

DULUTH HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

*Mrs. Shawn Morton and Dr. Peter Lemonds, Directors Office: 770 232-3393 Fax: 770 232-3332
Shawn_Morton@gwinnett.k12.ga.us Peter_Lemonds@gwinnett.k12.ga.us*

August 5, 2015

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome new and returning students and parents! As we begin a new school year, we want to thank you, parents, for your continued support in helping our orchestra students achieve at the highest level. Students, thank you for the effort and energy you give to our orchestra as we experience the joy of learning and making music together.

With your commitment to playing and practicing a string instrument in the orchestra, you are helping the Duluth High School Orchestra continue its tradition of excellence.

Evidence continues to prove that the study of music fulfills a vital component in the growth and education of every child. The process of learning music helps to develop the artistic mind by strengthening creative abilities in all young people.

Our goal is to help you learn the skills of playing a string instrument. Additionally, you will learn how to practice and express yourselves through music.

Music is the gateway to lifelong learning and much more. Music teaches a habit of excellence and transforms students in a way that is unique. Please share these positive aspects of your student's experience in the Duluth Orchestra with others in the community.

Please read the handbook (both parents and students), sign the last page front and back (contract and media release), and return before Thursday, August 20th. Most questions about our policies and procedures can be answered in this handbook. However, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or if we can help in any way. All of our forms, deadlines, calendars, announcements and information about upcoming events can be found on our orchestra website at www.duluthorchestra.org. In addition, an extra copy of the fee sheet and an **updated** calendar can be found in the back of this handbook.

Have a great year!

Dr. Lemonds & Mrs. Morton

DULUTH HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA CLASSES

- **Concert Orchestra-(Intermediate Orchestra)**

Open to any student with three or more years of class instruction. Most freshman will be placed in this orchestra. Students will build their technique working towards mastery of: three octave scales, upper positions, vibrato, tone, and intonation. Performs Level III and IV music in concerts.

- **Symphonic/Sinfonia Orchestra (Intermediate Instrumental Ensemble)**

Open to any student who has completed one year of concert orchestra or by teacher recommendation. Most upper classmen will be placed in these orchestras. Students will build their technique working towards mastery of: three octave scales, upper positions, vibrato, tone, and intonation. Performs Level IV music in concerts.

- **Philharmonic Orchestra (Advanced Orchestra)**

Open to any student by audition in the spring of each year. Students will build their technique working towards mastery of: three octave scales, upper positions, vibrato, tone, and intonation. Performs Level IV and V music in concerts. Private lessons are strongly recommended. Students are strongly encouraged to own an advanced step-up instrument and bow and keep it maintained with professional quality strings and bows re-haired as needed.

- **Chamber Ensemble (Mastery Ensemble)**

Open to any student by audition in the spring of each year. Students will build their technique working towards mastery of: three octave scales, upper positions, vibrato, tone, and intonation. Performs Level VI music in concerts. Students are REQUIRED to take private lessons, audition for all-state (and perform with the all-state orchestra if selected), and play in outside youth orchestras. Students are strongly encouraged to own an advanced student instrument and bow and keep it maintained with professional quality strings and bows re-haired as needed.

COURSE GOALS

- ☐ Mastery of basic, intermediate, and advanced skills/techniques
- ☐ Increase ability to perform higher levels of music repertoire
- ☐ Increase the performance of varied styles and periods of music
- ☐ Mastery of ensemble techniques
- ☐ Increase knowledge of musical terms, composers, and historical periods
- ☐ Increase knowledge of the structure of music
- ☐ Meet or exceed all AKS objectives for high school orchestras in Gwinnett County Schools as well as the National Standards for music education

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- ☐ Perform in concert a varied repertoire of music in an ensemble or as a soloist
- ☐ Perform with correct posture, intonation, rhythm, and expression
- ☐ Read and write music in major and secondary clefs
- ☐ Read and perform music vocabulary
- ☐ Understand historical musical periods and its relationship to repertoire and style
- ☐ Self-Evaluate one's own performance and others
- ☐ Identify rhythmic figures and pitches aurally
- ☐ Demonstrate ability to improvise

COURSE METHOD

- ☐ Daily class instruction and guided practice in an ensemble rehearsal format
- ☐ Aural skills development through ear to hand training exercises and improvisation
- ☐ Playing skills development through performance of repertoire
- ☐ Increase knowledge of music history and theory through lecture, inquiry and class discussion

