

Why join the Orchestra?

- 1) **Playing music is FUN!** We progress through music and skills rapidly, learn challenging and fun music, and have many opportunities to perform.
- 2) **You can get instruments directly through the school.** Berkeley High has a limited number of instruments that you can rent directly from the school. This can either serve as your primary instrument that you take home regularly, or a school instrument that stays at school so you don't have to constantly transport instruments.
- 3) **Joining orchestra is like joining a sports team, and becoming part of a family.** Like a team, we each have our own role and responsibilities to the ensemble. While your academic classes may change from year to year, joining the orchestra allows you to develop friendships that last throughout high school. A majority of students that join in 9th grade go on to participate through the 12th grade.
- 4) **We have multiple concerts and competitions each year, with a variety of musical styles.** The orchestra performs school concerts quarterly, and performs out in our community. We learn a lot of music in a variety of styles such as classical, jazz, rock, folk, pop, and world music. Students can elect to participate in area competitions annually to represent themselves and their school orchestra. Participants receive feedback from professional judges, ratings, and awards if they score high marks.
- 5) **We go on field trips annually.** Field trips range from seeing area orchestras perform live, to performing in local and state festivals and competitions. Eligible students are invited to participate in our annual trip to regional orchestra clinics and competitions throughout the southeast including destinations like Carowinds.
- 6) **We prepare students to successfully audition for college scholarships.** Many colleges and universities offer a variety of scholarships for both music majors, and non-music majors to participate in performance ensembles. A document is posted on the orchestra website with more information on South Carolina colleges that offer scholarships.