

## PARENT REPLY FORM

**Please tear this page off, fill out and return it!**

**You can also find this on the website!**

Students do not always remember to share information. To make sure you are kept in the loop, students earn points when you respond! As long as I get a reply, either electronically *or* on paper, students get points, and I know you are informed!

**Please check the ways you wish to receive information.**

### REMIND.com

To join: Text @msorchinfo To: (270)-847-4113

If you received texts last semester, you are already on the list

### EMAIL

Please provide the email address that you check regularly.

### PRINTED NOTES

All students have computers and access to Email at school. I send parent notes to students and offer them paper copies.

### ACCESS to GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Check here if you would like access to Orchestra Google Classroom announcements and assignments. Please write your email above.

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS:** Please check your available times to help:

\_\_\_\_\_ during the school day    \_\_\_\_\_ after dinner.  
\_\_\_\_\_ after school.                    \_\_\_\_\_ on weekends.

**I have received the Fall, 2019 Orchestra information.**

**PARENT Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Due August 14, 2019**

**Student Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please also fill out and return the Medical Form with this paper.**

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## **2019-2020 MS ORCHESTRA SYLLABUS**

Please keep this for future reference. Return **ONLY** the signature page!

**Mrs. K. Higdon, Orchestra Director**

**DCHS 270-852-7300    DCMS 270-852-7600    CVMS 270-852-7500**

**Karen.higdon@daviess.kyschools.us    270-321-1855**

### ORCHESTRA WEBSITES

**DCHS Orchestra    [www.dchsstudentorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.dchsstudentorchestra.weebly.com)**  
**DCMS Orchestra    [www.dcmsorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.dcmsorchestra.weebly.com)**  
**CVMS Orchestra    [www.collegeviewmsorch.weebly.com](http://www.collegeviewmsorch.weebly.com)**

*Check here frequently for Forms, Calendar, Useful Links, and Due Dates*

### MUSICAL CONTACT COVERED

See school scheduling handbook for skills and content Imbedded in the Orchestra curriculum.

See the KY Department of Education and the National Standards for the Arts for more specifics.

These documents are available to the public online at

[www.kde.org](http://www.kde.org) and at [www.NAfME.org](http://www.NAfME.org)

### REHEARSAL NON-NEGOTIABLES

#### POSTURE

Never let anyone say that a DCPS Orchestra student is a slouch! Be professional. Do not hurt your body or our ears with poor posture.

#### POSITION

Left Hand Placement Matters. Right hand Position Matters. Elbows Matter. Sloppy position is sloppy performance.

#### ATTITUDE

Don't tell me what you CAN'T DO. Show me what you CAN DO. Work until you CAN do it. If you CAN'T practice, and you CAN'T play the music, then *WHY ARE YOU HERE?*

### BOTTOM LINE – RESPECT YOURSELF, OTHERS AND THE MUSIC!

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## ATTENDANCE/BEHAVIOR/RESPONSIBILITY

### (15% of your grade)

Real World Application: Be on time. Turn things in on time. Show respect for those around you and the music you play. Be prepared. Know your classmates' NAMES. Communicate with parents about upcoming events.

Cultivate behaviors that make you the kind of person that the best employer in the world wants to hire.

### ATTENDANCE

Be in the classroom when the bell rings.

Be in your seat 2 minutes after the bell rings ready to play.

Have ALL materials ready to use every day:

INSTRUMENT – tuned/ready to play BOW – ROSIN before class

FOLDER, MUSIC, BOOK, and SHARP PENCIL

OTHER EQUIPMENT – usable rock stop or shoulder rest

Turn in ALL assignments, including practice records, ON TIME.

### BEHAVIOR

Follow directions the 1<sup>st</sup> time they are given.

Have all materials with you and participate fully every day.

Be silent when teacher or another student is talking or playing.

Raise your hand and wait to be called on before talking.

Stay in your seat unless teacher gives you permission to move.

**NO** food, flavored drinks or candy in the classroom.

**RESPECT! NO** abusive actions or words allowed.

### PHONES

All phones must be turned off and put away for the duration of the class unless they are being used for current Orchestra work.

### MUSIC

Every student is responsible for music borrowed from school.

**Students are expected to pay for lost school music.**

**Students earn 10 points/week for Attendance and Behavior.**

This is labeled as your AB weekly grade in the gradebook.

Parent notes, Practice records, etc. are part of your Responsibility grade.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Let your children know that music is important to you!

