

PARENT REPLY FORM

Please tear this page off, fill out and return it!

You can also find this on the website!

Students do not always remember to share information. To make sure you are kept in the loop, students earn points when you respond! As long as I get a reply, either electronically *or* on paper, students get points, and I know you are informed!

Please check the ways you wish to receive information.

REMIND.com

To join: Text @dchsor To: (270)-847-4113

If you received texts last semester, you are already on the list

EMAIL

Please provide the email address that you check regularly.

PRINTED NOTES

All students have computers and access to Email at school. I send parent notes to students and offer them paper copies.

PARENT ACCESS to GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Check here if you would like access to Orchestra Google Classroom announcements and assignments. Please write your email above.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS: Please check your available times to help:

_____ during the school day _____ after dinner.
_____ after school. _____ on weekends.

I have received the Fall, 2019 Orchestra information.

Students will be expected to sign and return their contract.

PARENT Signature _____ Due August 14, 2019

Student Name _____

Please also fill out and return the Medical Form with this paper.

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FALL SEMESTER, 2019 DCHS ORCHESTRA SYLLABUS

Please keep this for future reference. Return ONLY the signature pages!

Mrs. K. Higdon, Orchestra Director

Mr. K. Payton, HS Assistant Orchestra Director

DCHS 270-852-7300 DCMS 270-852-7600 CVMS 270-852-7500

Karen.higdon@daviess.kyschools.us 270-321-1855

ORCHESTRA WEBSITES

DCHS Orchestra www.dchsstudentorchestra.weebly.com

DCMS Orchestra www.dcmsorchestra.weebly.com

CVMS Orchestra www.collegeviewmsorch.weebly.com

Check here frequently for Forms, Calendar, Useful Links, and Due Dates

MUSICAL CONTACT COVERED

See school scheduling handbook for skills and content Imbedded in the Orchestra curriculum.

See the KY Department of Education and the

National Standards for the Arts for more specifics.

These documents are available to the public online at

www.kde.org and at www.NAfME.org

REHEARSAL NON-NEGOTIABLES

POSTURE

Never let anyone say that a DCPS Orchestra student is a slouch! Be professional. Do not hurt your body or our ears with poor posture.

POSITION

Left Hand Placement Matters. Right hand Position Matters. Elbows Matter. Sloppy position is sloppy performance.

ATTITUDE

Don't tell me what you CAN'T DO. Show me what you CAN DO. Work until you CAN do it. If you CAN'T practice, and you CAN'T play the music, then *WHY ARE YOU HERE?*

BOTTOM LINE – RESPECT YOURSELF, OTHERS AND THE MUSIC!

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ATTENDANCE/BEHAVIOR/RESPONSIBILITY

(15% of your grade)

Real World Application: Be on time. Turn things in on time. Show respect for those around you and the music you play. Be prepared. Know your classmates' NAMES. Communicate with parents about upcoming events.

Cultivate behaviors that make you the kind of person that the best employer in the world wants to hire.

ATTENDANCE

Be in the classroom when the bell rings.

Be in your seat 2 minutes after the bell rings ready to play.

Have ALL materials ready to use every day:

INSTRUMENT – tuned/ready to play BOW – ROSIN before class

FOLDER, MUSIC, BOOK, and SHARP PENCIL

OTHER EQUIPMENT – usable rock stop or shoulder rest

Turn in ALL assignments, including practice records, ON TIME.

BEHAVIOR

Follow directions the 1st time they are given.

Have all materials with you and participate fully every day.

Be silent when teacher or another student is talking or playing.

Raise your hand and wait to be called on before talking.

Stay in your seat unless teacher gives you permission to move.

NO food, flavored drinks or candy in the classroom.

RESPECT! NO abusive actions or words allowed.

PHONES

All phones must be turned off and put in the phone rack for the duration of the class unless the class is using phones for current Orchestra work.

MUSIC

Every student is responsible for music borrowed from school.

Students are expected to pay for lost school music.

Students earn 10 points/week for Attendance and Behavior.

This is labeled as your AB weekly grade in the gradebook.

Parent notes, Practice records, etc. are part of your Responsibility grade.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Let your children know that music is important to you!

Encourage home practice.

Ask to hear what students are working on in class.

Join the Orchestra Google Classroom.

Have students show you their Smart Music assignments.

Check your child's grade in Infinite Campus regularly.

Be in the audience to cheer on your children

as they grow into confident musicians!

Please fill the auditorium at every concert with friends and family!

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a necessary, but not popular part of Orchestra.

Please participate in our moneymaking adventures so that all students can afford the exciting events planned for this year.

TEACHERS CAN USE HELP, TOO!

If you have time, and are willing to help with

filing, copying, paperwork, inventory, field trips, or other tasks,

PLEASE let me know on the next page.

We especially need chaperones and instrument haulers for trips!

If you intend to help with school or field trip activities, make sure you have a current background check on file. Thank you!

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Orchestra is an ELECTIVE.

It is assumed that you wish to succeed when you sign up.

None of these procedures beyond a warning should be necessary.

1st Offense: Warning/Loss of Incentive Points

2nd Offense: Student Conference/Parent Contact

3rd Offense: DM and office visit/Detention or ISS

Severe Offenses are referred to the office immediately.

This may result in a schedule change.

If you feel you cannot follow the rules, do not take the class.

WRITTEN WORK (10% of your grade)

Performing music correctly includes understanding the theory/how music is put together, prevailing practices of performers/composers during the time they wrote music, terminology and symbols within the music, and techniques needed to play music. Learning how to critique your own and other performances by high standards not only makes you able to evaluate yourself, but helps you make intelligent choices about the music you choose to buy/listen to/create.

