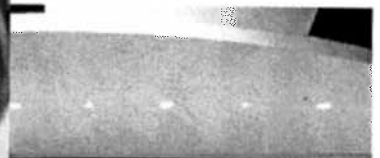
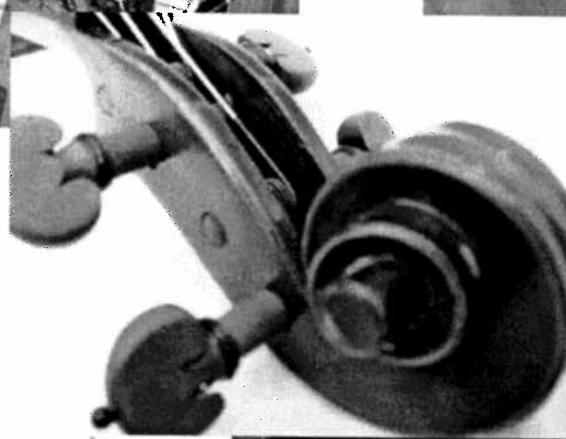
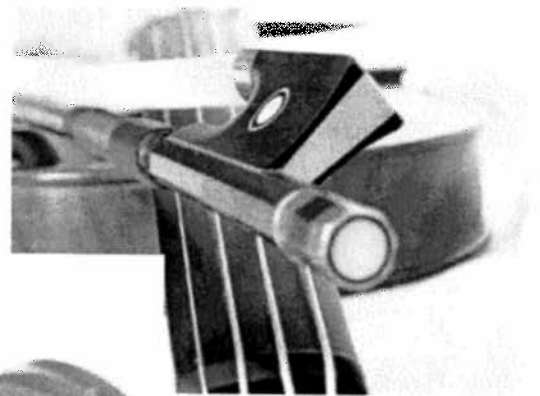


Frank W. Cox High School ORCHESTRA

"Passion, Commitment...Excellence"

Aaron Hardwick, Director



Handbook

For Orchestra
Students
And
Their Parents
2011-2012



PLEASE READ, SIGN AND RETURN

ALL YELLOW PAGES BY

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

**BE SURE TO CHECK BOTH SIDES OF EACH
SHEET FOR INFORMATION**



Welcome to COX HS Orchestra



About your director . . .



James "Aaron" Hardwick

Mr. Hardwick began his music career at an early age performing in venues throughout North Carolina and the southeastern United States. He began his studies on viola and studied under Karen Huey, former violist of the North Carolina Symphony.

He holds his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from East Carolina University. While in attendance at East Carolina, he continued his viola studies under the instruction of Ara Gregorian, Nicholas Cords, Yoram Youngermann, and Kelley Mikkelsen. He has also studied conducting under the instruction of Hisao Watanabe and Dr. Scott Carter of East Carolina University. Mr. Hardwick completed his practicum studies in North Carolina under the instruction of Joli Brooks of Jacksonville High School as well as Dr. Gregory Hurley of East Carolina University.

In 2011 Mr. Hardwick was one of 50 teachers in the nation, honored by Yale University to receive the Yale Distinguished Music Educator's Award. He has also recognized by Virginia Beach City Public Schools as an outstanding music educator. Also in 2011, Mr. Hardwick joined the staff of the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia as the new conductor of the Bay Youth Concert Orchestra.

He is currently a member of the Music Educators National Conference, the Virginia Music Educators Association, the American String Teachers Association, and the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association. Currently, he is on staff as resident session violinist, violist, as well as composer/arranger at Ripple Studios, recording studios located in Virginia Beach. He is a sought after guest conductor and clinician who's energy and precision on the podium has allowed him to conduct festivals, orchestra events, and collaborate with artists from all around the United States.

He moved to Virginia Beach in 2007 and is now entering his fourth year as Director of Orchestras at Frank W. Cox High School.

Mr. Hardwick resides in Virginia Beach with his wife Christi. He is dedicated to the advocacy of school orchestra and music programs everywhere and has spoken publicly at various venues throughout North Carolina and Virginia.

About the Orchestras...

