



Dodgen MS Music Department

Ms. Ashley Culley, Orchestra Director
Ms. Jessie Lewis, Orchestra Assistant
Mr. John Jeffres, Band Director
Mr. Brian Westpahl, Band Assistant
Mr. Chris Whittington, Choral Director
Ms. Chandler Scott, Choral Assistant

Dodgen MS Administration

Dr. Patricia Alford, Principal
Mr. Brad Blackman, Assistant Principal
Mr. Andrew Lorentz, Assistant Principal
Dr. Kim Kranzlein, Assistant Principal

Cobb County Schools-Fine Arts

Mr. Chris Ferrell, Instrumental Music



DODGEN MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK 2020-2021



**ASHLEY CULLEY AND
JESSIE LEWIS, DIRECTORS**

ORCHESTRA AWARDS

Orchestra students are recognized for their achievement throughout the year. Awards are presented during the last week of school. Below is a list of the awards that will be given. One of the criteria for each award is perfect attendance at all concerts. Attendance at all concerts is expected.

- 🎵 Outstanding Student for 6th, 7th, & 8th grade
- 🎵 Most Improved Players for 6th, 7th & 8th grade
- 🎵 All-State Orchestra Awards

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students are encouraged to take part in private lessons. Lessons will enhance what is learned in school rehearsals and will provide very individualized work for each student. A list of local private teachers is available and can be picked up at school.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parents are an integral part of a strong Orchestra program. Without Parent support, the Orchestra cannot function smoothly. Parents are needed to assist in the following areas: chaperones for trips, videotaping concerts, helping with fund-raisers, photography of our various events/concerts, and help with the G.M.E.A. Orchestra Festival. If you can be of help please make sure to indicate this on the student information sheet found in the back of this handbook

PHILOSOPHY

Music has been identified as both a separate intelligence and a distinct learning style. Music education must be related to the present needs and interests of the students and yet be future-centered so they can function now and in the future as both consumers and producers of music. A well-diversified music program including general music, technology, music theory, composition, listening, music history

and performing skills will make this possible as they participate in the Orchestra program.

GOALS

The students will gain a musical sensitivity while performing within an ensemble and as a soloist. The students will also learn music reading skills, music history, music theory, and performance skills on their chosen instrument.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

6th - There is no previous music study necessary for this course. Students are required to rent / buy their own instruments for practice / rehearsal and will be given a list of materials for the course. Basics of string instrument performance in a group and in solo situations will be studied. There are 3 performances per year.

7th - Prerequisite: one to two years of string instrument study privately and/or in a school orchestra program. Second-year performers will develop and continue the study of the bow and intonation techniques. There are four performances per year at school. Extracurricular and audition opportunities are available.

8th - Prerequisite: two years of string instrument study privately and/or in a school orchestra program. Students will focus on development and continuation of bow and intonation techniques for the third-year performer. There are five performances per year at school. Extracurricular and audition opportunities are available.

GRADING PROCEDURE

50% Daily Participation and Rehearsal Techniques
Students will receive 100 points on Monday of each week. Points will be deducted for the following:
Missing instrument: 20 points
Missing music: 10 points
Missing Shoulder rest/sponge: 5 points

- Missing rosin: 5 points
- Missing pencil: 5 points
- Lack of attention: 10 points
- 30% Performance tests (completed during class time)
- 20% Written work (theory, quizzes, worksheets and music journal entries)

CONDUCT POLICY

To provide the best possible instruction for your student, discipline will be dealt through the following plan. It is important to encourage positive behavior so every student will have the best possible experience in the classroom.

When class expectations are not met, the following consequences will result:

- 1st Offense: Warning
- 2nd Offense: In class isolation (seat change) and parent contact through email
- 3rd Offense: 30-minute morning detention and parent phone contact
- 4th Offense: Parent Contact and Office referral

* The 4th offense will only be used after all other possibilities and options have been exhausted.

STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Dodgen Orchestra program has many outstanding musicians, and the following are a few ways they are recognized:

GMEA All-State

Every year the Georgia Music Educators Association sponsors the Georgia All-State Orchestra in Athens, GA. Any sixth-, seventh-, or eighth-grader in Georgia is eligible to audition at the district level and if accepted can audition at the state level to advance to being a member of the 2021 Georgia All-State Orchestra. The audition involves scales, sight-reading

and prepared excerpts. Please see the Orchestra calendar for audition dates.

GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra

In March, GMEA sponsors the GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra, which is open to all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. There is an audition in early February, and if accepted, there will be rehearsals and a performance at Sprayberry High School. The audition involves scales and excerpts, and the dates can be found on the orchestra calendar.

GMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival

This is an opportunity for string players to form their own small groups of 2-4 people or perform solo before a judge for a rating and comments. Judges rate each group's performance and give comments and suggestions for improvement. Students performing at Solo & Ensemble Festival are graded numerically and have the opportunity to earn medals.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE & ATTIRE POLICY

Attire: For 6th, 7th and 8th Grade concerts the dress will be:

- ξ Black pants (no shorts or skirts)
- ξ Solid white short sleeved shirt with collar
** *Embroidered white Dodgen Orchestra shirts will be sold at the beginning of the year and can be worn as part of the uniform, but are not required to purchase.*
- ξ Black dress shoes with black socks (NO SNEAKERS)

Attendance: Students work very hard in class to prepare for their concerts to give the best performance possible. The orchestra functions as a team, and each of us depends on every member to be present for concerts. Unless there is a **last-minute** family *emergency*, **students are expected** to be at all concerts. Please bring students to the concerts, and plan to stay

and hear what they have accomplished. **If a student misses a concert, a note is required the day after and will be dealt with on an individual basis.**

ORCHESTRA CALENDAR

The calendar for the 2020-2021 can be found on the orchestra website (www.dodgenorchestra.org). Please put these dates on your calendar immediately! If you need a hard copy of the calendar, please email the directors.

Ashley.culley@cobbk12.org

CONDUCT GRADE RESULTS

Students will receive an (S) in conduct if there are no behavior issues during the nine-week grading period. Students will receive an (N) if they receive classroom detention. Students will receive an (U) if they receive any office referrals or receive three or more classroom detentions. At the end of each nine-week period, the student's accumulation of citations will start new.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

BEFORE CLASS

1. Bring instrument and music to the Orchestra storage room and place them in the appropriate area between 8:45 and 9:05 AM.
2. If you are in the music area for morning practice, you must rehearse. Do not loiter.

DURING CLASS

1. Enter class quickly and quietly. Do not visit with friends on the way to your seat.
2. Go directly to the storage area to get your instrument and music before reporting to your assigned seat.
3. Unpack your instrument at your seat and place the case on the left side of your chair.

4. Be prepared and seated on time. Students should be in their seat with all materials needed for class within one minute of the tardy bell.
5. Follow the directions on the board so you are prepared for class to begin.
6. Be focused and attentive during tuning and class. Absolutely no talking during tuning.
7. If the director is working with another section, silently practice fingerings or bowings.
8. Respect the right of others to learn.
9. Play only when directed to do so.
10. Raise your hand to ask/answer questions or to become involved in teacher directed discussions.
11. Talking and conversation is not acceptable during a rehearsal.
12. Follow verbal and written instructions.
13. At the end of rehearsal, clean off instrument, loosen bow, slide in endpins, and return equipment to their storage area or numbered spot. Please do not visit with friends at this time.
14. Straighten up your area (chair, stand, and trash).
15. Write down any homework assignment or reminders before leaving.
16. Leave the room only after the director has dismissed you.

AFTER CLASS

1. Return at the end of the day to pick up your instrument and music for home practice.
2. Practice as often as possible outside of school rehearsals on all assigned music.

OTHER

1. If an instrument cannot be brought to school due to repairs, a note will need to come to school the day the instrument is unable to be brought.

2. Have all supplies in class every day, including instrument, book, music and PENCIL.

**** Make sure you purchase the correct book for your instrument! (i.e., violin or bass, etc.)**

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

The orchestra room will be open for early practice or for rehearsals from 8:15-8:55 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Before school rehearsal time may be set up with Ms. Culley or Ms. Lewis ahead of time. These times are set aside for anyone who needs individual help or would like extra time on a skill or technique. Any time Ms. Culley or Ms. Lewis are not available for rehearsals, a sign will be posted in front of the room the day or days before.

MATERIALS

Many of these items you may already possess from previous years of performance. Please check their state to make sure they are in working condition.

- ✓ Instrument
- ✓ Shoulder rest (violins and violas)
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Rosin
- ✓ Soft cloth for cleaning
- ✓ Extra Strings
- ✓ A one-subject spiral notebook for Music Journal Entries

✓ **Method Books:**

6th – Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 **and** Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory – Book 1

7th – Essential Elements 2000, Book 2 **and** Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory – Book 2

8th – Habits of a Successful Middle Level String Musician by Christopher Selby and Scott Rush(GIA Publications)



DODGEN MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome, or welcome back, to the exciting world of Orchestra at Dodgen Middle School. This handbook is designed to give you an overview of the Orchestra program at D.M.S. Please read and discuss the rules and policies contained in this handbook. These policies and procedures are designed to provide the best possible musical environment in which to learn music and to perform.

After you have read and discussed these policies, please sign the student information sheet located in the back, and return it along with the syllabus. Please keep this handbook so it may be used as a reference when the need arises. If you have any questions regarding the handbook or your child's progress, please feel free to contact us at 770/ 578-2726 or Ashley.culley@cobbk12.org, and we will return your call or e-mail as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ashley Culley
Orchestra Director

Jessie Lewis
Orchestra Director