

Orchestra Rules and Procedures

Rules

1. Always show respect to the teacher, other students, school property, and the general learning environment.
2. Follow directions the first time.
3. Talk and play your instrument only at appropriate times.
4. Arrive to class **READY** with pencil sharpened and **SHORT** fingernails before the bell rings and be in your seat with instrument and all materials ready to tune when the tardy bell rings. (It is necessary to keep the fingernails short in order to play a stringed instrument successfully and is a requirement in this course.)
5. Do not get out of your seat unless you have permission to do so and keep hands, feet and supplies to yourself. Do not touch the instruments or materials of others.
6. No eating, drinking, or chewing anything in the orchestra hall and during any rehearsal, concert, field trip or event.
7. Follow all rules from the Student Code of Conduct.

These rules can be summed up by **RESPECT** (of all people and property, the composers and music, and the Durham general school rules) and **WISE USE OF CLASS LEARNING TIME**. (Be ready, be positive, be quiet when appropriate, don't make the teacher wait on you to start the music, stop when the conductor stops, shadow bow during tuning, etc.)

Consequences for most infractions

1. Warning
2. Detention (please see Durham MS detention policy for details)
3. Parent Contact
4. Office Referral

The school has an excellent set of consequences detailed in the behavior pyramid. The consequences included in this section are a direct reflection of school policy. The following are examples of situations in which a warning would be skipped:

- Failure to have supplies and be ready to tune when the bell rings
- Failure to return notes sent home for signatures if not returned by the third day **IN CLASS**.

Detentions will be served after school from Monday through Thursday in the place assigned by the student's core (team) teachers. In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, some severe misbehaviors including, but not limited to, insubordination, disrespect to school personnel, and bullying, harassment, or intimidation of others, will result in an office referral on the first offense. It is the student's responsibility to ask for a different detention day if there is a school-related conflict at the detention time on a particular day. This must be done at the time of the offense.

Rehearsal Guidelines

1. Bring sharpened pencil, paper, your assigned orchestra binder, method book, and instrument to class every day. **This is a part of your participation grade.**
2. Upper strings must have their shoulder rest. This is part of your participation grade.
3. Sharpen pencils, throw away trash, and **USE THE BATHROOM BEFORE CLASS.**
4. When an adult moves to the front of the class, move to the ready position.
5. Study your part quietly, shadow bowing and fingering while the director works with another section. **DO NOT TALK, PLUCK OR INTERRUPT THE FOCUS OF THE REHEARSAL.** Do not “just sit” if the teacher is working with another section – use your time to actively study the music and shadow bow.
6. Start when the conductor starts and stop when the conductor stops.
7. Be quick to follow directions and be cheerful when corrected. We are here to help!
8. Raise your hand if you need to ask a question.
9. Only instruments and music should be in your orchestra cubby. Do not leave purses, clothes or other items in the orchestra hall when you are not in the room. These will be sent to the lost and found in the office.
10. Attend all before or after school rehearsals. Rehearsals are curricular and **ARE** graded.
11. Help with chairs, stands and other small tasks when asked to do so by the director.
12. Turn in practice charts and other papers on time.
13. If you are absent, it is **YOUR** responsibility to ask the teacher if there is any work to be made up. Extra copies of practice charts are always out and available.

Uniform Requirements

Uniforms are worn for all performances. The \$22 supply fee (due on Friday, Sept. 11th) provides you with a Durham Orchestra t-shirt that is required for informal concerts.

Informal concert uniforms: Orchestra t-shirt, blue jeans or denim skirts which comply with the school dress code.

Formal concert uniforms:

Guys: Black pants
White, long sleeved, button down shirt, tucked in
Black dress socks and shoes
Classy tie of any color
Orchestra music binder
No jewelry except watches

Girls: Black, ankle-length skirt
(or pants for cello and bass players)
White, dressy blouse
(approved by directors)
Black stockings and shoes
Black hair accessories
Orchestra music binder
No jewelry except watches
and tiny (stud) earrings

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FIRST CONCERT TO PURCHASE YOUR UNIFORM!