

DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK

2019-2020

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FORWARD

DUE TO THE UNIQUE RESTRICTIONS AND INFLUENCES THAT PERSONNEL HAS ON PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES (INSTRUMENTATION, BALANCE, PART ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.) MUSIC PERFORMANCE CLASSES AT DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL ARE YEAR-LONG COURSES AND STUDENTS ELECTING TO ENROLL IN THEM ARE COMMITTING TO A FULL YEAR

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MUSIC PERFORMING GROUP CLASSES ARE EXPECTED TO BE AT ALL SCHEDULED REHEARSALS AND PUBLIC PERFORMANCES. MOST PERFORMANCES AND SOME PRACTICES ARE HELD OUTSIDE THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY. PARENTS AND STUDENTS SHOULD THEREFORE CHECK THEIR FAMILY SCHEDULE PRIOR TO MAKING A COMMITMENT TO AN ELECTIVE MUSIC PERFORMING CLASS.

DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF PARENTS, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SCHEDULING CONFLICTS MAY STILL ARISE AFTER ONE HAS SIGNED UP FOR A MUSIC ELECTIVE COURSE. IF THIS HAPPENS, THE PARENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE TEACHER OF THE CLASS WELL IN ADVANCE SO THAT MUSICAL ADJUSTMENTS CAN BE MADE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. THE TEACHER OF THAT CLASS WILL ALLOW THE STUDENT TO DO AN AGREED UPON EXTRA-CREDIT PROJECT TO COVER POINTS LOST FROM THE MISSED PERFORMANCE.

IF THE STUDENT/PARENT AND TEACHER CANNOT AGREE ON AN ACCEPTABLE PROJECT THEN THE MATTER WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE PRINCIPAL.

Every fine ensemble has high standards in performance and in behavior. Our orchestra is no exception. This handbook of rules, regulations, and procedures was prepared to inform both orchestra members and their parents of the obligations which must be accepted by members of the Dexter High School Chamber Orchestra. Observance of these rules will give all students the best orchestral experience possible.

Read this handbook carefully. This will make you aware of your responsibilities as an orchestra member. If a question arises during the course of the year, please consult this handbook. If you do not find the answer then consult the director.

Section I – Rehearsals

Rehearsal time is very valuable and every moment of it must be utilized to the fullest advantage. The following regulations are used in all fine musical organizations and will be the foundation of our rehearsal procedures. What has been done in the past will have no bearing on what will be done in the future. **READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.** This will eliminate any misunderstanding on your part.

Rehearsals proceed as follows:

1. Warm up your instrument softly by playing etudes and scales.
2. One minute after the tardy bell rings all orchestra members must be in their proper places for attendance. Warm-up may continue until the concertmaster or conductor steps on the podium.
3. Rehearsal begins with tuning and announcements. Talking and practicing interfere with students tuning and therefore are not allowed at this time. It is the student's responsibility to make sure their instrument is tuned. If a student does not know how to tune their own instrument, extra help should be sought.
4. Daily announcements will be given detailing upcoming events, assignments, etc. In case of absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given.
5. When the conductor steps on the podium, all talking and playing should stop at once. Your full attention must be given to the conductor. Distractions are not allowed. Inattentive or disruptive students will be removed from the rehearsal and parents may be contacted.
6. Always bring your instrument, a pencil and music to rehearsals.
7. Food will not be permitted at any time. Students may have water in class but not other drinks.
8. Personal items are not to be left unattended in the room for security and cleanliness reasons. This includes instruments, textbooks, clothing and school supplies.
9. The rehearsal room and storage area must be kept orderly at all times. This is each member's responsibility.
10. No ipods, cell phones, or other electronic devices should be visible at any time during rehearsal. Use will result in confiscation without warning. Students or parents will have to pick up the device from the school office.
11. There will be two types of rehearsals.

a. Regular daily rehearsals

b. Any special rehearsal deemed necessary by the director will be required by all members.

Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals both during class sessions and at special events. Students arriving late or leaving early will not receive full credit.

Section II – Public Appearances

Each member of this organization will be required to attend EVERY public appearance.

Report for all public events at precisely the times stated by the director. Plan on extra time for delays and give yourself ample time to get your instrument ready and your music assembled. Students arriving late to concerts and rehearsals will not receive full credit. All rehearsal regulations are enforced during public events.

The director will announce all public appearances. Announcements will also be written on the white board in the orchestra room. It is the student's responsibility to listen carefully to all announcements and note the time, place, dress, and other details. Each student will receive a concert schedule at the beginning of the school year. The schedule is also posted in the orchestra room and on the orchestra office door as well as on the orchestra web site.

When you appear at a public performance as a DHS musician you are representing not only yourself but your organization, your school, and your community. Conduct yourself in such a way that you will reflect positively upon yourself and the orchestra.

Section III – School Equipment

The school furnishes some equipment and instruments of the orchestra. Students shall be held responsible for any equipment issued them by the school and are expected to clean and maintain all assigned items properly. This includes instruments, music, accessories, and any other type of school property. Careless handling of school property will not be tolerated and students shall be subject to a fine if found guilty of irresponsible handling of equipment. Repairs to damaged equipment or replacement costs will be charged to the offending student(s).

Section IV – Music

NEVER MARK MUSIC WITH INK – USE A PENCIL. Each student should treat their music as their textbook. They should always have it with them in class and be responsible for their own part. Music is costly and should never be treated as a cheap piece of paper. The average original piece of concert music is \$2.50 a part if it has to be replaced. Photocopying music takes significant time on the part of the director. It may become necessary that we charge for replacing lost or mutilated parts at a rate of \$.50 per page (photocopy) and \$2.50 per page (original part). Each student is responsible for their own music.

Section V – Uniforms

A. **Care of Uniform:** Uniforms should always be clean and neatly ironed for performances. Students not dressed in the appropriate uniform in a clean, pressed condition may not perform.

B. **Student Provided Uniform Parts:** During the concert season, students will purchase a uniform through the uniform chairperson. With proper sizing and care, it is our intention that this uniform will last students through four years of high school orchestra. In addition to the main uniform (dress or shirt and tie combo), each student will need to purchase a pair of black dress shoes. Students opting for the shirt and tie option will also need to buy black socks. T-shirts, sneakers, flip flops, crocks, etc. are not to be worn as concert dress. See the director well in advance of performance if you have questions about a uniform item.

C. **Cost of Uniform:** The cost of the shirt, tie and dress pant combo is \$45.70 The cost of the dress is \$60.20 Dresses size 20 + are an additional \$10. Girls not wishing to wear the dress may choose the shirt, tie and dress pant combo. As with anything involving money, any students needing financial assistance should contact the director and assistance will be provided. Financial need should never stand in the way of student involvement in the orchestra.

D. **Uniform fittings:** Fittings will be organized by the uniform chairperson at the start of each school year with all uniforms arriving in advance of the December concert.

Section VI – Discipline:

1. There is absolutely no use or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco when in the company of the orchestra, in or out of uniform. **School policy will be followed if an infraction is committed. STUDENTS MAY BE DISMISSED FROM THE ORCHESTRA.** In addition, students may be kept from taking part of other orchestra activities if an infraction is committed. The school administration, along with directors, may determine special conditions for each student who wishes to return to the ensemble after being dismissed.
2. There will be no chewing gum while the orchestra is operating.
3. Promptness at rehearsals and performances is absolutely necessary.
4. **All school rules apply.**
5. Minor discipline problems (talking, gum, etc.) will be handled by the following:

First infraction: verbal warning

Second infraction: conference with the director

Third infraction: parents contacted

Fourth infraction: conference with parent, student, director, and possibly an administrator.

*Note – Remember that use of electronic devices will result in confiscation without warning and a parent contact. Leave the electronics at home!

