

# DULUTH HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

*Mrs. Shawn Morton and Dr. Peter Lemonds, Directors*

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August 5, 2019

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.

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 and aesthetic mind by strengthening creative abilities in all young people, which will help them in their future college, career, and personal lives.

Our parent booster organization is called **(DSOA) Duluth String Orchestra Alliance**. Many of you will want to get involved with this parent group and help enrich your student's experience in orchestra.

Music is the gateway to lifelong learning and much more. Music teaches the 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.

Our orchestra trip this year is to Italy! We will be taking a grand tour of Italy including Rome, Florence, Venice, Capri, Cremona, Sorrento and Pompeii. The trip is optional and is open to ALL Duluth Orchestra students. However, students planning to go on the trip must be current on all dues and fees. You will find more information about our trip in e-class, and you can sign up for the trip by going to [www.eftours.com](http://www.eftours.com) and entering our tour number 2258178DU. The first payment is only \$95!

Please read the handbook (both parents and students), sign the last page FRONT and BACK (contract and media release), and return before Thursday, August 15th. 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](http://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.

Let's have a great year together, Thanks!

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 students are placed in this orchestra. Students will build their technique working towards mastery of two octave scales, upper positions, vibrato, tone, and intonation. Performs Level III music in concerts.

- **Symphonic/Sinfonia Orchestra (Intermediate Advanced Orchestra)**

Open to any student who has completed one year of concert orchestra or by teacher recommendation. Most upper classmen are placed in these orchestras. Students will build their technique working towards mastery of three octave scales, upper positions, vibrato, tone, and intonation. Performs Level III/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 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 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
- 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 and perform rhythmic figures and pitches aurally and visually
- 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)
- Students are encouraged to purchase a tuner and metronome and/or download apps for musical purpose. These devices are necessary during personal practice at home and for tuning at the start of class.

## 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, **CELL PHONES**, electronic devices, purses, or homework inside the orchestra set up; put them against the wall. These items interfere with instruction and are safety hazards.
- Always respect others, their space, and their property.
- No gum, food, drink, flavored water, or candy** allowed in the orchestra room. All forbidden items mentioned above will be taken up or **thrown away**. Plain Water (H<sub>2</sub>O) is the only acceptable drink.
- No **CELL PHONES** or electronic devices unless instructed. Your music stand is not your cell phone holder!
- Be in the classroom before the bell rings and in your seat, warming up, **five 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 for other classes should be completed **BEFORE** coming to class! You are here to play your instrument! You are allowed **one** media center/study pass per semester.
- All violins & violas must be clearly labeled with the student's 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.
- Any money being turned in will need to be placed in the lockbox in the orchestra office. You must place the money in one of the provided envelopes and completely fill out the information on the front label.**
- Students are expected to check e-class, use the remind system and read emails and newsletters from the directors.**

## 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 do not 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**. 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 that students receive a performance assessment for completing a performance at concerts outside the school day. This is the most authentic and important assessment you will receive in orchestra. A live performance cannot be duplicated.

- 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 will need to be submitted via e-class.
- Student are encouraged to get involved with athletic or other organizations on campus; however, it is your responsibility to communicate conflicts with the coach and the orchestra directors. We work closely with our coaches to resolve scheduling conflicts.
- 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. Please ask for help from your peers or directors if you have difficulty learning your music.

**All make up assignments must be completed 2 weeks PRIOR to the end of the semester!!!**

## REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE\*

### FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE:

#### Ladies-

- Black Orchestra Gown (must be hemmed before the fall concert)
- Black Stockings (no bare legs or toes) \*\*\*please do not wear jeans under your gown\*\*\*
- Black Dress Shoes- **NO SANDALS or FLIP FLOPS ETC.**

#### Gentlemen-

- Black Tux Pants
- Black Tux Jacket
- White Long Sleeved Wing Collar Tux Shirt
- Black Bow Tie
- Black Cumberbund
- Black Socks and Black Dress Shoes. **NO WHITE ANKLE 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 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 a minimum amount of 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 and fund raising events. In short, it is essential that every student in all classes contribute their fair share with their dues. Parents are invited to view the DSOA budget and 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](http://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 student dues and fund raising activities allow the orchestra to provide every student with extended and advanced learning experiences. Funds to provide and maintain a superior orchestra program are paramount to its success. The following is a list of orchestra needs funded by the DSOA (Orchestra Boosters): activity fees (such as LGPE, allstate, solo and ensemble, festivals, special events and performances), cost of clinicians (for specialized workshops/performances), program expenses (such as sheet music, CDs, recordings, new instruments), maintenance expenses (such as instrument accessories/repairs), awards (cords, letters, bars, plaques, trophies presented to students at the orchestra end-of-the-year banquet), and miscellaneous expenses.

