

Parent Quick Guide to Duluth HS Orchestra

Parents, we know how busy you are, and we also know at the beginning of the year, the school gives you a lot of information to read. This handbook is important to read in detail, but we have listed the highlights here for you, so you understand the most important information.

1. It is vital to have an **up to date email and phone number with the school**. We send emails and contact you regularly, so it is important this information is accurate.
2. Communication- please check our orchestra website, e-class and encourage students to use REMIND regularly for information, handouts, and important dates. Contact us ASAP with any questions etc....
 - www.duluthorchestra.org
 - Peter_lemonds@gwinnett.k12.ga.us
 - Shawn_morton@gwinnett.k12.ga.us
 - 770-232-3393 Orchestra Office
3. **Supplies:** Each violin/viola student needs to have their instrument in good working order with a bow that works with clean bow hair and a shoulder rest. Cello and bass players need to be sure to pay the usage fee of \$60 for the year because they are using a school cello/bass during the school day.
4. **Fingernails:** students must keep their fingernails short to be successful. No acrylic nails other than right before homecoming and prom. The nail should not go above the fingertip. If students fail to maintain proper fingernail length, then they can't play correctly which will result in lost points for rehearsal competency.
5. **Calendar and Events:** Students are required to be at every concert and event listed on the calendar that is marked REQUIRED. If a student needs to miss an event, see the policy in the handbook for more information. See the attached calendar for all orchestra dates for the entire year.
6. **Concert uniform:** Students wear the orchestra gown or tuxedo with appropriate concert dress shoes for all formal concerts. For informal concerts (parade and national anthem), students wear the white orchestra polo. Please see the attached fee sheet if you need a uniform or polo shirt.
7. **Cost and Fees:** Fees are due by **September 10th**. If you cannot pay the required fees by then, please contact us. No student will ever be denied participation due to lack of funds. All fees can be paid by cash, check or money order or by visiting our website www.duluthorchestra.org where you can pay with PayPal, a credit card, or a debit card.

Fees include the following:

- Dues \$70 (all students should pay this every year)
- Cello/bass usage fee \$60 (all students that play cello and bass should pay this every year)
- Orchestra dress \$65
- Orchestra tuxedo \$120
- Orchestra polo \$25

8. **Practice:** students need to take their instrument home and practice. Please encourage them to do this so they can progress on their instrument.
9. **Volunteering:** The orchestra program always needs volunteers. If you would like to volunteer we will have sign ups at parent night on August 29th.
10. **Concerts:** This is the most important point for parents of the entire handbook. There are 5 concerts during the school year: Fall, Winter, Pre LGPE, LGPE, and Spring. Please attend your child's concert. These students work for months on these pieces and the concert is the culmination of all their hard work. Concerts are around an hour or less, and children and extended family are welcome. Students are required to stay for their entire concert session.
11. **Spring Trip-** Our spring trip is to Italy over spring break this year. Please see handbook for more information.