

Rehearsal Expectations/Rehearsal Etiquette

(Place this information in your orchestra binder/folder)

Be present and on time

- You cannot reap the benefits of a rehearsal or rehearsal segment you miss. Don't make plans that involve leaving rehearsal early or arriving late. Often some of the most important teaching in a rehearsal happens at those times.
- Students should take care of personal necessities (water, rest room, etc.) before entering the rehearsal room.

Be actively and intently involved in the rehearsal

- Tune carefully, respectfully and QUIETLY.
- Just "going through the motions" during rehearsal is as bad as not being there. **Always be thinking about your personal performance and how you can "lift each other up."**
- Your only focus should be the objectives the ensemble is trying to achieve during that rehearsal. **There is to be no unnecessary talking.**
- All cell phones should be turned off and not on the stand. You can go two hours without a text - you won't die! **You can't focus on the music if you're waiting for a text.**
- Members are expected to give their utmost efforts during rehearsals in the pursuit of excellence in performance -- **any less is an insult to your peers, your staff, and yourself.**

The proper attitude during rehearsal affects the value of that rehearsal

- **An instruction that has to be given twice robs the orchestra of rehearsal time and focus.** Don't rob us all because you are not paying attention.
- **Be cooperative.** Even if you don't understand the motivation for a rehearsal activity, have confidence that your staff does and execute as you are asked.
- **All students should show the proper respect for their peers and conductor.** Disrespect towards conductor and student leadership will never make the band more successful. Avoid exhibiting disrespectful attitudes such as eye-rolling, pouting, talking back, being unsupportive of conductor in any way. Here are some good examples:

When the director steps in front of the group, the students should cease all activity and listen for instructions.

*When the director stops, students should stop **immediately and listen**. They should not continue to play.*

In between playing, students with questions/comments should raise their hand and be recognized before speaking.

- **Being negative in rehearsal is a sure way to lessen the effectiveness of that rehearsal.** If you say things like "this will never work" there will probably be people around you that either believe what you say or are at least influenced by your opinion, and in either case they (like you) will be less productive.
- **Offer encouragement to your peers, instead of criticism.** It takes a lot of pats on the back to erase the sting of a kick in the pants. **You can't be effective in rehearsal if you are unprepared**
- **Arrive early** enough to be in place, with all necessary equipment and materials, BEFORE rehearsal starting time.
- **Have your materials organized** - music in order on the stand, pencil on the stand to make marking on your music.
- **Be certain your equipment is always in good working order.** Don't get up two or three times a rehearsal for valve oil. Even once every rehearsal is too much.
- **Know your music** - you should have played through the whole piece before rehearsal, know all rhythms, circle all accidentals that you have missed in your personal practice sessions, work through all the tricky sections. Don't wait to have someone tell you how it goes - you should know before you get there. That means listen to a recording of the piece on our website before the rehearsal
- **Never be an obstacle to the success of others.** If you are keeping someone else from achieving his or her objectives, the entire organization is losing ground.
- **While at rehearsal focus on the music and nothing else.** Don't be thinking about how much you hate so and so or what a jerk said teacher is or homework that you need to do or how much you hate the piece you are playing. Your responsibility is playing the music as best as you can.

"I have read the Rehearsal Technique/Rehearsal Etiquette document. I understand these rehearsal expectations, and I will do my best to respect my ensemble, and uphold the musical excellence of my ensemble."

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____