

Depoali Middle School Orchestra 2023-24 Handbook

www.WashoeSchools.net/CKarl • Caroline J. Karl, Teacher

The Orchestra Courses

WCSD Common Course: 622 Beginning Orchestra

- **Prerequisite:** None
- **Course Fee:** \$70 (includes orchestra uniform T-shirt, music, school instrument rental, subtract \$50 if you own your own instrument.)
- **Duration:** Year-long
- **Required Materials & Equipment:** Instrument including case, bow, tuner, rosin, cleaning cloth, shoulder rest (violin/viola only), endpin anchor (cello only), endpin plug (cello/bass)
- **Description:** Beginning Orchestra offers introductory level instruction on violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Students will explore the elements of music through performance and identifying relationships between music, other disciplines, and daily life. Emphasis will be placed on developing technique through musical community. Students will be required to perform in concerts during and/or after school wearing the ensemble's designated attire. For an annual rental fee, school instruments are available for students who qualify.

WCSD Common Course: 625 Intermediate Orchestra

- **Prerequisite:** Beginning Orchestra or instructor approval.
- **Course Fee:** \$90 (includes orchestra uniform polo shirt, music, school instrument rental, subtract \$50 if you own your own instrument.)
- **Duration:** Year-long
- **Required Materials & Equipment:** Instrument including: case, bow, tuner, rosin, cleaning cloth, shoulder rest (violin/viola only), endpin anchor (cello only), endpin plug (cello/bass)
- **Description:** Intermediate Orchestra offers developing level instruction on violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Students will deepen their understanding of the elements of music through performance and identifying relationships between music, other disciplines, and daily life. Emphasis will be placed on increasing technique through musical community. Students will be required to perform in concerts during and/or after school wearing the ensemble's designated attire. For an annual rental fee, school instruments are available for students who qualify.

WCSD Common Course: 626 Advanced Orchestra

- **Prerequisite:** Intermediate Orchestra or instructor approval
- **Course Fee:** \$80 (includes orchestra uniform polo shirt, music, school instrument rental, subtract \$50 if you own your own instrument.)
- **Duration:** Year-long
- **Required Materials & Equipment:** Instrument including: case, bow, tuner, rosin, cleaning cloth, shoulder rest (violin/viola only), endpin anchor (cello only), endpin plug (cello/bass)
- **Description:** Advanced Orchestra offers progressing level instruction on violin, viola, cello, and double bass in preparation for successful transition to high school orchestral ensembles. Students will solidify their understanding of the elements of music through performance and identifying relationships between music, other disciplines, and daily life. Emphasis will be placed on expanding technique through musical community. Students will be required to perform in concerts during and/or after school wearing the ensemble's designated attire. For an annual rental fee, school instruments are available for students who qualify.

Classroom Rules

- Act mature
- Show common human decency
- Depoali school rules always apply in the orchestra room.
- Absolutely NO talking or playing when the teacher is working.
- All music making stops INSTANTLY when the teacher gives the signal.
- Remain seated at all times. Do not follow Ms. Karl around the room.
- Only touch what is yours.
- No electronics, food, drinks, candy, or gum.

The **consequence** for not following the above rules is a 15-minute lunch detention to be served in the orchestra room and a minor referral. If you are assigned detention, you and Ms. Karl will agree on a day when you will come to the orchestra room at the *beginning* of lunch. You will sit in a chair facing the wall with proper instrument posture, reflect on your behavior, and complete a written self-reflection. There will be no looking at or talking to others. A timer will be set for 15 minutes. When the timer alarm goes off, if you have met the detention requirements, you will be dismissed to lunch. If you have not met the detention requirements, before you are released for lunch, you and Ms. Karl will arrange for you to try again on another day. If you have not changed your behavior after detention, Ms. Karl will refer you to administration.