Just a few accolades

In 2007 the Cox Orchestras were asked to perform for the opening of the Sandler Center for Performing Arts in Virginia Beach. In 2008 the Cox Orchestras were invited to perform for the Virginia Society for Technology in Education Conference held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, the Virginia School Boards Association at the ATC, and the Virginia Beach "Official-for-a-Day" Banquet. Ending last year's season Frank W. Cox High School received Virginia's prestigious Blue Ribbon Award. Cox orchestras assisted in this recognition by scoring a Superior Rating at VBODA District Festival in Grade VI. Also, in 2010 Cox High School was one of only 12 schools in the nation to host the XIBUS Concert Tour featuring members of the Boston String Quartet and other world-class musicians. In addition to the success of the large ensembles, individual and quartet members of the Cox Orchestras are consistently invited to perform in various venues throughout the Hampton Roads area.



Fundraising

In order to reduce the amount of labor intensive work necessary, yet provide enough capital to function as an educational and extra-curricular program the orchestra will only have a maximum of 3 to 4 major fundraisers throughout the school year.

However, it is important to remember that our goal is always to provide enriching and beneficial experiences for your child over the next four years; in order to do this we must have adequate funds to do so.

Program Ad Sells

This is our largest fundraiser of the year! Students are given an informational packet which explains how to approach business owners and companies on purchasing and advertisement that will be placed in ALL of our concert programs for the year! Ad prices are updated annually and are located on the website.

Parents and family members may also purchase congratulations, or notices for their child!

Each student is provided with an "Orchestra Trip Account" in which 70% of their sales will be placed to go towards our spring trip. 30% goes to the orchestra general fund in order to operate throughout the year.

Parent/Volunteer Contact for this fundraiser: Sharon Cindrich (757) 962-1517

ALL MONIES/FORMS FOR AD SELLS ARE DUE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

"Butterbraids" Fundraiser

This fundraiser was introduced a number of years ago and has proven quite successful. A "Butterbraid" is an extremely soft and delicious pastry treat that can be baked from frozen with ease! There are various types of "Butterbraids" with a variety of fillings. This fundraiser happens twice a year – near the Holiday Season, and around the Easter Season. More information on this fundraiser will be sent home at the appropriate time. Visit <http://butterbraid.com> for more information.



Other Fundraisers

There are a few smaller fundraisers that will happen throughout the year. These events can include but are not limited to concession sales at various events, carwashes, bake sales, and the like.

Please remember our goal is to limit the amount of time spent on fundraising in order that our students focus on becoming great musicians, not salesmen (not that there is anything wrong with salesmen... well, unless it interferes with classroom instructional time given by Virginia Beach City Public Schools).

If you have some awesome fundraising ideas please contact the current COA (Cox Orchestra Association) president and they would be happy to bring it before the board of directors for approval.

Spring Trip

Basic Information

A major part of the orchestra year, the goal of the spring trip is to provide students with a high-impact, 3 to 4 day, musically centered experience that occurs outside the four walls of Frank W. Cox High School. Generally the spring trip occurs in a major city inside, or outside of the United States that provides a musically enriching environment and performance opportunity.

The spring trip IS NOT A GUARANTEED EVENT! The Orchestra Spring trip is dependant upon many factors including: administration approval, adequate funding, weather, overall student preparation and behavior, and chaperones.



Trip Cost

Trip Costs will include:

- Lodging
- Transportation
- Admission Fees for Concerts, Theme Parks, and Major Venues
- Major Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Trip costs will be determined upon trip approval.

Trip Deposit

The trip deposit is \$200 and guarantees your child's spot on the trip. Fundraiser monies in the individual student "Orchestra Trip Account" can be used for the deposit. This deposit IS NON-REFUNDABLE! STOP! THINK! PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THIS TRIP IS NOT JUST FOR YOUR CHILD! IT IS FOR THE ENTIRE GROUP!

Cancellations

Students who have signed up for the trip and have paid a deposit are obligated to attend. Because the orchestra performs while on the trip, adequate instrumentation is necessary to do so. Students not planning on attending the spring trip will not pay the deposit. However, if a student pays a deposit and for whatever reason, decides not to attend – **the entire trip fee is still due!** Please consider again, that group rates, lodging and transportation are based on GROUP NUMBERS! After 90 days prior to departure of the trip, all trip fees are NON-REFUNDABLE!

