

Dorman High School Orchestras

2010-2011

Welcome to the Dorman High School Orchestras. Participation in the District 6 Orchestra program is not required. Therefore, it should be considered a privilege to participate. Please read over the following information so that you have a better understanding of the requirements of our high school program and of the program's expectations and policies.

Student Responsibilities and Conduct Expectations:

It is our goal to produce an outstanding orchestra. It is also our belief that students learn more and take more pride in an activity when they develop better self-discipline, responsibility, and knowledge. To produce an outstanding orchestra requires that each student accept certain responsibilities.

All students are to conduct themselves properly at all times. Conduct of an orchestra student reflects not only on himself/herself, but also on all Orchestra students, the school, and the community. Each student is required to follow the expectations listed below. Any behavior, which is not conducive to good citizenship, may result in dismissal from the orchestra program.

The following rules should be followed at all times.

1. Cooperate with your teacher and classmates. Common courtesy and use of mature conduct is expected at all times.
2. Respect the rights and property of others. Have a positive attitude during class. Remember that everything you do affects everyone else in the class.
3. Carry out your student responsibilities. Bring all materials to every class, and unpack immediately once you arrive in class.
4. Follow school rules and policies as outlined in the District Discipline Code.
(Reminder: Never bring food, drinks, GUM, candy into the orchestra room without permission. Having these can result in detention and will result in loss of participation points.)

Consequences may be chosen from the following:

1. Verbal warnings
2. Loss of participation points
3. Teacher detentions
4. ISS and parent contact
5. Referral to administration.

Commitment and Attendance:

In addition to the musical goals, a purpose of this program is to instill students with a sense of commitment and responsibility. Music groups possess characteristics of both academic classes and sports teams. The orchestra has concepts and skills that are learned through a definite curriculum then practiced and perfected through both class activities and at home practice. The success of an orchestra also depends on all individuals performing their parts and relating with other members in a cooperative and supportive team spirit.

An orchestra performs at optimum with all members present. Orchestra members are required to participate in their daily class as well as to attend all after school rehearsals and performances. Those who must miss an after school rehearsal, activity, or performance should consult with the director WELL IN ADVANCE of the function. Students excused from an orchestra rehearsal, activity or concert will be required to complete an alternate assignment. Failure to attend a rehearsal, activity, or performance without prior permission or good cause (unexcused) may result in a failing grade and suspension from future activities.

Rehearsals are held daily as part of the orchestra class. Satisfactory school attendance, orchestra class participation, concert attendance, and adherence to all school rules is expected before students will be allowed to participate in field trips. Additional rehearsals or sectionals to prepare for concerts and/or competitions may also be held. These additional rehearsals will be announced at least one week in advance.

Equipment and Materials:

In addition to their instruments, students are expected to provide the following: mute, ROSIN, KUN **SHOULDER REST (violin & viola)**, ROCK STOPS or CELLO STRAPS (cello & bass), **music stand and metronome**. The music stand and metronome are for at home practice and are expected at the high school level. For those students that do not have a shoulder rest (approximately \$27.00) and/or metronome (approximately \$15.00), the school will order these items for purchase by parents. **THESE items are REQUIRED.**

Personal instruments should be **maintained in good playing condition**. The level of instrument maintenance affects the sound of a string instrument. **All bows should be re-haired annually.** *Violins and violas should have a new set of strings annually* and cellos should replace strings every two years. Supplies are available at the local music stores. Please consult with a string teacher if you are interested in upgrading your instrument or have questions about the maintenance on your instrument.

Students using school owned equipment are financially responsible for equipment and/or materials checked out to him/her for their personal use. Damages caused by fire, theft, accident, or abuse will be charged to the student. Those using a school instrument for class must complete a "String Class Instrument Use Agreement" and pay their fee. Those renting a school instrument for home and concert use, must fill out a "Rental Agreement" and pay their rent before an instrument is taken home.

*****Freshmen** will need their **Essential Techniques** book from 8th grade and will **need to purchase an Advanced Technique book by Monday, August 23rd**. Books are available from our local music stores. Concert, Philharmonic, and Symphony members will need to use the **Advanced Technique** book that they purchased in 9th grade. If any of these required books have been lost, students are expected to replace their copy to be prepared for class.

Concert Dress:

Concerts are "formal" events and all participants are expected to present themselves in a professional manner. This presentation, in addition to playing and behavior, includes a uniform appearance. The following is the performance dress guideline:

Freshmen:

- Gentlemen: Black pants, black socks, black shoes, white shirt with a long tie.
- Ladies: Long black formal gown with long sleeves (order form included at the back of this handbook) **Black** closed toe shoes (**no flip flops** or open toe sandals), dark hose.

