



Avon Intermediate Schools East/West
6th Grade Orchestra
Handbook Information 2017-2018

Avon Orchestra Mission Statement

To create life-changing musical experiences for its members, school and community. We promote a culture of acceptance, mutual respect, leadership, excellence and integrity, and are proud to be a part of a community that values music education.

Director Contact Information

Ms. Angela Roamer, Director
amroamer@avon-schools.org
[317-544-5992](tel:317-544-5992)

Please keep this front page at home for future reference.

After reading the information in this handbook, please visit www.avonorchestra.com and complete the "AIS Student Information Form".

2017-2018 Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Performance Time</u>
9/15/17	ALL- Due date for performance shirt		Thanksgiving (approx)	
12/12/17	AIS West Concert	AIS West Gym	5:15pm	6:15pm
12/14/17	AIS East Concert	AIS East Gym	5:15pm	6:15pm
2/3/2018	ISSMA Solo & Ens.^	@Avon HS	45 min prior	TBA
2/21/18	Chamber Orchestra*	AIS East Gym	5:00pm	6:00pm
3/9-10/18	ISSMA Organizational^	TBA	TBA	TBA
4/13/18	5 th Grade Demo	West/East	During School	
5/17/18	AIS West Concert	AIS West Gym	5:15pm	6:15pm
5/16/18	AIS East Concert	AIS East Gym	5:15pm	6:15pm

*Chamber Concert locations will be communicated with at least two weeks notice when possible.

^ISSMA Solo & Ensemble and ISSMA Organizational locations will be communicated with 1 week notice when possible.

ALL concerts require proper “Concert Attire” to be worn at all times.

Concert and Contest Attendance Policy

Because public performances are an important part of the Avon Orchestra program, **attendance at all concerts and contests is mandatory according to school board policy. A missed schedule event will result in a drop of two letter grades.** An absence will be excused only under the following guidelines:

-illness and/or Family emergency

Prearranged excused absences can only occur when

1. Notice to director 1 month in advance in writing
2. Must be approved by school administration

If both criteria are met, the student will be given an alternative assignment that contains an essay of the directors choice.

If a student has a conflict between two **school-sponsored** activities the student may choose to participate in either event without penalty. Performances and contest will have priority over any practice.

Materials Needed Everyday in Orchestra

Instrument (violin/viola only)

Sound Innovations for String Orchestra Book 1

1-inch 3 Ring Binder

20 Clear Sheet Protectors

Pencils

Cleaning Cloth

Rosin for Bow

Shoulder Rest (Violin and Viola)

Pencil Case Recommended for Binder

Laptop

Grading Policy

Monthly Orchestra Practice Chart (estimated 50 points)

The practice chart is designed to emphasize discipline and responsibility in practicing. Turning in the practice chart when assigned and earning a grade, is the same discipline it takes to have a job and earn a paycheck. The practice chart also helps encourage **organization** and **time management**. The practice chart must be turned in on time and signed by a parent or guardian. The “goal” practice time will be adjusted appropriately and clearly explained on the practice chart.

Playing Tests and Written Tests (estimated 100 points)

Testing will take place approximately every 4-5 weeks or at least once a quarter. Tests will always be out of 100 points and will have at least 2 weeks advance notice and a study guide will be provided. This grade could potentially effect concert chair placement.

Playing Quizzes and Written Quizzes (estimated 20 points)

Quizzes will take place every 2-3 weeks. Unless necessary, there will never be a “pop” quiz. There will be at least 1 week notice for quizzes. Most quizzes will be taken on schoology.

Supply Checks (estimated 20 points)

Student must have all daily supplies mentioned above for each class. There may not be advance notice for supply checks. These will occur at least once a quarter.

Classroom Grade (5 points per class/15 points weekly)

Classroom grade will based on participation and behavior in class. In the event that you choose to not follow directions or are unprepared for class, you will loose points for that day.

Schoology and Homework (Completion Grade)

You may be assigned homework on schoology or on paper using your laptop. Points will vary based on the assignment. It is crucial to complete all given homework.

Performance Grade (100 points per performance): Remember that all performances are mandatory. Your grade will be lowered two letter grades if you miss an event.

Classroom Expectations

In the orchestra classroom, all Avon Intermediate School Student Handbook policies and rules apply. In addition, I will hold each student to a high level of expectations. I have three big ideals that each student should follow to find success in orchestra.

Respect – Yourself, your classmates, your teacher, and the classroom and materials around you.

Responsibility – Take action for doing things correctly. It will be your responsibility to ask questions, to turn in homework on time, to practice at home, to communicate issues, etc.

Right Attitude – Leave negative energy at the door! Come in to class ready and excited to learn each and everyday!

Classroom Rules

- No talking and No playing while the director is giving instruction or demonstrating a technique.
- Ask questions when you do not understand. Asking questions will make you better!
- No food or gum is allowed in the classroom. Bottled water is allowed.
- No running, jumping, or yelling in the classroom.
- All Avon Intermediate School East and West Handbook rules apply.

Classroom Daily Procedures

- The required materials are needed in class each day.
- Once arrived in the room, find your seat and place down any materials and instrument you have.
- Unpack and prepare for rehearsal that day.
- Have your pencil out on the stand.
- Adjust your stand and chair so that you are comfortable for the duration of the rehearsal.
- After rehearsal, make sure to wipe off your instrument of any rosin, and reverse the process you did to get ready.
- Make sure to push the stand down all the way and to adjust chair to the way you found it.