If at any point in time prior to the trip, due to behavior, actions, academic standing or school discipline issues, the director deems a student(s) unfit to attend the spring trip, any and all trip monies for that student(s) WILL NOT BE REFUNDED!

VBODA Events

Throughout the year students will be provided with a host of great performance opportunities and learning experiences. The Virginia Band and Orchestra Director's Association (VBODA) is the governing body for all "state related" orchestra events. The following is a list of VBODA events that will occur throughout the year. Some events are for individual student growth and some involve the participation of our entire ensemble or smaller ensembles. Please check the calendar for the dates of the following events:

- Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions
- Senior Regional Orchestra Event
- District Orchestra Assessment (formally Orchestra Festival)
- All-Virginia Orchestra & Band Auditions
- All-Virginia Orchestra & Band Event
- Solo & Ensemble Festival

Other Performance Opportunities

As mentioned in our accolades, we are proud of the fact that we are consistently invited to represent our school, district, and state in performance venues and events. These performance opportunities present themselves at various times throughout the year. Many times we are invited to perform for professional galas, weddings, receptions, meetings, and other formal and informal events. Information will be sent home in a timely manner when these events occur.

Website and Digital Communications

We are a multifaceted high school program, it is important that we teach, promote, and provide resources to our students to prepare them to be 21st century learners. We have available to all students, parents, and community many resources to help you stay connected to events. We have tried to make communication as painless and as easy as possible. Please do your part and check for updates regularly. If you need help with any of the digital media, please contact Mr. Hardwick. Here are some resources we currently use:

- **Website:** www.coxorchestra.com
This is the hub of all information. GO HERE FIRST! If it's not here, please contact the director or board member of the COA.
- **Facebook:** The Cox Orchestras have a Facebook "Group." This is provided to keep former students, alumni, community members, parents, and current students to stay connected to what is going on in the orchestras. This is by invite request only. Join us! Signing up for Facebook is free. Visit www.facebook.com for more information.
- **Twitter:** be sure to follow us on Twitter @coxorchestra
For immediate updates and information and updates, this is the easiest way to stay connected to what is going on in the orchestra. Signing up for a Twitter account is free. Visit www.twitter.com for more information.

About the Falcon Orchestra Program

Overall Program Philosophy

The Frank W. Cox Orchestras will be orchestras of "Passion, Commitment and Excellence." The goal is to build in students a sense of pride and purpose for being involved in one of the most progressive and challenging programs in Virginia. Students, parents, and I will be expected to represent the orchestra programs with dignity and pride.

Concert Orchestra

The following information was taken from:
Virginia Beach City Public Schools – Secondary School Curriculum

Intermediate Orchestra (MU 9238)
One credit per year, Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: Beginning orchestra or director's approval

This course is an extension of the beginning orchestra class. Instruction is continued in the basics of music performance. Emphasis is placed on developing the concepts of tone production, stylistic performance, and ensemble awareness. After-school rehearsals and performances are required of all students.

Mr. Hardwick's Expectations:

Students performing in the ensemble will be exposed to a wide-range of repertoire which will include educational and classical literature. The level of focus, determination, and dedication is NO less than the Chamber Orchestra. Private teachers are HIGHLY encouraged and correspondence between the student, director, parent(s), and private instructor will be maintained. Remember, this is an intermediate class. This means that there are basic performance techniques that you are expected to know. If you have trouble, please see Mr. Hardwick or ask your private instructor for assistance.

Falcon Chamber Orchestra

The following information was taken from:
Virginia Beach City Public Schools – Secondary School Curriculum

Advanced Orchestra (MU 9239)
One credit per year, Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: Audition **and** director's approval

This course gives students the opportunity to develop high standards of musicianship. Emphasis is placed on artistic performance commensurate with the standard of the finest professional groups. Students become acquainted with the great heritage of symphonic literature. After-school rehearsals and performances are required of all students. Membership is based on ability, interest, and experience and requires the director's approval.

Mr. Hardwick's Expectations:

Students performing in this ensemble will be exposed to a majority of classical repertoire and original compositions. This will be a very high level performance group. Students are EXTREMELY encouraged to have private instruction. Without private instruction students will find it difficult to maintain the high expectations of performance and ability at this level. Students will be expected to carry themselves with pride and set a standard of excellence while involved in the FCO.