Student Responsibilities

- Practice at home a little each day (minimum of 15 minutes).
- Take good care of your instrument, bow, and supplies.
- Ask your teacher for help whenever you need it.
- Take pride in the fact that you can make music!

Parents/Guardian Support

- Set aside a practice space at home.
- Encourage your student to practice daily.
- Support your student with additional musical opportunities (private lessons, concerts, etc.).
- Celebrate that your student is making music and gaining knowledge in class every day.

Ms. Karl's Office Hours: Students can visit Ms. Karl during office hours for any reason. No appointment necessary.

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays – during lunch and/or after school until 2:45pm
- Wednesdays – not available due to WCSD mandated teacher meetings

Infinite Campus (IC) is the primary mode of communication used by Ms. Karl throughout the year. Please make sure your contact information is correct in IC and your settings indicate you can receive emails from Depoali teachers. If you notice errors or are unsure, please call the Depoali Main Office (775-852-6700). Below are some tips to help you show responsibility and understand your grades:

- Check each assignment in IC – not just your overall grade.
- M = Missing – Counts as 0%. This grade can be changed when you turn in the missing work.
- 0 = Counts as final grade of 0%. This grade cannot be changed.
- X = Exempt – This is *very rare*, reserved only for extenuating circumstances. It means you are exempt (excused) from this assignment. This grade does not count for or against you.
- Ms. Karl adds comments for most assignments that earn a grade below 70%. If you get a grade below 70%, **read the comments**. The comments will be notes on why you earned the grade you did so you can work to improve for the next time.

Orchestra Academic Grades

Your teachers do not give you a grade. YOU earn your grade!

Your grade in orchestra is not ***given*** to you, you ***earn*** it. It will reflect your level preparation and improvement in the following categories. Only YOU, the student, are responsible for your grade. Your orchestra grade will be based on playing tests, class participation, posture & position when playing your instrument, written work, and concerts. No extra credit will be given.

Remember, Ms. Karl only discusses grades **in person**, during office hours listed above. Do not email regarding grades until AFTER the you have talked to Ms. Karl in person. Missing work will only be discussed during office hours. You can complete missing work during office hours. Individual grades or other individual issues will not be discussed during class. Because of the large number of students in orchestra, there is not enough time for Ms. Karl to look up your grades, analyze why your grade is low, and respond to emails from you about your grades. So, YOU, the student, are expected to check IC weekly to monitor your orchestra grade. If you have questions, please see Ms. Karl during her office hours. Make sure you have already followed the steps listed above. If you come in and ask, "What am I missing?" Ms. Karl will direct you to IC.

50% = Playing Tests & Written Work

- **Playing Tests:** You will perform most playing quizzes/tests in front of the class. This is a Nevada Fine Arts Standard so there will be no exceptions.
 - If you have not submitted playing tests by the due dates, "M" will be entered in IC.
 - If you submit your playing test late, your grade will not be updated until Ms. Karl has extra time to input it.
 - If you refuse to play, your grade will be 0% for that quiz/test.
 - All playing tests must be completed even if you are absent.
 - If you are absent on the day of a quiz/test, **it is your responsibility** to see Ms. Karl during her office hours (listed above) to be performed.
 - If you received less than 90% on any playing quiz/test and would like a retake, you may retake it during office hours. Your new grade will be averaged with your old grade.

- If you forget your instrument, your grade will be 0% for that quiz/test. You will have one (1) school day to make it up during Ms. Karl's office hours or your grade will remain 0%.
- **Written Work:** All written work is defined as any work that is not playing an instrument such as music theory and composition. Late work will be graded *when Ms. Karl has extra time*. All written work must be completed even if you are absent.
 - Turn in written work before you leave the classroom, whether you are finished or not.
 - Turn in written into the drawer for your class period. Do not hand it to Ms. Karl or put it on her desk.
 - No name = no grade. You will have to redo the assignment during Ms. Karl's office hours.
 - Write with a pencil only. Your grade will be marked down 10% if you did not use a pencil. Pens, markers, and highlighters are not acceptable writing utensils for musicians.
 - Complete all written work even if you are absent. If you are absent, see Ms. Karl during office hours when you return to school to make it up.