Major Problems: Fighting, drugs, etc. will be handled according to the policy of the school.

Section VII – Orchestra Boosters

All orchestra parents automatically become members of the Dexter Orchestra Boosters. Each member should urge their parents to attend the booster meetings. This group supports the activities of our ensemble, which cannot function to its greatest advantage without parental involvement. See the orchestra web page for meeting information.

Section VIII – School Instrument Usage:

Any student who uses a school instrument must be responsible for the care of it. Damage due to student carelessness will be charged to the student. The parent's signature presented here (in this handbook) will be considered legally binding and no instrument contract will be used.

Section IX – School Lockers and Usage:

All students with small instruments (e.g. violin, viola) will be assigned a locker and lock for stowing instruments. The locker will be located within the orchestra room. Most students will be required to share a locker due to space limitations. During the school day all instruments and personal items are required to be locked in lockers to maintain security and cleanliness in the orchestra room. Items left out in the room will be confiscated and/or thrown out after a warning from the director. It is each student's responsibility to lock their locker. Any student who does not lock the locker is responsible and liable for any loss. This is even more important when sharing a locker. Students that lose their locks during the school year are required to pay for their replacement. If the locker is shared, both students will split the cost.

Section X – Private lessons:

Private lessons are expected of all chamber orchestra members. Students will be performing at solo and ensemble and performing works from the professional repertoire. Chances for student success are greatly increased with one on one tutelage. Members needing to find a teacher should feel free to contact the director for recommendations. Several private tutors teach after school in the Dexter High School for student convenience. It is understood that not all families are in a position to provide private lessons for their child. In this case, the director should be contacted and financial sponsorship will be sought. If a chamber student opts to not take private lessons, the director will provide an alternative assignment to make up the lesson credit. The director must be made aware of this need in writing (letter or email) during the first 3

weeks of each semester in order to provide opportunity for full credit. Students that wait longer will be able to receive a proportional amount of make-up credit. No student will be denied an opportunity to play in chamber orchestra because of their private lesson situation.

Chamber Orchestra Course Syllabus

Course Title: Chamber Orchestra
Semester or Year: Yearlong Course
Required or Elective: Elective
Grade Level(s): 9, 10, 11, 12
NCAA Approved: NA

Prerequisites: Advanced skills on a stringed instrument, consent of the director, placement by audition.

Text(s) & Material(s): Students will need to be fitted for proper uniform. Students need to have an instrument and a pencil. Music will be provided and will be kept by the student. Please see the orchestra handbook for further informations.

Course Objectives: This class is designed to train the advanced string player in proper performance and rehearsal techniques and to develop their potential through the rehearsal and performance of quality string orchestra literature appropriate to their level of development. Musical, historical, and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied appropriately to each piece of music. Through practice and performance, the student will develop self-discipline, responsibility, poise, confidence, the ability to work with others, and pride in personal and group accomplishment.

Summary of Course: Chamber Orchestra is a performance ensemble class. Most class activities revolve around rehearsal of the orchestra on selected repertoire.

Calendar: Refer for the orchestra calendar for specific performance dates. This can be found on the orchestra website or posted in the classroom. Additionally there is typically one performance test per concert as well as monthly practice slips.

Assessment Tools: Students are assessed mostly through performance tests and concert participation. Performance tests are given in a variety of environments (i.e. individually for the teacher, with their section, via recordings, etc.)

Grading Scale:

93-100% = A	67-69% = D+
90-92% = A-	63-66% = D
	60-62% = D-
87-89% = B+	
83-86% = B	0-59% = E
80-82% = B-	
	Percentages round up to the nearest whole number.
77-79% = C+	
73-76% = C	
70-72% = C-	

Semester Grade Determinants: Class assessment is based on the following categories:

Performance Participation

Playing Tests

Daily rehearsal participation and preparedness

Other (practice slips, written work, etc)

Concert Orchestra Policies & Procedures

For a detailed list of rules and procedures, please read the orchestra handbook located on the orchestra website.