Encourage home practice.

Ask to hear what students are working on in class.

Join the Orchestra Google Classroom.

Have students show you their Smart Music assignments.

Check your child's grade in Infinite Campus regularly.

Be in the audience to cheer on your children

as they grow into confident musicians!

Please fill the auditorium at every concert with friends and family!

### FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a necessary, but not popular part of Orchestra.

Please participate in our moneymaking adventures so that all students can afford the exciting events planned for this year.

### TEACHERS CAN USE HELP, TOO!

If you have time, and are willing to help with

filing, copying, paperwork, inventory, field trips, or other tasks,

PLEASE let me know on the next page.

We especially need chaperones and instrument haulers for trips!

**If you intend to help with school or field trip activities, make sure you have a current background check on file. Thank you!**

### CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

#### Orchestra is an ELECTIVE.

It is assumed that you wish to succeed when you sign up.

None of these procedures beyond a warning should be necessary.

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Warning/Loss of Incentive Points

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Student Conference/Parent Contact

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** DM and office visit/Detention or ISS

**Severe Offenses are referred to the office immediately.**

This may result in a schedule change.

**If you feel you cannot follow the rules, do not take the class.**

## **WRITTEN WORK (10% of your grade)**

Performing music correctly includes understanding the theory/how music is put together, prevailing practices of performers/composers during the time they wrote music, terminology and symbols within the music, and techniques needed to play music. Learning how to critique your own and other performances by high standards not only makes you able to evaluate yourself, but helps you make intelligent choices about the music you choose to buy/listen to/create.

Assignments will be in Google Classroom, on paper, and/or listed on the board as you walk in the room each day. Examples include Presentations, Theory/History Lessons relevant to class music, and self/other evaluations.

## **PRACTICE RECORDS**

*What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work. Stephen King*

Practice is more useful if there is intentional goal setting and reflection on what you learned when finished.

Students will turn in practice records weekly on Mondays.

Each practice record is worth 35 points.

## **LATE WORK**

Turn things in on time.

Each assignment is linked to something you need to learn next. Late assignments will be graded to make sure you understand the content, but you will lose responsibility points. There will be NO make-up assignments.

If you are absent from school, it is your responsibility to contact the teacher or another student to find out what you have missed.

Feel free to email me the day you are ill, and I will send assignments you can work on while you are out.

See school rules for *excused absence* make up work policy.

## **GOOGLE DRIVE ORCHESTRA FOLDER**

ALL Students will create an Orchestra Folder on their Google Drive. This is where you will store your video recordings and other assignments. You will revisit this folder over the years to note your progress.

## **PLAYING TESTS (70% of your grade)**

### **PLAYING TESTS INCLUDE:**

**In Class Playing Tests** By section, in small groups & individual check offs  
**Concert Music Videos** Assigned Videos due 1 week before each concert  
**Concerts** are playing tests, and are worth 150 points each.

### **FALL CONCERT DATES (Spring Dates TBA)**

**October 1** DCMS/DCHS Fall Orchestra Concert at DCMS 7PM  
**December 2** DCMS Orchestra Christmas Concert at DCMS

### **FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE**

Symphony Dress Code-black dress/suit/black pants and shirt

Black Tops must have sleeves and a modest neckline.

Skirts must hang below the knee. Pants must not sag or have holes.

You may wear a white dress shirt and black suit coat.

Black Shoes (black socks) or black sandals.

### **PRACTICE PHILOSOPHY**

**Students must practice at least 120 minutes per week outside of class.**

*“Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” Tim Notke*  
Your preparation (or lack thereof) makes the difference between a good performance and a great performance. Your sound affects everyone. 90% accuracy might earn an “A” grade. However, 90% accuracy on stage is either out of tune, rhythmically uneven, stylistically sloppy, or boring. That performance is not acceptable to the audience, nor should it be to you! Excellence takes work. You are responsible for your part. Do not create dissonance, distrust, and disgust within your section and the orchestra by not being prepared. Work for 100%.

*If I do not practice one day, I know it.*

*If I do not practice the next, the orchestra knows it.*

*If I do not practice the third day, the whole world knows it.*

*Ignacy Jan Paderewski*

## SMART MUSIC

For Middle School students, this program is optional but recommended if you have internet access at home. Students who do not have access at home can use the school computer if we use the program in class.

To create an account for your Middle School Student,

Go to [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)

Purchase a Student ONLINE, not the Classic subscription and microphone online.

