

Cross Middle School Orchestra Handbook 2025-2026

Orchestra Director: Mr. Toru Tagawa

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. My name is Toru Tagawa, and I have been the Orchestra Director at Cross Middle School since 2018. I am also the Orchestra Director at Canyon del Oro High School where all our school concerts will take place. I am looking forward to working with all of you and making great music. At Cross, we have two orchestras, the Intermediate Orchestra (6th and 7th Graders) and the Advanced Orchestra (7th and 8th Graders).

In both orchestras, we will cover a variety of literature from J.S. Bach to Full Orchestra Music. We will be learning about composers, scales, key signatures in addition to playing your instrument. Please sign and return the handbook agreement and turn in to me by August 13.

Parents, please sign up for Remind, announcements/changes will be communicated via Remind Remind: 81010 text @crossorch, or you may go to <https://www.remind.com/join/crossorch> to sign up.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Toru Tagawa, 520-696-5942
Orchestra Teacher, Cross Middle School
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Important Dates

October 1 (Wed) Fall Concert at 6:30pm, CDO Auditorium (5pm Call)

December 10 (Wed) CDO Feeder Concert at 6:30pm, CDO Auditorium (5pm Call)

March 4 (Wed) Spring Concert at 6:30pm, CDO Auditorium (5pm Call)

March 26 (Thu) ABODA Festival (Advanced Orchestra only)

May 13 (Wed) Final Concert at 6:00pm, CDO Auditorium (4:30pm Call)

5pm Call - means students are to arrive at the site at 5pm. There will be food provided for students by the Canyon del Oro High School Orchestra Booster Club.

Concert Attire for Performances

Orchestra T-Shirts, nice pants or jeans, closed toe shoes

- Students should become familiar with the school rules and regulations. Students are expected to follow the rules and regulations that the school has put forth for academic learning.
- Students are expected to create a positive learning environment for you and your colleagues. Please be considerate of others, and show respect to everyone. This applies as soon as you enter the Orchestra room.
- Students must have necessary accessories such as pencils, rosin, shoulder rest, spare strings, cleaning cloths, endpin holder, mute, etc.
- No food or drink are allowed in the classroom. Water is allowed.
- Students are to follow the Cross MS code of conduct. For example, cell phones must be silenced during the class time in your backpack, appropriate attire, etc.
- Fingernails must be kept short in order to play the instrument.
- Classroom music/books must stay in the classroom. Students are only allowed to mark in pencil.
- Put your backpack under your chair, and your violin/viola cases on your right side of the chair.

Grading

Bi-Quarterly Rehearsal Grade 40%

- Rehearsals are part of your grade.

Missed Rehearsals (Unexcused) per bi-quarterly (About 20 rehearsal days)

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0-3	=	4
4,5	=	3
6-10	=	2
11-19	=	1
20+	=	0

Quiz: 40% (Playing tests, Written tests)

Concert Performances: 20%

Grading Scale

4 = A Highly Proficient

3 = B Proficient

2 = C Partially Proficient

1 = D Minimally Proficient

0 F No Evidence of Proficiency

Students must perform at all concerts and festivals. Only illness, family illness, family death, or religious holidays will be considered excused absences for a performance. Work is not an excused absence. Written permission from a parent or a doctor is required.

Due Aug 13, 2025

Student's Name _____ Grade: 6, 7, 8

Instrument _____

Private Teacher (if any) _____

Orchestra T-shirts for the student: Size: YS, YM, YL, S, M, L, XL, XXL

Signatures

I (student's name) _____ have read and understand the Cross MS Orchestra Handbook. I agree to follow the directions given by the orchestra director.

I (parent's name) _____ have read and understand the Cross MS Orchestra Handbook. I agree to follow the directions given by the orchestra director, and I am to perform at the school concerts and have put all the concert dates on my calendar: I will also plan to attend/support the Orchestra's Performances.

- ☐ I signed up for the Remind 81010 (Number to text to) then type in: @crossorch (If you received remind message from me already, you are signed up, FYI)
- ☐ I signed up via <https://www.remind.com/join/crossorch>
- ☐ Please sign me up with my number _____ or Email _____

Parent/Guardian, in order to have successful orchestra experience, we need your help.

Parent/Guardian's name _____

Please put check marks next to on the left

- ☐ Help serving food for students before the concert, and clean up.
- ☐ Chaperon for ABODA Festival 3/26/26
- ☐ Set up, clean up, oversee at our concerts at CDO HS
- ☐ I won't be able to help this year