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors:

- Gentlemen: Black Tuxedo, tuxedo shirt, black shoes, black socks, bow tie, cummerbund (school tux rental form included at the back of this handbook)
- Ladies: Long black formal gown with long sleeves **Black** closed toe shoes (**no flip flops** or open toe sandals), dark hose. If a gown was not purchased in 9th grade, they may be purchased in 10th or rented. (The order form is included at the back of this handbook)

Orchestra Fees:

- Instrumental Rental:\$150.00/year
 - Bass players will be assessed \$150.00 for the first instrument rented and the second instrument will be \$50.00 if a second instrument is available)
- Class use of cellos \$50.00/year
- Tuxedo (tux shirt, shoes, and bow tie are to be provided by student, 10-12 men only)...\$45.00/year
- Gown Rental (limited stock) grades 9-12\$45.00/year
 - Ladies are asked to purchase their gown. Gowns must be black, floor length, long sleeve and formal. The cost of gowns available for purchase through the school range in cost from \$70-90. Ladies should also purchase dressy black shoes and dark hose to be worn with the gown (no flip flops or open toe sandals).

NOTE: All rented tuxedos MUST be returned in a dry cleaning bag with the receipt and name stapled to the bag. Gowns are washable and should be washed before they are returned. Ladies, your name should be stapled to the hanger.

Grades:

Dorman Orchestras are performance-based courses. Participation in concerts or festivals is considered mandatory. Concerts are announced as far in advance as possible. Occasionally there may be conflicts with other school activities. These conflicts are to be resolved by the sponsors. The first scheduled event should be considered as having priority.

Practice at home is expected to be a daily assignment. Grades will be determined by the following criteria:

Dorman Freshmen Orchestra (9) Grading:

- 30% Daily Grades (see list below)
 - 30% Performances, After-School Rehearsals, Playing Tests, Auditions
 - 15% Mastery Skills (scales, rhythms, specific technical excerpts)
 - 15% Written class work (theory, music history, etc.)
 - 10% Homework (practice cards)
- (Written work should be turned in by the student; parent emails of work will not be accepted.)*

Dorman High School (10-12) Grading:

- 60% Major Grades
 - Concerts, Festivals, Competitions
 - Recorded and/or live playing tests
 - After school rehearsals
- 30% Daily Grades are taken during rehearsals. Performance techniques are also considered on playing tests and auditions.
 - Daily grades will consist of a combination of the following:
 - Ready to play and tuning
 - Music & material
 - Correct Playing Posture throughout rehearsal
 - Bow technique
 - Daily Practice
 - **Correct fingernail length** (Acrylic nails are **not appropriate** for performing on a string instrument. Students will be asked to remove the nails at their own expense. Save your money and your grade, **do not** put them on during the school year!!! ☹)
 - Daily participation - lack of participation or less than satisfactory participation, (talking, chewing gum, eating, drinking, or any activity which results in not staying on task during rehearsal), will result in a lower grade.
- 10% Written Work

******Concerts will be worth two tests grades at DFC.** One test grade will be for participation which will include attendance, arriving on time, and correct concert dress. The second test grade will be for concert etiquette. Points will be deducted for the following: gum chewing, talking, text messaging or any cell phone use, on or *off stage*. Rehearsals will be worth one test grade with ½ for attendance, ½ for rehearsal etiquette.

Semester Exams will be given at both DFC and DHS. Students will perform a playing test that may include orchestra literature, technical materials covered in class, and sight-reading. Written work may also be included in the exam. Students must pass both the nine-week grading period and the semester exam to stay in the orchestra program. Extra Credit: Students may receive extra credit through attendance at concerts, participation in outside performances, or through teacher-approved activities and/or projects. Consult with your director for clarification.

Honors Credit:

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the Dorman SYMPHONY are eligible for one semester of Honors credit each year for up to a total of 2 credits during high school. To receive the credit, students must sign a "Form of Intent" at the beginning of the semester and complete the honor credit point requirements. Upon request, students will be given this information.