COURSE EQUIPMENT

All students must have **each** item below in class every day: (part of the daily rehearsal grade)

- ☐ Instrument and bow EVERY DAY!
- ☐ Rosin EVERY DAY! (you must supply your own)
- ☐ Pencil EVERY DAY! (you must supply your own)
- ☐ Shoulder Rest (violins/violas) EVERY DAY! (supply your own with name on it)

GRADING SCALE

- ☐ Class Assessments 35% (written tests, playing tests, daily assignments)
- ☐ Summative Assessment 45% (performances, rehearsal competency)
- ☐ Final Exam 20% (10% performance, 10% written)

SEATING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a written seating chart posted. Seats will be assigned by the directors for balance and ensemble needs and will remain the same until the next seating chart. Rotating seating gives everyone the chance to sit with different people and in different parts of the section. In some cases auditions may be held to determine seating.

HOUSEKEEPING & EXPECTATIONS

- ☐ No book bags, cases, books, electronic devices, purses, or homework inside the orchestra set up; put them against the wall. These items interrupt instruction and are safety hazards.
- ☐ Always respect others, their space, and their property.
- ☐ **No gum, food, drink, flavored water, or candy opened or unopened** is allowed in the orchestra room **PERIOD!** All forbidden items mentioned above will be taken up or **thrown away** Plain Water (H₂O) is the only acceptable drink PERIOD! No sweetened waters!!!!!!
- ☐ No cell phones or electronic devices no exceptions! These will be taken up and given to an administrator, per student agenda book. The use of a cell phone during class will result in consequences.
- ☐ Be in the classroom before the bell rings and in your seat, warming up, **three minutes** after the bell rings. This means with music, pencil, instrument, bow rosined, etc. and book bags put away out of the orchestra set-up. We will tune and begin to warm up.
- ☐ All homework and computer assignments should be completed BEFORE coming to class!
- ☐ All violins & violas must be clearly labeled with the students name on the end of the case.
- ☐ Students will use their own instrument. DO NOT BORROW ANOTHER PERSON'S INSTRUMENT!!!!!! This is for liability reasons and to protect other students' property.
- ☐ Fingernails must be kept short to insure correct fingertip position.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE AND SECURITY

While we keep instruments locked up and a watchful eye out during the school day, it is the responsibility of the student to safeguard their instrument. Neither GCPS, Duluth HS, nor the orchestra teachers are liable for damage or theft to your instrument or other personal property. Make sure your instrument is insured, clearly labeled, and that you have a copy of the model and serial number of the instrument. If an instrument goes missing, it the responsibility of the parent or guardian to file a police report and an insurance claim. In addition, please don't bring other students into the orchestra room as it poses a risk to the security of YOUR orchestra room. If you damage another student's instrument, or a school instrument, **you are liable for the repair**. Every orchestra student knows that the instruments are fragile and that care must be exercised to insure no damage is done to anyone else's instrument. It is the responsibility of each student to secure his/her instrument properly and not leave it out or unattended.

PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS

- ☐ **Attendance at all concerts and rehearsals is a required component of the course.** The Gwinnett County School Board recognizes music performance classes as co-curricular, which means the performance assessments will be given at concerts outside the school day.
- ☐ In the event of a schedule conflict, students must return a signed excuse form **TWO WEEKS** in advance of a performance. In case of a family emergency or illness, students must provide a written excuse the **NEXT DAY**. Regardless of the circumstances students will be given a make-up assignment which may either be a written or playing test.
- ☐ Absences due to a job or lack of transportation to the concert are unexcused. Students are expected to arrange alternatives to these conflicts in advance. The orchestra calendar is posted at the beginning of school for the whole year so that students and parents can resolve scheduling conflicts well in advance of the event.
- ☐ Performances are the academic equivalent of exams; however, in music, students not only have to understand the material but also demonstrate it through performing individually and collectively by synchronizing with the ensemble. All performances are required and graded.
- ☐ Sometimes we are asked to give extra performances in the community. Notification for these performances will be given as far in advance as possible.

HOMEWORK

Because orchestra is a performance-based class, the amount of preparation through personal practice affects the performance of the whole class. Practicing at home is the "homework" that student musicians must do in order to advance their own technique, improve the ensemble, and to present polished public performances as a group. Students in Concert, Symphonic, Sinfonia, and Philharmonic are expected to practice their parts. Students in Chamber Ensemble are expected to have their parts learned as quickly as possible. This may take some students longer than others.

