



Orchestral Notes

Official Newsletter of the
Boardman Orchestras

Edition 0809 - 1 – Sept. 4, 2008
1st Week of 1st 9-weeks

Boardman Orchestras
7777 Glenwood Ave.
Boardman, OH 44512
(330) 758-7511 x.7152
boar_fxd@access-k12.org
www.boardmanorchestra.org

Upcoming Events For September:

- * No Sectionals
This Week.
- * Sep. 4: BBOP
Meeting - 7:00 pm
- * Sep. 6: Boardman
Band Night @ Sta-
dium - 7:00 pm.
- * Sep. 8: Auditions
Begin.
- * Sep. 11: BHS Open
House.
- * Sep. 15/22: Or-
chestra Picture day
- *Uniform needed!*
- * Sep. 20: TAG Day

WELCOME BACK !!

It is with great anticipation, excitement and pride that we welcome all of you back to Orchestra this year. We have much to be proud of and much to be thankful for as well. Our great traditions of the Boardman Orchestra are sure to continue this year under the guidance of our outstanding Senior class. This year, we have added significantly to our wind section, once again bringing into orchestra some of our strongest wind/percussion players. 220 students participate in the orchestra program at BHS. We have some great trips and social events planned for this year, and we hope all of you will participate. Good luck to all of you, and let's once again work together to keep the Boardman Orchestra one of the best in the land !!

THE ORCHESTRA NEWSLETTER IS THE KEY TO GOOD COMMUNICATION

This newsletter represents the primary means our staff has of communicating with your family. As our program continues to grow, we find it more difficult to relay information to you and your family, and receive feedback from you.

Please take the time to bring one of these home every time it is passed out in class (usually every Monday) throughout the year. Parents, you should expect to see these newsletters at home! Please ask your children to bring them to you.

The cost of mailing these to every home, every week, would be an unacceptable expense for our school. Please insist on seeing them.

TAG DAY

This year, the Boardman Orchestras will be participating in the annual BBOP TAG Day on September 20. This is a fund raiser to help offset the costs of uniforms for both band and orchestra. Band and Orchestra members will canvas Boardman neighborhoods for donations.

Participating students will receive part of the money collected for their student accounts. Sign up into groups of 4 on the sign-up sheet in the music hallway. Groups can have any mix of band/orchestra members. Students will need to wear their orchestra T-shirts/Sweatshirt/Hoodie in order to be identified as participating collectors.

WHAT YOU RECEIVED IN YOUR SUMMER MAILING:

- ◆ Cover Letter
- ◆ Classical Music for Auditions
- ◆ Health Form (pink)
- ◆ Intent to Travel Form (blue)
- ◆ Parent Volunteer Form (blue)
- ◆ Commitment 2008/9 (pink)
- ◆ Chaperone Form (white)



This event is an attendance-required event. All orchestra members who participate will receive a credit in their accounts for participation. Any student who cannot attend Tag Day must fill out an excuse form and return it to the orchestra office as soon as possible.

AUDITIONS

This year, auditions for both Symphony and Classical Orchestra will be held from September 8 through the 19.

Students are to follow the schedule as printed on the Symphony Orchestra Bulletin Board. Let us know if you have a conflict with an after-school event or sport. We will try to make other arrangements.

All Classical Orchestra members will audition for Mr. Dispenza according to the schedule printed on the Classical Orchestra Bulletin Board.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS 1ST 9-WEEKS

The first nine-week session at BHS began September 2. The end of the grading period is Oct 31, 2008. This is your official reminder of the grade requirements for this nine weeks:

SYMPHONY	PTS.	CLASSICAL	PTS
Private Teacher Form	60	Priv. Teach/Prac. Rec.	60
Recital (1)	15	Recital (1)	15
Auditions	60 ea.	Auditions	60ea.
Fall Concert	100	Fall Concert	100
Written Exams	15 ea.	Written Exams	15ea.
Sectionals	90	Tuning Tests (1)	5 ea.
Perfect Attendance (Sect.)	10	Extra Credit	?
Extra Credit	?		

