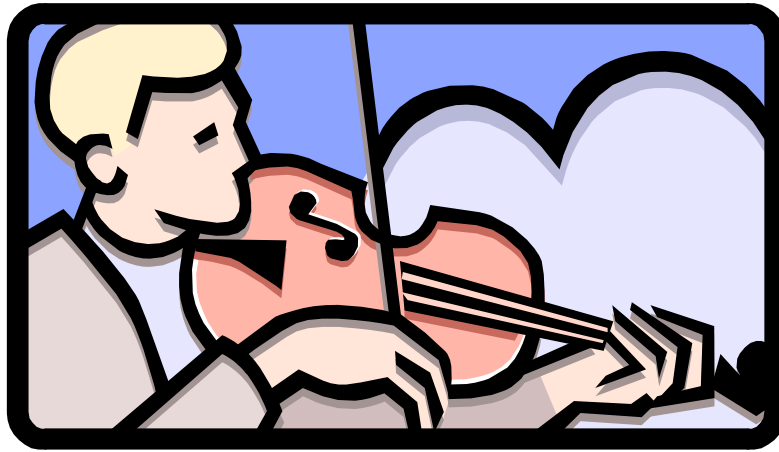


Dozier Middle School Orchestras



Student Handbook



Section 1 – Supplies

Students will need the following supplies for orchestra class:

- 1) Black three ring binder (1 inch) with plastic sheet protectors to hold music with sheets of notebook paper for taking notes
- 2) Pencil with eraser
- 3) Method book and music (provided by teacher)
- 4) Instrument (see below)
- 5) Uniform (see section 4)
- 6) Rosin, cleaning cloth, shoulder rest (violin/viola), rock stop (cello/bass)
- 7) Extra set of strings (optional, may be purchased at school if available)

How do I get an instrument?

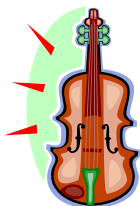
You may rent an instrument from the school if available or purchase/rent from a local music store. The school has a limited number of instruments available for rent with first preference going to beginning students with financial concerns. Cello and Bass students will have an instrument for their use at school and will only need to bring their home instrument to school for concerts and rehearsals if possible. Follow instructions on how to care for and where to store instruments and always keep them safe at home or school! Rental contracts must be signed and paid in full before instruments can be taken home. Please contact Mr. Lenwell if you have any questions.

The following music stores have new and used string instruments available for rental or purchase – many have rent to own/finance options:

Angelico Violins	Chesapeake	312-8961
Amory Music	Williamsburg	229-8070
Calamas Music	Norfolk	726-0476
Guartsman Violins	Newport News	591-9100
Jeff's Music	Newport News	244-4490
Music in Arts Center	Yorktown	988-3970
Pro Music and Sound	Yorktown	876-7115
Woodwinds Plus	Hampton	276-0476

You may also wish to purchase or rent through a mail order company via the internet. Here are three websites and phone numbers that follow the MENC (Music Educator's National Conference) guidelines. If you use another website please consult with Mr. Lenwell *before you purchase* to ensure you are getting a quality instrument at a fair price:

Discount Strings	1-800-348-5003	www.wbw.com
Shar Products	1-800-248-SHAR	www.sharmusic.com
Southwest Strings	1-800-528-3430	www.swstrings.com



Section 2 – Ensembles

All beginning or first year orchestra students will perform in the **Cadet Orchestra**. Students starting their second or third year will perform in the **Concert Orchestra**. Performances will include three major concerts each year – one in December, District Festival in March, and one in the spring as well as other performances for the community and school. Students will rehearse and perform a variety of music from the baroque, classical, and romantic periods; along with popular and holiday selections. Students are required to participate in after school rehearsals and performances; attendance counts as part of the orchestra class grade.

Section 3 – Class Fees

To provide a quality orchestra program the school has authorized the following student fees. They include:

\$10 class fee (used to purchase music method books and supplies)

\$ 15 uniform polo shirt fee

\$35 (for 1st year) and \$50 (for 2nd /3rd year) school instrument rental fee (not needed if you provide your own instrument)

Total due by October 1st for first year students-

\$60 with school instrument rental/uniform shirt/class fee

or

\$25 if you provide your own instrument

Total due by October 1st for second and third year students –

\$75 with school instrument rental, uniform polo shirt, and class fee

or

\$60 with school rental and you have your uniform shirt from last year

or

\$25 if you provide your own instrument but need a new uniform shirt

or

\$10 if you have your polo shirt from last year and provide an instrument

Please don't let financial concerns about the above fees deter your participation in orchestra – we can work out a payment plan to fit your budget if necessary.

The first fall fundraiser may be used to pay for students fees if needed. Please contact Mr. Lenwell if you need to set up a plan prior to the October deadline.

Sections 4 – Uniforms

All students will wear their green embroidered uniform polo shirt with black dress pants or girls may wear a long black skirt and boys and girls are to wear black dress shoes (girls - high heels are not recommended for safety)

Students should not expect to perform in concerts unless they are properly attired. Please contact Mr. Lenwell if you have any questions..