## DULUTH STRING ORCHESTRA ALLIANCE

Duluth String Orchestra Alliance (DSOA) is our orchestra parent booster association. DSOA is incorporated as a Georgia non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation for the following purposes: to support and enable a rich educational experience for all Duluth High School Orchestra students through music education, training, and performance, to provide financial and organizational support to the directors in the pursuit of excellence in music education, and to grow and sustain an organization of devoted volunteers that will carry out the activities of the association. Parent volunteers are vital to our success, so please consider volunteering to help our orchestra.

## ORCHESTRA TRIPS

The Orchestra takes a trip each year, alternating years between a trip to Europe and a trip in the continental United States. This year we will be traveling to Italy. You should have received a flyer in the summer mailing, and we have some posted in the orchestra room and on the orchestra website [www.duluthorchestra.org](http://www.duluthorchestra.org). The trip is optional and is open to ALL Duluth Orchestra students. However, students planning to go on the trip must be current on all dues and fees. You will find more information about our trip in e-class, and you can sign up for the trip by going to [www.eftours.com](http://www.eftours.com) and entering our tour number 2258178DU.

**STUDENT-PARENT-TEACHER CONTRACT**

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

**Thursday, August 15, 2019**

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

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**Student Printed Name**

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**Class Period**

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**Student Signature**

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**Date**

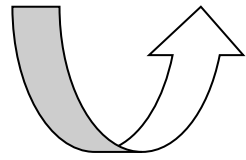
As a parent(s) of a Duluth High School Orchestra student, I have read the handbook/course syllabus and understand and agree to comply with the policies and procedures listed herein.

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**Parent Printed Name**

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**Parent Signature**

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**Date**

**TURN OVER TO COMPLETE THE MEDIA RELEASE!!!!!**





**MEDIA RELEASE FORM**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

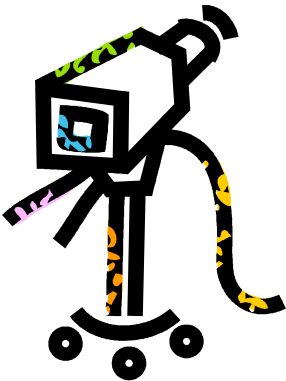
School Duluth High School

Parent / Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_



# Duluth High School Orchestra

## CALENDAR 2019-2020



TBD-To Be Determined

Date	Time	Event	Location
<b>August 2019</b>			
7 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
24 (Sat)	TBD	GCYS Auditions (select students)	Hull MS
29 (Thurs)	6:00 PM	Orchestra Parent Night <b>Required</b>	DHS Theater
<b>September 2019</b>			
4 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
5 (Thurs)	All Day	Cow Patty Bingo Kickoff	Orchestra Room
10 (Tues)	All Day	Orchestra fees and payments Due	Orchestra Room
26 (Thurs)	All Day	Cow Patty Bingo Ticket/Money Due	Orchestra Room
28 (Sat)	9:00 AM	Duluth Parade <b>Required</b>	Downtown Duluth
<b>October 2019</b>			
2(Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
19 (Sat)	All Day	All-State District Auditions (select students)	Brookwood HS
25(Fri)	5:30 PM	National Anthem Night @ DHS <b>Required</b>	DHS Stadium
26 (Sat)	1:30-3:30 PM	Cow Patty Bingo, <b>Required</b>	DHS Practice Field
<b>November 2019</b>			
2 (Sat)	9 AM-4 PM	Solo & Ensemble Festival	Lilburn MS
7 (Thurs)	6 PM/7:00 PM	Fall Orchestra Concert <b>Required</b>	DHS Auditorium
8 (Fri)	TBD	KSU Invitational- Chamber Orchestra Only <b>REQUIRED</b>	KSU
9 (Sat)	9 AM-5 PM	GCPS HS All County Honor Orchestra (select students)	Discovery HS
13 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
<b>December 2019</b>			
4 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
12 (Thurs)	6 PM/7:00 PM	Orchestra Winter Concert <b>Required</b>	DHS Auditorium
<b>January 2020</b>			
8 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
11 (Sat)	TBD	All-State Final Auditions (select students)	Stilwell HS (Clayton)
22 (Wed)	<b>In class</b>	Philharmonic/Chamber Auditions for 2019-2020	Orchestra Room
<b>February 2020</b>			
5 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
25 (Tues)	6 PM/ 7PM	Pre-LGPE Concert <b>Required</b>	DHS Auditorium
<b>March 2020</b>			
5 -7 (Thurs-Sat)	All Day	Allstate Orchestra (selected students)	Athens, GA
11 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
19-21 (Thurs-Sat)	All day	GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation <b>Required</b>	Peachtree Ridge HS
26- Apr 4	TBD	Orchestra Italy Spring Trip	Italy
<b>April 2020</b>			
8 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
23 (Thurs)	6 PM/7:00 PM	Spring Orchestra Concert <b>Required</b>	DHS Auditorium
<b>May 2020</b>			
6 (Wed)	6:00 PM	DSOA Executive Board Meeting	600 Conference Rm
12 (Tues)	6:00 PM	Orchestra Banquet <b>required</b>	Theater/Cafeteria