40% = Approach to Learning: This grade is earned daily grade but will be entered into IC as a weekly grade.

- **Preparedness:** Came to class with my pencil, music, planner, and instrument.
- **Punctuality:** In the classroom on time. Quickly set up chair, stand, music, pencil, and planner BEFORE getting instrument out.
- **Environment:** Kept my instrument on the left side of chair and belongings stored neatly under chair.
- **Peer Interactions:** Showed cooperation, respect, and a positive attitude. Did not distract others, touch their stuff, or need teacher direction to stop doing obnoxious or annoying things.
- **Participation:** Fully participated in class, actively played instrument, moved from one activity to another with speed and organization, and did not need redirection from the teacher.
- **Self-discipline:** Controlled actions. Did not use a bathroom pass. Did not drink from my water bottle, eat food/candy, or have gum in mouth
- **Musicianship:** Demonstrated good musicianship by playing with good intonation by having music open and pencil ready to mark the music where instructed.
- **Posture:** Maintained a posture that was lengthened, balanced, centered, and mobile. Instrument was place in proper relationship to body and the floor.
- **Left Hand Position & Motion:** Played with proper left hand position and motion.
 - *Arm:* away from body and at the appropriate height for the strings played
 - *Wrist:* straight
 - *Hand:* palm and web of hand did not touch the neck.
 - *Fingers:* curved and hovered over the strings.
 - *Fingertips* pushed the strings down, not fingerprints.
 - *Thumb:*
 - Violin/Viola: pointed toward the ceiling and rested on the neck across from 1st finger.
 - Cello/Bass: pointed toward head and rested of the neck behind 2nd finger.
- **Right Hand Position & Motion:** Played with proper right hand position and motion by
 - *Hand:* round-shaped with curved and relaxed fingers that leaned toward the 1st finger.
 - *Thumb Knuckle:* bent and curved outward, thumb tip touched both the stick and the corner of the frog.
 - *Elbow Joint:* opened and closed with bow movement.
 - *Shoulder Joint:* did not move side-to-side when bowing (except bass).
 - *Bow Placement:* placed on the strings between the bridge and the fingerboard and moved in a straight path that was parallel to the bridge and the fingerboard, not perpendicular.

10% = Concert/Rehearsal Attendance – Goal of the orchestra class is to perform for an audience. Therefore, part of your grade will be based on your attendance and participation in all orchestra concerts/performances and after school rehearsals.

- Because there are two sections of Intermediate Orchestra, after school rehearsals are necessary to prepare for concerts. This is the only time all classes can be combined for practice.
- 6th grade combined rehearsals are always during the school day.
- Concert grades are based on whether or not you signed in and were wearing the appropriate concert uniform. If you forget to sign in, you will need to see Ms. Karl during office hours to complete an alternate assignment proving you attended the concert. Pictures or videos of you at the concert *do not* qualify as the alternate assignment.
- **If you need to miss a concert**, you must complete an alternate assignment which is due on the date of the concert. This assignment will be on the back of the concert reminder note.
- **Concert Programs:** First and last names will be printed in concert programs as they appear in IC. If your parent checked "No" on the WCSD media release form, your name will not appear in the concert program. The Depoali office keeps record of these forms. Please contact them for more information.

Extra Credit – No extra credit will be given.

Absent Work: According to WCSD Administrative Regulation 5401, absent students are required to complete missed assignments to receive credit. Students will have the number of class periods absent plus one to complete the work. If you have not completed the missing assignments by end of the late work time, the grade on your assignment will be changed from “missing” to zero points.

Approach to Learning grades can be made up by practicing for 15 minutes in the orchestra room during lunch or after school any day except Wednesday. This is a solid 15 minutes of practice, without stopping, talking, daydreaming, etc. You must sign-in on the “Absent Work” section (pink pages) of the green binder for this to count toward your absence and/or grade.

