellence.

GOALS

As an orchestra we will strive to meet the following goals:

1. To improve our playing abilities
2. To sharpen our listening skills
3. To deepen our musical appreciation
4. To exhibit unity in rehearsals and in performances
5. To demonstrate stewardship of time, talents, and resources

PROCEDURES

1. Be in your place with your instrument and music, ready to tune and ready to rehearse, by the designated time. Use your time efficiently to avoid being late for rehearsal.
2. Have all necessary items (instrument, music, & pencil) at every rehearsal. Use your pencil to call attention to markings in the music and to write down instructions from your director.
3. Follow instructions the first time they are given. Be an orchestra member who *makes* things happen, not one who watches things happen or wonders what happened.

4. Eating and drinking don't mix with instruments. Food, drink (other than bottled water), and candy are **not** allowed in any rehearsal or performance situation.

CONCERT DRESS

Concert dress consists of black pants/skirt, white shirt/blouse, and black dress shoes. The idea of concert dress is to look as uniform as possible, so avoid clothes that draw attention, e.g. shiny or shimmery fabric, trendy styles, etc. The best fabric is a poly/cotton blend (or something similar) that has a "flat" finish. The white shirt/blouse needs to have a collar of some sort. This uniform need not cost much money if you don't want it to--check second-hand stores, clearance sales, or any other means you need.

HOME PRACTICE

Individual practice outside of rehearsal will likely be necessary. Students are expected to know their parts in each selection; therefore, they need to practice *as long as it takes to learn the part*. Practicing does not mean just playing through the literature. Productive practicing involves playing the most difficult passages over and over, often out of tempo at first, until those passages can join the easier ones without changing tempo or style. Pay special attention to articulation, bowings, accidentals, fingerings, and other markings in the music as you practice. If this is difficult on your own, consider asking your private teacher or orchestra director to help you learn your parts.

CALENDAR OF REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Transfer these *required* dates to your family calendar to prevent conflicts:

September 9, 16 (sectionals), 23, 30	9:30 – 11:00 am	rehearsals
October 7, 14, 21, 28	9:30 – 11:00 am	rehearsals
November 4, 11 (chair auditions), 18	9:30 – 11:00 am	rehearsals
<i>**No rehearsal November 25**</i>		
December 2	9:30 – 11:00 am	rehearsals
December 9	1:00 – 2:15 pm	dress rehearsal
	3:00 – 4:00 pm	CONCERT
January 6, 13 (sectionals), 20, 27	9:30 – 11:00 am	rehearsals
February 3, 10, 17, 24	9:30 – 11:00 am	rehearsals
March 3 (chair auditions), 24	9:30 – 11:00 am	rehearsals
<i>**No rehearsals March 10, 17, or 31**</i>		

April 7	9:30 – 11:00 am	rehearsal
April 14	1:00 – 2:15 pm	dress rehearsal
	3:00 – 4:00 pm	CONCERT

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected at all rehearsals (including sectionals) and concerts. However, if you do need to miss a rehearsal, please call (605) 929-3924 or e-mail cstanichar@yahoo.com in advance (or in case of emergency, as soon as possible). If you miss more than three rehearsals in a given semester, it is likely that you will not be able to play in the culminating concert.

TUITION

Tuition for full-year membership in NISYO is \$100, thanks to a generous donation of \$25 per student from the Friends of NISO. This amount (check for \$100 payable to NISO) needs to be paid in full by September 23.

REFRESHMENTS

All parents are asked to take at least one turn per year in providing refreshments for NISYO members during their rehearsal breaks. For regular morning rehearsals, a break will usually be taken sometime around 10:20 am. On concert days, the break will be taken sometime around 2:15 pm. Cookies or other hand-held snacks along with juice are the most appropriate for our refreshments. Please sign up by contacting Rachel Landman at landmans@mtcnet.net or (712) 722-3550.

Please sign below, detach, and return to your director by **September 23, 2017**.



Signing below indicates that I have read the NISYO handbook and that I am familiar with the expectations and procedures contained within.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Parent e-mail for NISYO communication purposes ONLY