**Leadership Roles**

In order for the orchestra to function efficiently, there is a chain of leadership students must recognize and respect. The orchestra director appoints the student leaders of the South Cobb High School Orchestra after auditions, interviews, and applications have been received. All students are looked upon as potential future leaders from the time they enter the orchestra program. All students appointed as leaders shall, in addition to their listed duties, strive to uphold the image and spirit of the orchestra at all times. These appointments are to be considered an honor and a responsibility, not a privilege. Leaders should aid the orchestra directors in every way possible. You are expected to keep the lines of communication open between each other, and between students and the directors at all times. Leadership positions are explained below. If students have questions about practices, performances, instruments or other orchestra-related topics, s/he should first ask the Section Leader. If the answer is not known, the Section Leader will go to the Orchestra Director for answers. Students should always use this leadership structure. It is vital that we always create and maintain a professional working environment. I would also like us to create an environment that will exceed everyone’s previous expectations and experiences. I want everyone to always report issues vertically (up the chain) and not laterally. Laterally means complaining to another member. The result of speaking laterally produces unfavorable results of rather than one unhappy orchestra member we instantly create two, that spreads to three, then to five, and it usually turns out to be a miscommunication between two people that can be fixed in 5 minutes or less. Let’s work to avoid this scenario by speaking vertically. This vertical philosophy goes into effect day one. Constant communication will lead to positive morale for all of us.

**Concertmaster** (a year-round position) Enforces orchestra rules and maintains order. Maintains "esprit de corps" within the orchestra. Makes announcements to the orchestra as directed or when the need arises. Encourages everyone to setup for rehearsal. Oversees section principals during section rehearsals. Meets periodically with section leaders to assist with any problems that may arise. Assists section leaders with uniform inspections. Keeps records of improper uniforms. Checks section leaders’ attendance notebooks periodically and enters absences. Checks attendance at each after school rehearsal. Reports any major problems to the director. Assists the director in all ways possible. Qualifications include: upperclassmen only, proficient on instrument, ability to communicate one-on-one or speak in front of a large group. The concertmaster is the lead player. He/she sits in the first chair of the row for their section. The concertmaster leads the ensemble in tuning prior to the event, concert, or competition, and customarily plays available solos within pieces. In addition, the concertmaster marks the orchestra’s scores with the appropriate bowings, articulations, and phrases – so all the members are using the same bowings, slurs, stylistic articulations, and shifts.

**Section Principal** (a year round position) Section Leaders are considered the “first line supervisors” in the orchestra. Each section (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass) will have a designated Principal (and possibly an assistant). The Principal Performers will enforce orchestra rules and maintain order, direct after-school section rehearsals, maintain "esprit de corps" within the orchestra, be responsible for their section’s playing performance during rehearsal and behavior at all times, keep a daily record of attendance in a designated notebook and report any absences to the concertmaster, inspect uniforms of section members, attend all meetings called by the concertmaster or director, report any problems, issue and collect instrument rental forms, and help to keep instrument locker area clean. Each section Principal is selected by the director based on demonstrated leadership, musicianship and maturity. Qualifications include: 1 year experience in orchestra; proficiency on instrument.

Any upperclassmen meeting the following criteria are encouraged to seek a leadership position. Requirements The student must: 1. Have a prior orchestral experience 2. Attend leadership camp 3. Be available before and after all rehearsals 4. Be able to attend all rehearsals and performances 5. Have and maintain a grade point average in line with school protocols for the arts 6. Be available to tutor less experienced members of the orchestra 7. Help coordinate equipment for all rehearsals and performances 8. Inform family of all orchestra responsibilities and commitments 9. Have a positive attitude and be in good standing with teachers, administrators, coaches and sponsors.

It is strongly suggested that leadership candidates: 1. Take private lessons 2. Invest in a quality instrument 3. Find an employer who will work around your schedule 4. Limit participation in clubs and activities. In other words, please do not over commit yourself if you are accepting a leadership role.

**Audition Procedures**

Auditions will take place in the spring. The student must: 1. Complete the application and turn it in by the due date. No applications will be accepted late! 2. Have a notebook and pencil at all times. 3. Attend all rehearsals and auditions

**Philosophy**

You are expected to be at your best at all times. You must be: enthusiastic, motivating, respectful, cooperative, and honest. You must have integrity and take pride in the group. You should work hard, be dedicated, encourage other members, praise often, and take the initiative. You should be proactive, fair, patient, responsible and dependable. This requires maturity beyond your years and a selflessness that defies explanation. You must be understanding, capable, musically skilled, without ego, and willing to accept criticism. You must be able to work with everyone and serve as the link between membership and director. If you are fair, your friends will understand. If you treat people unfairly, neither your friends nor your enemies will understand or be forgiving.

The expectations for leadership positions will be high, and the stress will often be immense. You must ask yourself: why do I want to be in a leadership position? Is it for the right reason?

Section Principal selection will be based on the following: 1. Interview with the director. Be prepared to discuss your application and performance. 2. You will be evaluated on your ability to execute given commands. 3. Cooperation. How well do you work with others? There are other student positions available as needed:

**Librarian** (a year-round position) The Librarian keeps music library neat and orderly, filing and copying the music as needed, and ensuring the music index is up to date. The Librarian also creates the folders with music for all sections. The Librarians will help when it is time to pass out new music during the year and collecting/filing it at the end of the year.