EXPLANATIONS: * *Private Teacher / Practice Record Forms*: These forms are used to confirm that students are attending private lessons, or are completing homework (practice) at home. Students in Symphony Orchestra are required to take private lessons, and therefore need to turn in the Private Teacher Form. Students in Classical Orchestra are encouraged to take private lessons and those who do should also turn in a Private Teacher Form. Those Classical Orchestra Students who do not study privately should turn in a Practice Record Form. DO NOT turn in BOTH forms. We expect all persons filling out these forms to be honest in their evaluations. An envelope for these forms will be found on Mr. Dispenza's Office door. Forms may be returned anytime after week 2 of the 9-weeks. Forms can be found in the "Information Bins" or can be printed at home from our web site as a PDF file (look under "Forms" heading).

* *Recital* means you have attended a concert, which can be corroborated by written review, featuring any musical organization that IS NOT part of the Boardman Orchestra Program during this 9-week period. During the second 9-weeks, students who are members of the Spartan Marching Band, Youngstown Symphony Youth Orchestra, St Luke Orchestra, Stambaugh Youth Band or the St. Charles Chamber Orchestra, are exempt from this requirement for the 1st 9-weeks (*membership must be corroborated*). **You will need to follow the new guidelines for completing the Recital Credit portion of your grade outlined in this newsletter to receive credit.** If you are using an exemption (BSMB, YSYO, St. Charles Chamber, Solo & Ensemble, etc.) it should be marked on your Private Teacher / Practice Record Form in the appropriate place. If you don't mark it on the PT/PR form, you will not receive credit.

* *Auditions* are always 60 points each. It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed auditions. Incomplete auditions will be counted as "0". There may be any number of audition grades completed each 9-weeks.

* *Concerts (and competition trips)* are required for all orchestra members. Dress rehearsals as scheduled by the staff are also required as well. Failure to attend a scheduled dress rehearsal will result in deduction of points from the "concert" category. Failure to attend a scheduled concert will result in the deduction of all "concert" points. The only way to be excused from an event (concert or trip) is by following the procedure listed in the Boardman Orchestra Handbook, and turning completed forms in on time.

* *Sectionals* are required for all Symphony Orchestra members. Points are deducted for missed "unexcused" sectionals. Students involved in other Boardman Schools Activities that may conflict with

sectionals can have those conflicts resolved on a personal case-by-case basis. For information on getting excused from sectionals, see Orchestra Handbook. If there are any questions, see any staff member.

* *Perfect Attendance* at after school sectionals is worth extra credit points.

* In addition, *extra credit* is always available for the following: *active manager* or *librarian*, or many other activities with the permission of the instructor.

* A major result in participating in school is being evaluated. Everything you do in this class is evaluated. Many things require only your participation, but many others are evaluated by the staff and compared with a certain standard. From that comparison, points are assigned.

* Students are welcome at any time to see their current grade status. Audition results are also available for students to review at any time. See the staff member responsible for your particular ensemble's grades, or the staff member who heard your audition.

** The major reasons students receive a poor orchestra grade:

- 1) Required material never turned in.
- 2) Required material turned in late, or filled out incorrectly.
- 3) Student failure to use "extra credit" options to boost grade.

FORMS DUE THIS WEEK

Due this Friday are several form which you received over the summer. Please make sure they get into the proper envelopes **outside and/or across from** Mr. D's Office.

1) Health form (pink): needed for all trips we take. Students without a form on record are not allowed to participate in trips.

2) Intent to Travel form (blue 1/2 sheet): this form confirms your intent to participate in our trips for the year. A payment schedule for your parents is provided. Keep in mind that this payment is an estimate based on the best information we have so far. The actual trip costs may be slightly more or less. ***Please make sure that your parents have read the entire form, including the "cancellation" section.***

Who to See About What ...

In a large group such as the Boardman Orchestra, it can be confusing and frustrating at times to get your problem solved. Here are some reminders of who you should see to resolve problems:

Grades (Classical/Symphony): *Mr. Dispenza*

Grades (Chamber): *Ms. Vari*

Travel Accounts: *Ms. Vari*

Patron Forms: *Mr. Amendol*

Music: *librarians*

Schedule Conflicts: *Mr. Dispenza*

Attendance: *Ms. Vari*

Instrument Problems: *Mr. Amendol.*

Audition Conflicts: *Assigned staff members.*

3) Parent Volunteer Forms (blue): if your parents are interested in helping out the Orchestra through the Boardman Band and Orchestra Parents Association, have them fill out this form and return it. Participation is optional. Remember that by participation in BBOP bingo, parents can raise as much as \$1,000.00 toward your expenses.

4) Chaperone Form (white): If your parents are interested in chaperoning this year on an orchestra trip, please have them fill out and return this form.

