

# ORCHESTRA 1<sup>st</sup> Tri 2013-2014

Box Elder Middle School Mr. John Findlay

Mr. John Findlay  
435-734-4880 BEMS

email: john.findlay@besd.net  
Contact time: 7:30-7:50 am, daily at BEMS  
or 3:00-3:20 pm, daily at ACM

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to work with you! I look forward to an exciting, fun, and successful year. Together we will carry on the Box Elder Orchestra tradition of excellence! Please note the following important facets of this year's program.

**Course Description:** Students will learn musical techniques and skills to create, perform, listen and think while collaborating with others in an orchestral setting. They will connect music with history, cultures, and society, as well as learn how to express themselves through music. This is a performance-based course, and in order for students to reach their full potential they are encouraged to practice daily on their instruments at home. Quality practice outweighs quantity. We will often listen to music and occasionally watch videos related to playing a string instrument and music in general.

**Materials Needed:** Each student is responsible for obtaining and bringing to class daily his/her own instrument (including shoulder rest), a pencil and sheet music. If sheet music is not turned in at the appropriate time, a \$10 fee will be assessed per piece of music. Due to repair costs and upkeep of school instruments, students who rent them will be charged a rental fee of \$20 per trimester. There will be strings available for purchase in case of an emergency.

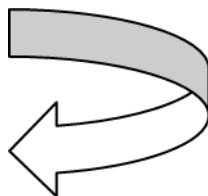
**Grading:** Tests/Quizzes 30%, Participation/Practice/Other Assignments 35%, Concert Attendance 35%. If a student is absent, for any reason, it is their responsibility to contact Mr. Findlay to determine how to make up any missed work. Concert attendance is mandatory.

Grading Scale:	100-93 = A	82-80 = B-	69-67 = D+
	92-90 = A-	79-77 = C+	66-63 = D
	89-87 = B+	76-73 = C	62-60 = D-
	86-83 = B	72-70 = C-	59-0 = F

**Class Rules:** 1. Be Respectful, 2. Be Responsible.

**Digital Devices:** All electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight. Electronic devices may, on occasion, be used as directed by Mr. Findlay. Any violation of this will result in a Student Behavioral Referral.

## Turn the page please



**Make-Up:** All missing class work must be made up within one week of when the student returns to school. Missed points or assignments may be made up through extra activities such as: going to a concert (choir, band, etc.) and writing a one page typed summary, an approved performance on your instrument in public for at least 5-10 minutes, researching a composer and presenting it in class, and other assignments as approved by the teacher. A maximum of 75% of the full points for missed concerts (you forget, purposely don't show up, etc.) may be made up within one week of the event, by doing all three of the following things; (1) record yourself playing the concert music for grading by the teacher, or play the concert music for the teacher in private, (2) write a 1-2 page, typed report on a composer (with at least three cited sources, APA style) chosen by the teacher, and present it to the class, (3) attend a concert, approved by the teacher, and write a one page, typed, summary of the event. All typed assignments must use 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, Double-spaced, with the Student name, Assignment name, and date at the top of the first page single-spaced.

**Attendance and Behavior Expectations:** Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared to learn every day. **ON TIME** means each student is in the room when the tardy bell rings, and is in their seat prepared to start learning within one minute after the bell. All school and district rules apply (see student handbook) with the addition of **NO GUM** in class. You may bring a water bottle to class. Citizenship may be affected if there is excessive tardiness or serious behavior issues. Tardies and Citizenship can be made-up through teacher-approved activities (See Make-Up section)

**Notice of Nondiscrimination:** Box Elder School District agrees to ensure equitable access and equitable participation in all District courses/classes. All district schools will effectively manage and creatively utilize resources necessary to support student learning. The district is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, gender, age, national origin, religion, or disability in admission to, or treatment in its educational programs or activities.

**Parent/Guardian:** I am looking forward to working with your student this year! You are welcome in my classroom at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. Thank you for your cooperation and support of the orchestra program!

**Mr. Findlay's Daily Schedule (except on Wednesdays):**

**BEHS** 1<sup>st</sup> 7:50-8:46  
**BEMS** 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:15-10:10, 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:15-11:10  
**ACM** 4<sup>th</sup> 12:04-1:00, 5<sup>th</sup> 1:04-2:00, 6<sup>th</sup> 2:04-3:00

**Concert/Activity Schedule (Subject to Change):**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Nov. 13	Fall Concert	BEHS	7 pm

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Please fill out this form to verify that you have read and understand the above information, and return it to Mr. Findlay by Friday, August 30, 2013.

Parents/Guardians please provide me with your email address so I can keep you up to date on what is happening in class.

Parent e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_