Lockers:

The following will be expected of all orchestra members:

1. All instruments are to be put away inside their cases and into the assigned locker.
2. Lockers are to be locked at all times.
3. Students will be charged for lost locks (this includes shared lockers).
4. **No food or drinks are to be put in lockers at any time.**

Awards:

Awards will be presented to orchestra students based on a point system for participation and service. Points will be awarded for participation in the following activities:

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|----------------------------|--|
| Chamber | 1 point/semester |
| Quartets/Quintets | 1 point/semester |
| Region Orchestra Auditions | 3 points |
| Participation in Region | 2 points |
| All State Auditions | 4 points |
| Participation in All-State | 4 points (first HS year participants will receive a letter if they have not already achieved a letter. The "Orchestra Friends" will pay a portion towards a letter jacket if a student desires one.) |
| Solo (Superior rating) | 3 points |
| Ensemble (Superior rating) | 2 points |
| Senior Year | 8 points |
| Orchestra Participation | 1 point/semester (satisfactory school attendance required) |
| Volunteer Orchestra Work | teacher discretion |

A total of 13 points are required to earn a DHS Orchestra Letter. Points may *not* be used to receive an additional letter after the first has been achieved. Bars may be earned each year for additional points. Points may be carried over to the next year. One bar may be earned for every 10 points. Students that have achieved a letter in another activity may opt for an instrument emblem that can be attached to the letter. *A large plaque will be awarded to seniors who have participated in orchestra all 8 semesters of their high school career. Those seniors with fewer semesters will receive a smaller plaque.*

Home Practice:

Because orchestra is an ensemble class, the lack of participation by one student affects all other students in the class. To be a contributing member of orchestra, you are required to practice. Difficult measures, lines, or passages must be carefully analyzed then slowly, at first, drilled until it is learned. Playing entire pieces through without practicing them carefully is a waste of your time. You will play as well as you practice and the better you practice, the better you and our orchestra will sound. Part of each student's grade will include proof of practice (orchestra homework). ***A private lesson or participation in an outside orchestra (PYO, CYS) is not to be considered individual practice time, but may count as extra credit.*** A computer software program called "Smart Music" is available for student use. Students will be given additional information by their teachers so that interested students may sign up online to be able to access it from home.

Private Lessons:

All orchestra members are encouraged to study privately. Many students experience tremendous growth in both maturity and in playing ability as a result of private lessons. It comes, as no surprise that students who seek advanced opportunities will in all likelihood realize greater success. Private lessons will enhance student progress over and beyond the regular class work. Lessons are available from local teachers and Converse Pre-College. Students interested in additional study during the summer months are encouraged to attend a music camp. Camp information will be available from your director second semester.

Fund Raising:

The *District Six Orchestra Friends* sponsor several fund raising activities to assist students in raising funds for their field trips. Dorman Freshman will attend the Carowinds Music Festival and Dorman 10-12 students have one major overnight field trip each year. Profits from their efforts go into an individual account that can be used for the current year's trip or transferred to the next year. Our fundraisers for the 9-12 grades will include Direct Donations, Cake & Crescendos, and a possible catalog sale. All fundraising activities are optional. *Orchestra Friends* also sells t-shirts, magnets, and accepts donations that they use to assist our students. Our first fundraiser, direct donations, will run the first month of school.

Upstate East Region and All-State Orchestra Auditions:

Upstate East Region Auditions are recommended for those studying privately and for students that would like an additional challenge. Auditioning for Region is a valuable learning experience. While preparing a solo, students increase their technique and performance level. Acceptance into the region orchestra gives students the opportunity to perform with the finest string students in our area, to work with an experienced guest conductor, and to be considered for the All-State orchestra.

Region Auditions will be held on Saturday, October 2nd at Dorman High School. The application fee is \$5.00, payable to Dorman High School. The **deadline for the fee is Friday, August 27th.** Live auditions for All State will be held in January. Audition fees will be collected in November for those that qualify. *Musical excerpts and audition requirements are available on the following website: www.scorchestra.net*

Region 1 (Upstate East):

The Region event will be held on November 12-13, 2010 in Rock Hill, SC. Region includes both a Junior and Senior String Orchestra. Participation in Region is required to be considered for the All-State Orchestra. ***Costs associated with participation in this year's Region Weekend will include meals, transportation, and hotel. Based on previous Rock Hill Regions, fees for the hotel and transportation will be approximately \$85/student. In addition, Students will be responsible for one lunch and one dinner (The orchestra department will continue to pay the registration fee).***

All State Orchestra:

Live auditions for the All State Orchestra will be January 8, 2011 (inclement weather date 1/15/10) in Columbia. Students will need to provide their own transportation to Columbia for this audition. The All-State Orchestra Weekend will be held on February 25-27, 2011 in Clemson. DHS will transport students on Friday and Saturday. Parents will be required to provide transportation on Sunday. We are not planning to stay overnight. *Students will be responsible for meal costs and transportation to the rehearsals. (Registration for All State will continue to be paid by the orchestra department)*

SC Music Educators Association sponsors the Region and All-State Events. Their rules governing these events state, *"any student who has been accepted into the orchestra must participate. Failure to do so will mean forfeiture of his right to participate in Orchestra Division activities for one year, illness and family emergency excepted."* Please consider this carefully before you audition.