Playing Tests, Written Work and any other assignments can be made up with Ms. Karl during lunch or after school any day except Wednesday.

Missing Work: If you were present for class but are missing work do to not following directions, you have one week to complete the missing work. At the end of this time, your grade will be changed from “missing” to zero points.

Late work: According to Depoali policy, late work will be graded at 80% of the total grade earned. This does not include absent work the meets the guidelines outlined above.

Behavior: You can earn up to 5 behavior points each week for following the S.T.R.I.K.E. matrix according to KDMS policy. Behavior grades do not impact the academic portion of your orchestra grade.

Broken/sprained arm or wrist: If you have a broken/sprained arm, wrist, etc., you are still expected to bring your instrument and supplies to class and participate as much as possible. Although Ms. Karl will discuss specifics with you when you return to class, the below are the general expectations.

- If you have a break on your right (bow) appendage, you will be expected to have your instrument in proper position and move your fingers along with the music. As you are able, you will be expected to add the bow with a modified bow hold, until your cast is removed.
- Violins/violas, if you have a break on your left (instrument) appendage, you will be expected to have your instrument in class and hold it in a modified position, so that, as you are able, you can move your fingers along with the music playing *pizzicato* (without the bow). Depending on the angle of your cast, this might mean your instrument is in rest position or between your knees like a cello.
- Cellos/basses, if you have a break on your left (instrument) appendage, you will be expected to have your instrument in class, keeping the endpin in and holding it in a modified position. Ms. Karl will help you with this.
- If your doctor has prohibited you from playing your instrument, you must bring Ms. Karl an official doctor's note. The note must be signed by your doctor and state the date when you will be expected to play your instrument again. You will need to meet with Ms. Karl during office hours to get alternate work for you to complete during the time you are healing. If you do not meet with Ms. Karl during office hours, your class participation will be graded as if you did not bring your instrument to class.

Home Practice: In order to be successful on orchestra assessments, you must **practice your instrument at home**. Practicing at home is your orchestra homework. All the things covered in class should be practiced at home. This might take you 10 minutes or 20 minutes depending on how focused you are in your practice. When practicing, remember these wise sayings:

- An amateur practices until he can do a thing right. A professional practices until **he can't get it wrong**. – Percy Buck
- Practice only on the days that you eat. – Valerie Palmieri

Ms. Karl's Website: www.washoeschools.net/ckarl

Look on your class page to find out what we are working on in class and what you should be practicing at home.

Quality is never an accident! It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution: it represents the wise choice of many alternatives. *Attributed to William A. Foster*

Concert Programs: First and last names will be printed in concert programs as they appear in IC. If your parent checked “No” on the WCSD media release form, your name will not appear in the concert program. Please contact the Depoali office for more information.

Concert Uniforms: First impressions are very important. People judge musicians by their appearance before they perform. For this reason, orchestras have performance uniforms. New orders of Depoali orchestra polos or t-shirts will be distributed the week of the first concert.

- **Intermediate/Advanced Orchestras** wear a “formal” performance uniform:
 - Orchestra polo – this shirt may not be cut, ripped, or tied at the sleeves.
 - Black dress pants – no jeans, no yoga pants, no athletic pants, no skirts, no shorts, no capris
 - Black dress shoes – no athletic shoes, no heavy boots, no crocks, but dress sandals are allowed
 - Black socks – if you are wearing dress sandals you can skip the socks
- **6th Grade Beginning Orchestra** wears an “informal” uniform:
 - Orchestra t-shirt – this shirt may not be cut, ripped, or tied at the sleeves.
 - Blue jean pants and school appropriate shoes.