Every year we are held up from completing trip plans by families that have not turned in these forms. Take care of it now and we won't have to worry about it later!

FUND RAISERS

Handel's Ice Cream Fundraiser

The Boardman High School Orchestra Students are currently collecting orders for pint size containers of Handel's Ice Cream for \$3.50 each. All orders will be collected this Thursday, September 4th and Friday, September 5th. Coupons for the Handel's pint size containers will be distributed on Friday, September 12th before 1st and 6th period. Each student will receive \$1.00 for each pint sold to be applied to their spring Orchestra trip. Any questions regarding this fundraiser, please feel free to call Ginny Eddy at 330-965-2114.

Classic Cookie Fundraiser

The Boardman Orchestra students will be bringing home flyers and information regarding the upcoming Candle/Cookie Dough Fundraiser on Friday September 12th. Each student will earn **40%** of total sales to be applied to their student accounts. All orders will be collected on Wednesday, Oct. 1st through Friday, Oct. 3rd (Sorry, no orders will be accepted after Sunday, October 5th). Distribution will take place on Friday, October 24th behind the Performing Arts Center from 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm. Since this fundraiser contains frozen food items, the Boardman Band and Orchestra Parents will not be responsible for cookie dough that is not picked up at the designated time. If you should have any questions, please call Ginny Eddy at 330-965-2114.

FINANCIAL AID

The Boardman Orchestras, through the efforts of the Boardman Band and Orchestra Parents Association Inc., offer financial aid to families who are in need to help pay for trip expenses. This year, the amount of financial aid will be limited, and BBOP will match contributions made by families and through fund raising.

Any student who is interested, should obtain a financial aid application, fill it out and return it as soon as possible. November 2 is the deadline to turn in all financial aid applications, and non will be accepted past this date.

Aid will be distributed on an "as needed"/"first come-first served" basis until funding has been exhausted.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SECTIONALS

One of the reasons our orchestra enjoys a high degree of success is because of the mandatory after school sectionals for Symphony Orchestra members. We hire highly qualified and effective leaders to run these sectionals. They are considered to be adjunct staff members. We believe in their effectiveness, and we support them wholeheartedly.

How much you pay attention in sectionals can have a direct impact on how well we perform throughout the year, and if we achieve our performance goals (ie. Superior ratings at state/nationals) for the year.

Misbehavior and inattentiveness will not be tolerated in sectionals. All section members are expected to:

- 1) Be on time.
- 2) Possess all equipment, music and instruments.
- 3) Be Cooperative and polite.
- 4) Come prepared to learn.
- 5) Follow the directions and respect the adjunct staff running the sectional.

Adjunct staff are in charge of the sectional. Students who cannot follow these expectations can expect to be dismissed from sectionals. Dismissal from a sectional will result in you forfeiting all points for that sectional (they cannot be made up), and your membership in the Symphony Orchestra will be in danger of being revoked.

We hope your cooperation with our sectional staff will be motivated by your desire to be successful in orchestra, and help us all achieve a high degree of performance and musicality. Please do not doubt our sincerity concerning this matter. **SECTIONALS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAM!**

RECITAL GRADE PROJECTS

Boardman Schools have asked all teachers in all subject areas to help improve writing skills for all students irregardless of content areas. To this end, a writing assignment will be required of all students during each 9-weeks. In orchestra, we will use the "recital credit" assignment to accomplish this goal:

Attend a live performance by:

- A) Professional Orchestra / Band / Rock Group / Chorus / Musical Theater / Opera.
- B) School music group (not a performance that you participate in).

2) Submit a written critique of the concert:

- A) FORM:
 - i) At least 2 paragraphs.
 - ii) Typed or neatly handwritten.
 - iii) Include your name on the paper and the name, date and location of the performance.
 - iv) Free from grammatical and spelling errors.
- B) CONTENT:
 - i) Evaluate group according to standards we use in class everyday.
 - a) Tone.
 - b) Rhythm.
 - c) Technique.
 - d) Dynamic Contrast.
 - ii) Suggest ways in which the group(s) could improve their performance.
 - iii) Give your overall impression of the performance.

3) Submit this critique before the end of the 9-weeks.

4) Points awarded will be based on writing technique, spelling, and adherence to the content above. Points will now go up to 15 per critique.

5) Extra critiques submitted beyond the 1 required for your 9-weeks grade will be considered "extra credit".