Section 5 – Class Behavior Expectations and Consequences

Students are to be respectful and polite and are expected to follow all rules listed in the NNPS “Rights and Responsibilities Handbook” as well as:

Rules:

- 1) follow directions the first time given
- 2) be on time and prepared with instrument, music portfolio, and pencil
- 3) be respectful to other students, the teacher, music equipment and help keep the music room and storage areas neat and in order
- 4) participate in class activities with a positive “can do” attitude

Rewards:

- 1) Verbal Praise
- 2) “Friday Fun Day” (student choice of music to be rehearsed, etc)
- 3) Positive Referral / Parent phone call / Dozier Dollars
- 4) Others as designated by students and teacher

Consequences: (steps may be skipped based on the severity of the offense)

- 1) verbal warning
- 2) loss of daily participation points
- 3) behavioral modification essay/”refocus” activity/phone call to parents
- 4) referral to school administrator/removal from class

Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to be in class on time. Tardies are unexcused absences. Three (3) tardies are equal to one unexcused absence.

- 1st tardy – warning
- 2nd tardy – parents contacted
- 3rd tardy – referral to office

After School Rehearsal and Performance Attendance Policy:

After school rehearsals are a vital part of a successful performance for the **Concert Orchestra** and are necessary in addition to class work because we are combining students from two different classes. *Attendance will be graded.* Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday or Thursday after school prior to each performance. Students in **Cadet Orchestra** will not have after school rehearsals. Students can be picked up by parents or ride the school activity buses home at 4:30 PM. A schedule of all after school rehearsals will be sent home in the orchestra class newsletters.

Performances are the culmination of weeks of work in class, after school rehearsals, and at home practice. *Attendance is required at all performances.* Excused absences will be granted through normal school procedures for the following reasons only

- 1) illness (absent from school due to illness)
- 2) family emergency or other extreme or grave circumstances

For an excused absence a note or e-mail must be sent in by the parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. The NNPS School Board Policy on concert attendance states that students may be required to attend concert(s) of his or her performing ensemble as a demonstration of his/.her acquired skills. *Missing a performance may result in failure for the nine week grading period.*

Section 6 – Grading Policy

Orchestra class grades will be based on several written and performance based assessments as well as class participation. These assessments will be assigned points that when totaled will yield a percentage or letter grade of A,B,C,D, or F. Grades will be based on the following assessments:

- 30% daily class participation
 - o prepared for class with instrument, music folder, pencil
 - o participating fully in class activities
- 30% written and performance based assessments (tests/quizzes)
- 10% home practice record (goal - 2 hours per week minimum)
- 30 % attendance at after school rehearsals and performances

Extra credit will be awarded for participation in VBODA District Honor Orchestra auditions/event, Solo/Ensemble Festival, NNPS All City Orchestra auditions/event, and attendance at community and school performances and concerts. For concerts just bring your ticket stub or program and attach a brief written review to receive extra credit.

After School Rehearsal and Performance Grading Policy:

- A – participating, arriving on time, and not leaving early from the event
- B – participating, but reporting late or leaving early from the event
- C – participating, but arriving late enough to miss part of the event
- D – arriving late enough to miss more than half the event
or failure to participate in the event due to tardiness/ other reasons
- F – failing to report for the event

Mr. Lenwell’s rules for success in orchestra:

- be prepared for class with your instrument, music folder, a pencil, and participate with a positive “can do” attitude
- participate in all after school rehearsals and performances
- schedule time for regular at home practice (minimum two hours per week)

Section 7 – Awards

Students will have the ability to earn several distinguished awards through participation in orchestra class; these include certificates of participation, medals, and trophies.

Section 8 – Field Trips

The orchestra students will have the opportunity to participate in field trips to attend professional concerts and master classes as well as participation in district, regional, state, and national music events as well as a trip to Busch Gardens Williamsburg in the spring. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a fund raiser to help defray the cost of the spring trip.

Once field trip plans are finalized a parent permission slip will be sent home. Students are reminded that all school rules will be observed during field trips and any infractions will be treated as if the student were at school.

Section 9 – Fund Raisers

Students and parents are encouraged to take part in music department fund raising efforts as profits will go into the school activity account and will be used to benefit the orchestra students. Profits help to purchase needed supplies and will help defray the student cost of the proposed spring trip. Our goal is to have no more than two fundraisers during the year (one in the fall and one in the spring) and an information letter will be sent home with students prior to the kick off for each event.

Section 10 – Other Important Information

- Monthly newsletters will be sent home with important information including after school rehearsal and performance dates. Watch for our first newsletter with complete concert and rehearsal information for first semester. Our goal this year is to send them home in both written and e-mail form. You can also check out the orchestra website at <http://dozier.nn.k12.va.us/orchestra.html>
- All orchestra students are required to purchase a black one inch three ring binder with pockets and plastic sheet protectors to hold issued music, method/etude books, and other materials. These will be used to meet the orchestra class portfolio requirement.
- There are new school rules this year for cell phone and other electronic devices. Please read and adhere to these new policies. Possible exceptions would be for field trips or after school rehearsals.
- The Dozier Middle School Orchestras are bound by the rules and regulations set forth by the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) and the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) for sanctioned district, regional, and all state events.
- Parent chaperones will be needed for our field trips as well as hosting music festivals and other events. Parents please lend a hand if you are available!

Dozier Middle School Orchestras

- Please detach and return to your teacher by September 10th -

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

We have read the attached orchestra class handbook and grading policy.

(student signature)

(parent/guardian signature)

Contact Information:

Student e-mail _____

Parent e-mail _____

Preferred Phone # _____

Emergency Contact _____

(name /.phone number)

Instrument (please check one)

we would like to rent a school instrument if available (cost \$35 or \$50)

we do not need a school instrument rental and will provide an instrument

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