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE*

FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE:

Ladies-

- ☐ Black Orchestra Gown (must be hemmed before the fall concert)
- ☐ Black Stockings (no bare legs or toes)
- ☐ Closed Toe Black Dress Shoes- **NO SANDALS or FLIP FLOPS**

Gentlemen-

- ☐ Black Tux Pants
- ☐ Black Tux Jacket
- ☐ White Long Sleeved Wing Collar Tux Shirt
- ☐ Black Bow Tie
- ☐ Black Cummerbund
- ☐ Black Socks and Black Dress Shoes. **NO WHITE SOCKS OR CASUAL FOOTWEAR**

CASUAL CONCERT ATTIRE

All Students-

- ☐ White Orchestra Logo Polo Shirt
- ☐ Black Pants- **no shorts or Capri pants or blue jeans**
- ☐ Black Dress Shoes- **NO FLIP FLOPS OR TENNIS SHOES**

***Students are required to wear the appropriate concert attire in order to perform with the orchestra, if you are not appropriately dressed you will not receive full credit for the performance and may not be allowed to perform.**

STUDENT DUES

The student dues are \$70 per year. These funds are our operating funds and are absolutely essential to the program. Dues are used to purchase music, supplies, awards, fund student scholarships, instruments, music equipment, clinician, instrument repairs, banquet, printing, GMEA LGPE fees, special functions and much more. The music costs for a single concert can run over \$2,000 not including costs for program printing, and music recording. We receive no money from our local school and the money we receive from GCPs covers a very small portion of the budget needed to run a high quality orchestra program. The rest of the monies come directly from these dues. In short, it is absolutely essential that every student contribute their dues. Parents are invited to view the DSOA financial statement at any time by contacting the DSOA treasurer. Students who have not paid their dues will not be eligible for awards, scholarships or fine arts graduation cords. In addition, in order to go on optional orchestra trips (Disney, Europe, etc), students must be current on their dues and fees for the year. **Dues and fees may now be paid by check, money order, cash, PayPal or credit card.** To pay by PayPal or credit card, please go to our website www.duluthorchestra.org and go to fee and uniform orders.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

While Gwinnett County Schools provide the basic materials necessary to operate an orchestra program, the class fund and fund raising activities allow the orchestra to provide every student with an extended and advanced learning experiences. Funds to provide and maintain a superior orchestra program are paramount to its success. The following are the needs funded by the DSOA: scholarships, equipment, concert programs, music supplies, fees for all-state and LGPE, recording, banquet, awards, instrument repair and maintenance, clinicians, and music.

ORCHESTRA TRIPS

The Orchestra takes a trip each year, alternating years between a trip to Europe and a trip in the continental United States. Trip payments for US trips can be made by cash, check, money order or credit card through our website. This year the orchestra will be traveling to England and Scotland. To enroll in the trip, go to eftours.com/1665305DC to register for the trip.

STUDENT-PARENT-TEACHER CONTRACT

Please sign in the places indicated and return to class by:

Thursday, August 20, 2015

As a student in the Duluth High School Orchestra, I have read the handbook/course syllabus and understand and agree to comply with the policies and procedures of Duluth High School Orchestra.

Student Printed Name

Class Period

Student Signature

Date

As a parent(s) of a Duluth High School Orchestra student, I have read the handbook/course syllabus and understand and agree to comply with the policies and procedures listed herein.

Parent Signature

Date



MEDIA RELEASE FORM

CLASS PERIOD _____

I hereby give my consent to all photographs, audio recordings, academic work, and/or video recordings taken of me or my minor child by Gwinnett County Public School staff or their designee. I understand that any such photographs, audio recordings, academic work, and/or video recordings become the property of the local school or district and may be used by the school, district, or others with their consent, for educational, instructional, or promotional purposes determined by the district in broadcast and media formats now existing or created in the future.

