

Anderson High School



Orchestra Handbook 2017-18

Orchestra class is held one period per day for senior high school students. Any class missed must be excused by the school administration and the director. Unexcused absences will be reported to school administration. The students will be subject to disciplinary action governed by the school's code of conduct. There will be a few extra rehearsals scheduled outside of class time during the school year. Attendance is required for all orchestra students at these rehearsals and these rehearsals will be considered part of the class participation points for the quarter.

Performance Attendance

Attendance is required for all performances. A student **MAY** be excused (pending director approval) from a performance for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (note is required from a doctor and/or parent).
2. Scheduling conflicts with a school sponsored event (must have prior approval from the orchestra director and at least two week notice should be afforded).

MAKE-UP WORK: EXCUSED ABSENCE

An assignment(s) to make-up a performance credit may be offered if the student provides the appropriate documentation and the director has determined that the absence qualifies as an EXCUSED ABSENCE. The make-up assignment(s) is subject to the discretion of the conductor and should be completed within one week of the excused absence.

MAKE-UP WORK: UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

No assignment(s) will be offered for a student with an unexcused absence from a concert performance.

Evaluation

The student's evaluation will be based on three criteria: Daily participation, demonstration of musical skills and attendance at all scheduled concerts.

Class Participation points (200):

Students receive Participation Points for the following:

1. Setting-up quickly at the beginning of the class.
2. Working during a rehearsal.
3. Cooperating with the conductor and classmates
4. Having an instrument for each class.

Demonstration of musical skills (300)

Three hundred points will be awarded for Demonstrating Musical Skills each quarter. This includes, but is not limited to: The ability to perform specific pieces of music, scales, rhythmic and technical studies. Demonstration of these skills will be facilitated by written and playing exams.

Attendance at scheduled concerts (500)

Since we are a performing ensemble, it only makes sense that your grade is highly dependent on Concert Participation. Worth 500 points alone, failure to attend will seriously impact your grade in this course.

Points earned per quarter:

40 days per grading period/ times 5 points per day =	200 points per quarter
Demonstrating Musical Skills =	300 points per quarter
Attendance at all scheduled performances =	500 points per quarter
<u>Total</u>	<u>1000 points per quarter</u>

Grading Scale

A= 1000-900 pts.

B= 899-800 pts.

C= 799-700 pts.

D= 699-600 pts.

F= 599- 0 pts.

**An unexcused absence from a scheduled concert will result in the loss of 500 points.*

Member Requirements

The conductor's goal is to make each rehearsal a meaningful experience for all involved. While performances often provide the most memorable highlights of the year, our rehearsals reveal most about the character of our ensembles – our musical maturity, dedication and our respect for one another while working together intensively.

Extraordinary responsibility is placed on each musician for preparation of individual parts. Musicians are expected to diligently prepare for rehearsal and to arrive ready to contribute their best talent to the ensemble.

It is very important that both members and parents be familiar with and understands the following policies. Failure to observe these policies may result in seat reassignment, denial of concert participation or dismissal from the orchestra.

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1. **Rehearsal Etiquette:** The most important thing you will do in rehearsal is play your instrument. Second to that, your job is to listen. When you are not playing, you should listen to the comments the conductor is making to you (and marking your music accordingly). If you make requested changes to your part without the conductor asking, much rehearsal time can be saved.
 2. **Practice vs. Rehearsal:** Practice is the time spent at home by each individual player, perfecting notes, pitch, rhythms, dynamics, and phrasing. Rehearsal is a time when all the musicians play together to improve balance, precision, intonation, style, and interpretation. If you have not practiced, rehearsal time must be spent teaching what should have been accomplished at home. This can be very frustrating to those who have practiced.
 3. **Private Study:** All members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instruments. Your director will be happy to provide recommendations for private lesson teachers in the area.
 4. **Equipment:** Each musician is responsible for maintaining his/her instrument in top performing condition. Rosin, mutes, shoulder rests etc.. should be brought to each rehearsal. Every musician is expected to come to rehearsal *with a #2 pencil and eraser*. There will be many musical suggestions and modifications to the music through the course of every rehearsal. Please mark them into your parts.

Concert Dress

Concert dress is designated for each performance on the master calendar in this handbook. Concert dress will be either Formal or Informal. Formal dress for ladies is the black gown and for the men it is the black tuxedo. No additions or alternations may be made to the official concert dress. Informal Concert Dress will be announced on a per concert basis as applicable.

Note:

Any member who is not in compliance with the dress code, as determined by the conductor, he or she will not be permitted to participate in said performance and will not be afforded the opportunity to make up the performance credit.

Contact:

Mr. James Ledbetter: jamesledbetter@foresthills.edu

PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT

I have read the contents of the Orchestra Handbook and consent to its enforcement. My child recognizes his/her responsibility to the orchestra program and promises to follow through to the best of their ability.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parents Name (print) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

This form is due by Thursday, August 24