Classroom Discipline

Rules, Expectations, and Daily Procedures are put in place to provide a positive, nurturing, and growing environment for students. These three categories work together to provide the best possible life changing experience for your son or daughter. If these items are not observed, are not followed, and are not brought to class. There is a very simple consequence.

- 1st Time: A Warning and verbal corrective action to remind student.
- 2nd Time: Reduction in Participation Grade and Phone Call Home.

If there are three (3) incidents at Level 2 in 4 1/2 week time period this will result in a detention or before/after school work with Ms. Roamer.

Storage of Instruments – West

Students are required to bring their home instruments (violin and viola) everyday they have class. These instruments will be placed in their homerooms or science lab near their classroom. Please double check to make sure that your student's instrument is properly labeled. Instruments go home EVERYNIGHT unless students are instructed to leave them at school.

Storage of Instruments - East

Students are required to bring their to school instruments (violin and viola) everyday they have class. These instruments will be placed on a rack located in Room 101 at AIS East. The rack location may change as construction begins and that will be communicated to students and parents. They will pick them up on their way to class at room 305 in West. Please double check to make sure that your student's instrument is properly labeled. Instruments go home EVERYNIGHT unless students are instructed to leave them at school.

Instruments

All students are required to have an instrument. **Please keep record of your students instrument serial number, make, model and brand at home.** Items do get misplaced or go missing and this is the BEST possible way to recover it.

For renting, we highly recommend (not require) Paige's Music of Indianapolis for your student. They provide the best service and meet our needs for providing high quality instruments. There contact information: Paige's Music
1-800-382-1099 or www.paigesmusic.com (Click on Debut Rental Logo)

School-Owned Instruments

Avon Community Schools provides school cello and double bass for use during the school day. This is provided due to the difficult of hauling cellos and basses to and from school on a daily bases. The fee for this usage is \$50.00 for the entire year which goes directly back into fixing and maintaining the instruments. All cello and bass students will need to bring their instrument in once a month for tuning, and for all concerts.

All students are highly encourage to do a rent-to-own instrument service. However, if there is financial difficulty, please contact Ms. Roamer to arrange alternate plans.

Repairs and Accessories

Paige's Music sends a representative weekly to deliver items ordered and to pick up and return instruments for repair. If you are still renting your instrument from Paige's, it is under warranty and most repairs will be made free of charge; if not a bill will be sent to you. If you need a repair, we will help you fill out the repair tag. Due to the large number of students in our program this year we will need help. Parents, please notify Paige's if you need a loaner instrument while your child's instrument is being repaired. If you need an accessory, call Paige's at 1-800-382-1099 and they will deliver the accessory the following delivery day.

Concert Attire

Attire for all orchestra concerts is the Avon Performing Arts Polo, Khaki Pants for Boys, Khaki Pants or Skirts for girls, and black or brown dress shoes. Tennis shoes, jeans, and anything but the Performing Arts Polo is not allowed at concerts and will result in a grade deduction or removal from performance. Order Forms will be sent home before November to order your own polo for \$17.00. Keep in mind these polos will be used for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. All school dress codes apply.

I.S.S.M.A Solo and Ensemble and Organizational Contest

Solo and Ensemble contest is held late January or early February at AHS. Every 6th grade student is encouraged to participate. If doing a solo, lessons are highly encouraged. The cost is \$13.00 for solos, and \$7.00 for small ensembles. More information will be sent as the event draws closer. Look for materials in November.

Organizational Contest occurs in early March. We continue to have some of the highest scores in the state at this event. Performance occurs either Friday night or Saturday morning. More information will be sent as the event draws near to make sure your student needs to attend. Look for materials in January.

Volunteers are always welcome!

There are many opportunities for parental involvement in our orchestra program. Many of these activities have flexible times and can be worked around your schedule.

A.I.S. Honors Chamber Orchestra

The A.I.S. Honors Chamber Orchestra is an OPTIONAL honors orchestra and is a small group, composed of approximately 25% of the combined A.M.S. East and West Orchestras. It is a high honor to participate in this award-winning and highly decorated ensemble. Membership invitation in this before-school ensemble is based on the following:

- Earning the highest scores on in-class playing tests and quizzes. Every student will play playing quizzes and tests in class regardless of participation in the AIS Chamber Orchestra.
- Survey given to homeroom and classroom teachers based on grades, mental attitude, and reliability.
- Hard-working, learner's attitude shown at all times

If a student receives an invitation to participate in the AIS Chamber Orchestra and is unable or unwilling to attend the morning rehearsals and concerts when INITIALLY invited, that is perfectly fine, as the student is NOT required to participate in the AMS Chamber Orchestra. However, once a student commits via a commitment/permission form to the AIS Chamber Orchestra (there will be a permission form coming home in September to those selected), the student must attend all rehearsals and performances as directed and indicated. The rehearsal and performance calendar will be posted to the AIS Orchestra website under "Chamber Orchestra" (<http://www.avonorchestra.com>).

The AIS Chamber Orchestra typically meets once a week this year. There will be combined rehearsal on Tuesday and Thursday Morning from 8:00am to 8:55am in the WEST Orchestra Room. Please stay posted, as invitations will be sent out in November. Students will have plenty of notice and heads-up regarding this fantastic opportunity.