Student's Name

(please print)

Class Period

School

Duluth High School

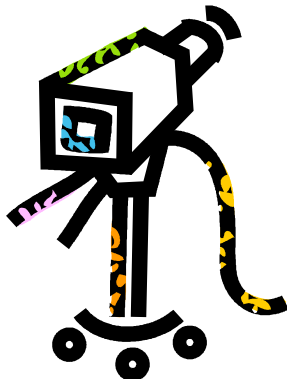
Parent / Guardian's
Name

(please print)

(signature)

Mailing Address

Telephone (home)



Name _____

Bar or letter _____

Accumulate 50 points to receive a letter or service bar

Activity	Points
1. Participation in all required performances & Activities for the year	20
2. Participation in any other Duluth music class (excluding orchestra)	10
3. Participation in a Youth Orchestra	15
4. Participation in ensembles or solos outside of the school regularly	5
5. Participation in Solo and Ensemble Festival	
Superior Rating	6
Excellent Rating	4
6. Summer Music Camp (10 pts per week from previous summer)	10
Name of Camp _____	
7. Peer Tutoring- per student	2
8. All State Orchestra (one category only)	
District Level Audition	4
District and State Level Audition	7
Selected All-State Orchestra and Participation	15
9. Weekly private lesson- per lesson	1
10. Attendance at a classical/pop music concert(director approval)	3
11. Attend summer school for the purpose of continuing in orchestra	20
12. Governor's Honor Program (one category only)	
Audition	5
Selected as Alternate	10
Participant	20
13. Summer Private Lessons from previous summer- per lesson	1
14. Participant in fund raiser- per each fund raiser	5
15. Other service: approved and assigned a point value by Orchestra Directors	
16. Extra performances representing Duluth i.e. wedding, public event, etc	5
17. Participation in a gigging quartet	5
18. Orchestra Officer	5
19. Audition for concerto competition	5
20. Tri-M member	5
21. Elected Tri-M officer	5

Total Points _____

(50 to a letter)

☐

Eligible for letter or service bar

☐

Recommended

☐

Not Recommended

Student Signature _____

Disqualifications

A student may be disqualified from receiving a letter or bar for the following reasons:

1. One unexcused absence from a performance
2. Two unexcused absences from after school rehearsals
3. Two or more disciplinary referrals during one year in orchestra class
4. Any suspension (ISS or OSS) from misconduct in orchestra or an orchestra event
5. Failure to maintain at least an A average in orchestra class for the year
6. Enrolled in Orchestra only 1 semester for the school year

Duluth High School Orchestra

CALENDAR 2015-2016



TBD-To Be Determined

Date	Time	Event	Location
August 2015			
13 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
29 (Sat)	TBD	Kendall/GCYS Auditions	Hull MS
September 2015			
1 (Tues)	All Day	Cow Patty Bingo Kickoff	Orchestra Room
1 (Tues)	6 PM	Orchestra Parent Night (REQUIRED)	DHS Theater
3 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
22 (Tues)	All Day	Cow Patty Bingo Ticket/Money Due	Orchestra Room
25 (Fri)	5:30 PM	National Anthem Night @ DHS Required	DHS Stadium
26 (Sat)	9:00 AM	Duluth Parade Required	Downtown Duluth
October 2015			
1 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
3 (Sat)	1:30-3:30 PM	Cow Patty Bingo, Required	DHS Practice Field
17 (Sat)	All Day	All-State District Auditions (select students)	Brookwood HS
31 (Sat)	5:30 PM	Halloween on the Green (Phil/Chamber students)	Duluth Town Green
November 2015			
5 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
7 (Sat)	9 AM – 4 PM	Solo & Ensemble Festival	Mill Creek HS
12 (Thurs)	6 PM/7:30 PM	Fall Orchestra Concert Required	DHS Auditorium
17 (Tues)	7 PM	Kendall/GCYS Fall Concert	Peachtree Ridge HS
December 2015			
3 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
10 (Thurs)	6 PM/7:30 PM	Orchestra Winter Concert Required	DHS Auditorium
January 2016			
7 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
9 (Sat)	9AM- 4 PM	All-State Final Auditions	Westminster Schools
22 (Fri)	All Day	Philharmonic/Chamber Auditions for 2015-2016	Orchestra Room
February 2016			
4 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
March 2016			
1 (Tues)	6 PM/7:30 PM	Pre-LGPE Concert Required	DHS Auditorium
3-5 (Thurs-Sat)	All Day	All-State Orchestra (selected students)	Athens, GA
10 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
17-19 (Thurs-Sat)	All day	GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation Required	Peachtree Ridge HS
29 (Tues)	7 PM	Kendall/GCPS Spring Concert	Peachtree Ridge HS
April 2016			
1-9 (Fri-Sat)	All Day	Spring Trip to England and Scotland	England/Scotland
14 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
28 (Thurs)	6 PM/7:30 PM	Spring Orchestra Concert Required	DHS Auditorium
May 2016			
5 (Thurs)	5:30 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	TBD
17 (Tues)	6:30 PM	Orchestra Banquet required	Theater/Cafeteria