If you do not wear the appropriate concert attire, your grade will be lowered by one letter. If you do not own appropriate concert attire, you will need to talk to Ms. Karl during her office hours at least two weeks prior to the concert so she can arrange for you to get the appropriate clothes. Inappropriate, unprofessional clothes include but are not limited to: yoga pants, jeggings, jeans, athletic pants of any kind, pants of any kind that are not all black, tennis shoes, athletic shoes of any kind, combat boots or Uggs, Crocs, shoes of any kind that are not all black.

Finances

Payments for class fees and school instrument rentals as outlined above can be made in the Depoali Office. At this time, Depoali is only able to accept cash or checks. Make checks out to Depoali Middle School and put the student’s name on the memo line.

Class fees help purchase music, hire section coaches, and purchase strings, tuner batteries, and other classroom supplies, etc.

Fundraisers: The Music Department typically hosts 1-2 fundraisers per school year. The first fundraiser can be used to help you pay for class fees, supplies, and trips. If you are in 7th or 8th grade, any profit remaining will go toward your Six Flags or Disneyland trip. For more information, visit the orchestra website, click on the “Orchestra Trips” tab.

School Instrument Rentals are available for a \$50 per year rental fee to families. For 6th grade, this rental fee is included in the Beginning Orchestra class fee. All school instrument rentals will include case, instrument, bow, cleaning cloth, rosin, tuner, shoulder rest (violin/viola only), and rockstop (cello only).

Please DO NOT purchase an instrument online unless from a reputable store that has a good reputation for selling string instruments (see below). Online prices may seem tempting but often the purchased instrument will need costly repairs or upgrades for it to be put in adequate playing condition for students.

Instruments & Supplies

- **Violins/Violas** will be able to put their instruments on their assigned shelves in the orchestra room during the school day. Violins/violas will take their instruments home after school every day. The orchestra room will open with the 7:23am bell.
- **Cellos/Basses** will be assigned a school instrument to use during class and an instrument to take home. Home instruments will be brought to school no later than the Monday morning of a concert week and taken home immediately after the concert. Personally owned instruments are only brought to school during concert weeks.

Purchasing or Renting can be done at multiple reputable music stores both online and in town. Purchasing a quality student instrument can run between \$400-\$900 for violin/viola, \$600-\$1500 for cello, and \$1200-\$3000 for bass. A quality instrument will prepare you for success. Cheap instruments are substandard, need expensive repairs, and are often simply unplayable even when brand new. Cheap instruments set you up for frustration and failure. Beware of buying an instrument online, especially if it seems like a bargain.

Internet Music Stores: Ms. Karl can help you if you have issues with instruments purchased from the online vendors below. If you purchase any other online store, you will have to take the instrument to a local string repair person to make sure it is in proper playing condition.

Shar Music	www.sharmusic.com
Music and Arts	www.musicarts.com
Johnson's Violins	www.johnsonstring.com
Southwest Strings	www.swstrings.com
*The Washoe County School District or the Board of Trustees neither endorses nor sponsors the organization or activity [music stores] represented in this document. The distribution of this material is provided as a community service.	

Music Stores in Reno/Sparks: If you have issues with instruments from these local vendors, simply take it to them for repair or adjustments. If you have problems dealing with any of these vendors, let Ms. Karl know. You are giving them your hard-earned money in return for instruments. Ms. Karl will call to let them know she is unhappy with the services they are providing her students and ask how they are going to fix the issue.

Blue Note B's 1525 Oddie Blvd, Sparks NV 89431	775-453-9219 www.bnbinstruments.com
Muzic Fuze 4690 Longley Lane, Suite 21, Reno 89502	775-432-2422 www.muzicfuze.com
Dodd Violins at Blue Note B's	775-348-7492 www.doddviolins.com
Terry Scott Strings 4725 N. Virginia, Reno 89506	775-379-0322
Absolute Music 8175 S Virginia St. #600, Reno 89511	775-852-2637 https://absolutemusiconline.com
JamPro Music Factory 9300 Prototype Dr., Reno 89521	775-800-1772 www.jampromusicfactory.com
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Required Supplies: If you are renting a school instrument, these supplies will be included with your instrument rental. If you are renting from a music store, rosin and an endpin anchor may be included with your rental but you will need to purchase the other supplies. If you own your own instrument, please purchase the following supplies.