Create login information so you can be identified and can take tests.

Link your account to your school orchestra.

You can access your account on any computer with internet.

Most of our method books and many of our performance pieces are in Smart Music. You can practice playing tests with Smart Music until you achieve the score you want and then upload the results to our class account. I can see and hear all the data from student assessments.

You have access to a lot of FREE content in Smart Music.

You can practice scales, rhythms, etc. without “assignments”.

For access to the entire music catalogue, you can pay the extra fee.

Full Enhanced SmartMusic for Students Includes

Band and orchestra titles, solos, contest pieces and method books.

Thousands of pieces at your fingertips, new selections added every month.

System Requirements

Internet connection required

SmartMusic is available for Windows and Mac and iPad.

Requires a microphone (sold separately).

Some built in microphones work well with Smart Music, others do not.

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## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (5% of your grade)

### **ORCHESTRA IS A CO-CURRICULAR CLASS**

Co-curricular class grades are based on work done during class as well as performances/work completed outside of school hours that is connected to classwork.

This includes rehearsals, performances, and homework/practice.

**If you do not have time, don't take the class!**

### **PARTIAL LIST OF CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Take private lessons on the instrument you play in class.

Show up for sectionals before or after school.

Stay after school to work with Mrs. Higdon or another student.

Practice with your church band/orchestra/choir.

Work after hours with your ensemble or a classmate on music.

Perform at a nursing home or other community venue.

### **PERFORMANCE REVIEWS ARE CO-CURRICULAR**

Musicians learn a lot by watching other people perform.

Each year, MS students must attend and report on **two music** events.

These may include school music events (not DCHS Orchestra concerts), events at the RiverPark Center or other professional venues, church music events, and live music at places like Friday after Five.

Your Orchestra Website lists many community performances.

### **OWENSBORO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS**

Students must be enrolled in at least one semester of orchestra to participate in Youth Orchestra. Rehearsals are Monday evenings.

String Orchestra 4-5:30 PM

Full Orchestra 6-8:30 PM

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## DCHS ORCHESTRA STUDENT CONTRACT

This is a partial list of what you can expect from your teacher.

- High expectations
- Specialized teaching, resources and support
- Useful assessments and timely feedback
- Positive Reinforcement
- Clear Consequences
- Private Lessons

Here are the basic tenants expected of Orchestra students.

Students initial next to each phrase:

- I will respect others and use class time appropriately
- I will be prepared for and will perform at all concerts
- I will practice at least 120 minutes per week
- I will turn in all assignments, complete and on time
- I will attend and report upon two music events

**Orchestra is an ELECTIVE.**

We assume that you wish to succeed when you join Orchestra.  
None of these procedures beyond a warning should be necessary.  
**If you feel you cannot follow the rules, do not take the class.**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Warning/Loss of Incentive Points
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Student Conference/Parent Contact
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** DM and office visit/Detention or ISS
- **Severe Offense:** Referred to the office immediately.  
**This may result in a schedule change.**

**Please sign and return this to Mrs. Higdon by August 13, 2019.**  
**You will receive a copy to keep in your music folder for reference.**

**I have received and understand and agree to abide by the rules, expectations and due dates listed in the DCHS Fall, 2019 Orchestra Handbook/Syllabus and Contract.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## FIRST SEMESTER DUE DATES

Put these in your calendar.

Check Infinite Campus regularly for updates.

**Smart Music Tests:** August 19 & 26 and September 9 & 16  
October 21 & 28 and November 11 & 18

**Video Playing Tests:** September 24 and November 25

**Video Self Reflections:** September 26 and November 26

**Fall Concerts:** October 1 and December 5

**Concert Reflections:** October 3 and December 6

**Practice Records:** August 12, 19, 26  
September 3, 9, 16, 23, 30  
October 14, 21, 28  
November 4, 11, 18, 25  
December 2

**Semester Reflection:** December 13

**Performance Reviews:** #1 Turned in by October 4  
#2 Turned in by December 16

**Other Written Work:** See Google Classroom/Infinite Campus  
for Due Dates throughout the semester

**Senior Projects:** September 6 – Project decided with action plan  
October 5 – Project outline and progress update  
December 9 – Project finished and presented

### Co-Curricular Dates of Interest

**Youth Orchestra Auditions:** August 17 & 24  
**All-State Auditions:** November 16

See Website for more event information