Solo and Ensemble Festival:

The SC Solo and Ensemble Festival will be held on April 29th and 30th at Spartanburg High School. Application fees are \$5.00 per person for each event. The preparation and performance of a solo and/or small ensemble gives students the opportunity to further challenge their technique and performance skills. Dorman students performing solos must be accompanied at the high school level. Accompanists will be available through Dorman for a fee of \$15.00. Sign up and fees for Solo and Ensemble will be due in February but may be paid earlier.

Dorman Orchestra Concert and Activity Dates

2010-2011

August

13 Orchestra Staff Meeting 3:00-4:00 p.m.

September

11 SCMEA (Music) Meetings, Columbia
20-21 Mark Wood Clinic at Byrnes HS (tentative)
29 Concerto Auditions after school

October

02 Region Orchestra Auditions @ DHS
04 Chorus/Symphony Rehearsal 4-8 p.m. Twichell Auditorium
05 Chorus/Symphony Concert 7:30 p.m. Twichell Auditorium
25 DHS Symphony Recital 7:30 p.m. DHS Orchestra Room
26 DHS Philharmonic/DFC Chamber Recital 7:00 p.m. DHS Orchestra Room

November

12-13 Region Orchestra, Rock Hill
22 Cake and Crescendos, 7:00-8:30 DHS Cafeteria
30 Symphony Ensembles perform at Dicken's of a Christmas

December

06 DHS/DFC Winter Concert Rehearsal, 4-8 p.m. Location, TBA
07 DHS/DFC Winter Concert 7:00 p.m. Location, TBA

January

08 All State Orchestra Auditions, all day @ USC, Columbia

February

04-06 SCMEA In-Service Conference, Charleston
21 Symphony Concerto Dress Rehearsal 4-7 p.m. Location TBA
22 Symphony Concerto Concert 7:30 p.m. Location: TBA
25-27 All State Orchestra Weekend, Clemson University

March

10 String Fling 7:00 p.m. grades 5-12 @ DHS Arena
23-27 Symphony Travels to NYC – National Orchestra Cup (Tentative)
23-25 SCMEA Concert Festival, Chapman High School

April

20 DHS Orchestra Rehearsal 4-7:00 p.m. Twichell Auditorium
21 DHS Spring Orchestra Concert 7:30 p.m. Twichell Auditorium
25 DFC Orchestra Spring Concert
29-30 SCMEA – SC Orchestra Solo and Ensemble Festival, Spartanburg HS

May

13 DHS/DFC Orchestra Banquet 6:30-8:30 DHS Cafeteria
?? DHS Graduation (Symphony Ensemble will play)

Notifying the Directors:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--|
| Susan L. Baier | 342-8943 | baiersl@spart6.org |
| Ann Buttimer | 582-3479 | buttiam@spart6.org |
| Sharon Doyle | 582-4347 | doyles@spart6.org |
| Christian A. Williams | 582-4347 | williaca@spart6.org |

Forms

Please sign and return the medical form and mandatory attendance agreement. If you are interested in donating to the District Six Orchestra Friends, purchasing a t-shirt, purchasing a gown or renting a tuxedo, please send in those forms as well. **All fees and forms are due FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2010.** Fees include Region Orchestra Audition fee, Instrument Rentals, Tuxedo Rental, Gown Rental, and t-shirt purchases. Due to fitting of DFC Gowns, DFC Gown purchase fee is due September 10th.

Mandatory Attendance and Handbook Agreement
2010-2011

We understand that our child, as a member of the Spartanburg District 6 Orchestra Program, is required to attend all special rehearsals, performances and dress rehearsals. Attendance is mandatory except in circumstances of emergency, sickness, or prior arrangement with the director.

Unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for that particular concert, seriously jeopardizing a passing grade in orchestra for that semester.

We have read and agree to follow the guidelines as described in the orchestra handbook.

Student's Name (please print)

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I have signed the district 6 media release form. yes no

(The DFC & DHS orchestra faculty encourages you to sign up for the on-line service, "Power Schools" through the school's guidance department.)