Frank W. Cox HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA CODE OF CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE PLAN 2011 - 2012

VISION STATEMENT:

The essential intent of the orchestra program is to integrate musical perceptions in such a way that the instrument becomes an extension of the student as a means of personal, musical, social, and emotional expression.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES:

The overall philosophy of student conduct within the orchestra program focuses on a teaching and learning environment that is conducive to quality instruction. Any behavior that restricts a positive learning environment will be deemed inappropriate and prohibited.

DISCIPLINE PLAN

Each student begins each 9 weeks with 100 conduct points. Each rule violation costs from one to ten points. The number of points left at the end of the nine weeks determines the student's conduct grade, which is NOT averaged into his or her academic grade. Because of the nature of the class, it is very unusual for a student to earn less than an "A" for the conduct grade. A conduct grade of "B" or less should be a matter of concern for the orchestra students and their parents.

Students must maintain 93 or more conduct points to participate in all orchestra activities.

Chronic misbehavior will require attention from the office.

A student will not participate in orchestra field trips or special activities for the semester if he or she:

- loses more than 10 conduct points during any grading period of the current semester
- fails to maintain a semester grade average of "86" or better for orchestra class
- seriously violates school rules during the current semester
- displays behaviors or dispositions that threaten the harmony of the group

The final decision to allow an orchestra student to participate in any orchestra event is left to the director.

Levels of Consequence

Positive Consequences

- A successful orchestra
- A positive, enjoyable atmosphere in which to learn
- Increased learning by the student and the class
- More opportunities for leadership, performing, and special activities inside and outside of class

Negative Consequences

- Warning (1-3 Points)
- Conference with Mr. Hardwick
- Change of seating and/or procedures
- Referral to ISS (5 points)
- Contact with parents: note, phone call, conference
- Referral to principal (10 points)

DAILY
ORCHESTRA CLASSROOM
RULES & EXPECTATIONS
2011 - 2012

- 1) Pencils, Notebook, and **YOUR** MUSIC EVERY DAY!
- 2) COME PREPARED. Instrument in good playing condition with:

Rosin
Extra Strings
Shoulder Rest
Cello Straps
String Bass "Rock Stops"

ALL ITEMS
EVERY DAY!

It is expected that you are ready by having practiced in preparation for daily rehearsal. Rehearsal is NOT PERSONAL PRACTICE TIME!

- 3) Leave issues at the door! Focus on the task at hand and engage in what is going on in the class.
- 4) Respect is the key. Understand that everyone is working hard and you are responsible for YOUR work! By contributing in practice and readiness, you are respecting the entire ensemble. Students are to respect themselves and others (classmates, teachers, administrators, guests, etc.)



Frank W. Cox HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

GRADING POLICY

2011 - 2012

50% daily performance grades:

- 100 = assignment prepared, all materials brought to class
- 50 = Assignment not prepared, or student failed to bring materials, or student left instrument at school overnight, or fingernails too long
- 0 = Forgot to bring instrument or does not participate

40% test grades, which can include:

- written tests
- playing tests
- concert *preparation and performance*
- returning signed papers by a deadline
- credit for participation in an additional orchestra performance group
- required after school rehearsals

10% practice record/Quiz Grades:

I will provide a card for each student's record of daily practice time. I collect practice records on the first "A-day" of the week for a "100" and late records each second "A-day" for a "50." Practice records must be signed by the parent to receive credit. Students do not earn practice record grades based on the amount of time they reportedly practice. Each student will earn a "100" for returning the signed record on time, even if it shows "0" for minutes practiced.

Extra Credit

Students earn extra credit by performing outside of school orchestra activities and by attending approved concerts and other performances that relate to class work.

Grade Expectation

This class is not an "easy A." Success does require some effort and regular practice. However, students who bring their materials to class each day follow directions, practice and study a bit for tests will be successful in this class. A grade of "C" or less indicates a lack of effort rather than lack of ability. Please let your child know that you expect him or her to do well in this class.