Assignments will be in Google Classroom, on paper in class, and/or listed on the board as you walk in the room each day.

Examples include Presentations, Theory/History Lessons relevant to class music, and self/other evaluations.

PRACTICE RECORDS

Practice is more useful if there is intentional goal setting, followed by reflection on what you learned when finished. Students will turn in practice records weekly on Mondays.

Each practice record is worth 35 points.

What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work.

Stephen King

LATE WORK

Turn things in on time.

Each assignment is linked to something you need to learn next.

Unexcused late assignments will be graded to make sure you understand the content, but you will lose responsibility points.

There will be NO make-up assignments.

If you are absent from school, it is your responsibility to contact the teacher or another student to find out what you have missed.

Feel free to email me the day you are ill,

and I will send assignments you can work on while you are out.

See school rules for *excused absence* make up work policy.

Excellence stands out in a crowd even when no one is keeping score.

Brad Rogers

PLAYING TESTS (70% of your grade – Seniors 60%)

PRACTICE PHILOSOPHY

“Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” Tim Notke

Your preparation (or lack thereof) makes the difference between a good performance and a great performance. Your sound affects everyone.

90% accuracy might earn an “A” grade. However, 90% accuracy on stage is either out of tune, rhythmically uneven, stylistically sloppy, or boring. That performance is not acceptable to the audience, nor should it be to you! Excellence takes work. You are responsible for your part. Do not create dissonance, distrust, and disgust within your section and the orchestra by not being prepared. Work for 100%.

If I do not practice one day, I know it.

If I do not practice the next, the orchestra knows it.

If I do not practice the third day, the whole world knows it.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski

Students must practice at least 120 minutes per week outside of class.

PLAYING TESTS INCLUDE:

Smart Music Check Offs Online playing tests – see next page

In Class Playing Tests By section, in small groups & individual check offs

Concert Music Videos Assigned Videos due 1 week before each concert

Concerts are playing tests, and are worth 150 points each.

Fall, 2019 REQUIRED CONCERT DATES:

October 1, 2019 DCHS Orchestra Fall Concert, 7PM

December 5, 2019 DCHS Orchestra Winter Concert, 7PM

FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE

Symphony Dress Code-black dress/suit/black pants and shirt

Black Tops must have sleeves and a modest neckline.

Skirts must hang below the knee. Pants must not sag or have holes.

You may wear a white dress shirt and black suit coat.

Black Shoes (black socks) or black sandals.

SMART MUSIC ASSIGNMENTS ARE PLAYING TESTS.

You have access to a lot of FREE content in Smart Music.

You can practice scales, rhythms, etc. without “assignments”.
For access to the entire music catalogue, you can pay the extra fee.

Smart Music Due Dates can be found in Infinite Campus.

In order to get credit for these assignments, you must log in to Smart Music and work on the music there. You can do this on ANY computer with a microphone that has access to internet through Google Chrome. Practice rooms are available before or after school, and during CCR class on Mondays, or other days as approved by Mrs. Higdon.

We have Smart Music microphones you may check out to use if your computer does not pick up your sound well. You can also set up an appointment to do this with Mrs. Higdon with your computer.

SUBMIT these assignments through Smart Music, or you will not get credit for them. Smart Music will not accept late work. Keep in mind that playing tests are 70% (Grades 9-11) of your grade (60% for seniors).

If you have issues with Smart Music, see Mrs. Higdon for help. Do not complain that you don't WANT to do it, or you don't feel it is necessary. Just DO it. You will be a better player because of it.

GOOGLE DRIVE ORCHESTRA FOLDER

ALL Students will create an Orchestra Folder on their Google Drive and share it with Mrs. Higdon. This is where you will store your video recordings and other assignments. You will revisit these recordings over the years to note your progress.

SENIOR PROJECT (10% of senior grade)

Seniors choose a project that combines what they learn in Orchestra with their future career/study/college plans.

September 6 – Students present plan for project

Before Fall Break - documentation of proof of progress due

December 10 – Fall Semester projects completed and presented.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (5% of your grade)

ORCHESTRA IS A CO-CURRICULAR CLASS

Co-curricular class grades are based on work done during class as well as performances/work completed outside of school hours that is connected to classwork.

This includes rehearsals, performances, and homework/practice.

If you do not have time, don't take the class!

PARTIAL LIST OF CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Take private lessons on the instrument you play in class.

Show up for sectionals before or after school.

Stay after school to work with Mrs. Higdon or another student.

Practice with your church band/orchestra/choir.

Work after hours with your ensemble or a classmate on music.

Perform at a nursing home or other community venue.

OWENSBORO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Students must be enrolled in at least one semester of orchestra to participate in Youth Orchestra. Rehearsals are Monday evenings.

String Orchestra 4-5:30 PM Full Orchestra 6-8:30 PM

KENTUCKY WESLEYAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Rehearsals are Tuesday 5-6:00 PM. See Mrs. Higdon for more information

KMEA ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA

Students enrolled all year are eligible to audition for All-State Orchestra.

The statewide audition date is November 16 at Woodford County MS.

See Mrs. Higdon for details and music.

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS ARE CO-CURRICULAR

Musicians learn a lot by watching other people perform.

Each semester, students must attend and report on **two** music events.

These may include school music events (not DCHS Orchestra concerts), events at the RiverPark Center or other professional venues, church music events, and live music at places like Friday after Five.

Your Orchestra Website lists many community performances.