- D'Addario clip-on tuner
- Rosin
- Violin/viola only: *Everest EZ Shoulder Rest*. Pay attention to the size making sure the shoulder rest is the correct size for the student's instrument.
- Cello only: Endpin Anchor (a.k.a. rockstop)
- Cleaning cloth: You can make your own out of soft flannel material or get one from Ms. Karl

Orchestra Calendar

All dates, times, events, and locations are subject to change, revision, addition, or subtraction.

Date	Time	Who	Event	Location	Call Time
Aug 17, Thu	7:00pm	8 th Grade	Disney Info Meeting after Back-to-School Night	Café	n/a
Aug 18- Sep 1		ALL Interested	Fundraiser – zBest Coupon Book	Music Department	n/a
Sep 25, Mon	7:23am	All Cellos/Basses	<i>Bring home instruments to school</i>	Room 512/Hall	7:23am
Sep 26, Tues	2:00-3:30pm	Intermediate	After school rehearsal	Stage	2:00pm
Sep 28, Thu	5:00pm	6 th Grade	Fall Concert	KDMS Stage	4:50pm
	6:00pm	Intermediate	Fall Concert	KDMS Stage	5:50pm
	7:00pm	Advanced	Fall Concert	KDMS Stage	6:50pm
Oct 11, Wed	3-8pm	All Interested 7-8 th	WCSD Honor Orchestra Auditions	Mendive MS	TBA
Nov 2, Thu	6:30pm	Honor Orchestra	WCSD Honor Orchestra Concert	Pioneer Center	TBA
Dec 11, Mon	7:23am	All cellos/basses	<i>Bring home instrument to school</i>	Room 512/Hall	7:23am
Dec 12, Tues	2:00-3:30pm	Intermediate	After school rehearsal	Stage	2:00pm
Dec 13, Wed	12:35pm	6 th Grade	Winter Concert	KDMS Stage	after 0*
	5:00pm	Intermediate & Eclectic	Winter Concert	KDMS Stage	4:50pm
	6:00pm	Advanced & Eclectic	Winter Concert	KDMS Stage	5:45pm
Feb 1-14		All Interested	Fundraiser – See's Candy	Music Department	n/a
Mar 13, Wed	6*/7*	Beginning Orchestra	Performance Exchange with Choir	KDMS Cafeteria	After 5*
Mar 15, Fri	All Day	7 th /8 th Orchestra	Orchestra Exchange & Coconut Bowl Trip	TBA	TBA
May 3-6	1pm-6pm	8 th Grade – optional	TENTATIVE Disneyland Trip & Recording Session	Anaheim, CA	TBA
May 20, Mon		All cellos/basses ALL	<i>Bring home instrument to school</i> All playing tests must be completed by	Room 512/Hall this date	7:23am
May 23, Thu	5:00pm	6 th Grade	Spring Concert	KDMS Stage	After 0*
	6:00pm	Intermediate & Fiddlers	Spring Concert	KDMS Stage	4:50pm
	7:00pm	Advanced & Fiddlers	Spring Concert	KDMS Stage	5:45pm
May 23, Thu		ALL SCHOOL	INSTRUMENTS STAY AT SCHOOL		

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Class Form

Due Monday, August 21, 2023

Student First & Last Name (printed): _____

Class Period: __0* __2* __3* __4* __5* __6* __7*

Acknowledgement Statement:

We acknowledge that we have been given the orchestra handbook. We understand home practice and after school concerts are necessary to achieve mastery and good grades in orchestra.

Student Name (Printed) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Students, if you return this before the due date, you will earn a strike-out on your signature pages.