Virginia Beach City Public Schools Grading Scale

93 - 100	A	4.0
90 - 92	A-	3.7
87 - 89	B+	3.3
83 - 86	B	3.0
80 - 82	B-	2.7
77 - 79	C+	2.3
73 - 76	C	2.0
70 - 72	C-	1.7
67 - 69	D+	1.3
64 - 66	D	1.0
Below 64	E	0.0

**Frank W. Cox HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
CONCERT DRESS
2011 - 2012**

This year **all** orchestra students will be asked to follow the orchestra dress code as listed below:

FORMAL ORCHESTRA ATTIRE

To be worn at evening concerts and State Contest/Festival

LADIES: Concert Uniform Dress

GENTLEMEN: Concert Uniform Tuxedo



CASUAL ORCHESTRA ATTIRE

To be worn on orchestra trips and any other casual orchestra gathering designated by the director

LADIES: Orchestra/School T-shirt
Nice looking jeans/slacks
Tennis shoes

GENTLEMEN: Orchestra/School T-shirts
Nice looking jeans/slacks
Tennis shoes

All clothing is to follow the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Dress Code

Attire Fee

All students are required to wear formal concert attire. Orchestra students will be measured and the appropriate materials including pricing will be sent home at the end of September.

All Concert Attire Monies are due Wednesday, October 12, 2011

CONCERT RULES AND REGULATIONS 2011 - 2012

1. **ALL students are required to perform at any given concert scheduled for a group in which they are a member and attend any required rehearsals for that particular concert.** Exceptions to this rule are only granted in extreme circumstances, such as sickness or death of immediate family. *However, a letter signed by parent or guardian must be presented to the director in order to for an excused absence to be granted. In order to be accepted a letter must be provided within 3 days in following the student's return to class.*
2. **Any student receiving an unexcused absence** will automatically receive a concert grade of "0" for that particular marking period. [Concert grades count twice and receive 40% of the grade for that marking period.] Furthermore, that student and his/her parents will be required to have a conference with the orchestra director to decide whether or not he/she will be allowed to participate in any orchestra trips. The decision to allow the student to participate is solely that of the orchestra director.
3. **Any student receiving more than one unexcused absence** will be required to remove him or herself from the Frank W. Cox High School Orchestra program.
4. **A student's participation in any orchestra trip** will be based on that student's conduct in class and school as well as maintaining an **academic orchestra class grade** not lower than "86," or "B." In addition, all trip fees must be paid in accordance with the timetable set by the orchestra director. The orchestra director alone will determine any final decisions regarding trip participation.



PARENTS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Dear Cox HS Orchestra Parents,

Thank you for allowing your child to be a part of the Cox HS Orchestra Program. Your child will have a most fulfilling experience while in this class. As I am sure you know there are many life-long benefits in being a part of a successful music program.

The Vision

The orchestra program here at Cox High School is that of "excellence." I believe that in order to be successful in life, one must be provided with the best resources and education possible. In orchestra your child will explore, grow, and learn in many areas, not just music. With this in mind I, along with the help of you and other volunteers, will build this program and help provide those opportunities...

That is the vision. Now, we NEED YOU!

Getting Involved

We need help with:

- Concerts
- Concert Attire/Measuring
- Orchestra Activities
- Chaperones
- Planning
- Take Down/Set-up
- Fundraising
- Clerical/Paperwork
- Orchestra Recruitment
- Orchestra Supporters!



If you would like to be involved in your child's education and be a part of a rapidly growing, and welcoming group of parents and volunteers,

please visit www.coxorchestra.com and click on the "Parents & Volunteers" tab at the top of the page to fill out a volunteer form. A representative from the Cox Orchestra Association will contact you upon receiving the submitted form.

Sincerely,

J. Aaron Hardwick
Orchestra Director, COX HS
James.Hardwick@VBSchools.com

Orchestra Director Contact Information

James "Aaron" Hardwick
Orchestra Director

Frank W. Cox High School
2425 Shorehaven Drive
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

Work: (757) 648.5250
Cell: (757) 685.1722

Email: James.Hardwick@VBSchools.com

Website: www.coxorchestra.com

(you may also find parent/volunteer information on the website)

I will be traveling among 4 schools so E-mail or Cell will be the best way to contact me.