

# CHATTAHOOCHEE ORCHESTRA SYLLABUS

[www.chattahoocheeorchestra.com](http://www.chattahoocheeorchestra.com)

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## ORCHESTRA AT CHATTAHOOCHEE

The primary goal in all of the orchestra classes is to nurture a deep connection to, as well as a comprehension and appreciation of, our great orchestral musical heritage. This covers a period from the late 1600's to the present, a span of over 300 years. By interacting with some of the greatest expressions of the human mind from the inside out, our young people will gain perspective and knowledge that can immeasurably enrich their entire lives. This goal is to be achieved primarily through the development of students' ability to perform some of this great music at the highest level of which they are capable. In addition, their music knowledge base will be expanded through music listening, analyzing, and learning about classical music's milieu as well as gaining a basic awareness of today's exciting professional orchestra world.

### Concert Orchestra (Advanced Orchestra 2)

This class includes most of the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Development of basic playing and music reading skills, bow management, and classical music knowledge base occupy part of the curriculum. A major objective of this class is to prepare these students for success in more advanced classes as they progress through their high school years. This group is open to all students who have been playing for at least 3 years. **No audition** required.

### Sinfonietta (Advanced Orchestra 3)

This is a class for intermediate string students. Further development of technique, orchestral skills, and an emphasis on classical music knowledge base comprise the curriculum. String orchestra music and chamber music will be studied and performed. There is a **placement audition** to be in this ensemble.

### Chamber Orchestra (Advanced Orchestra 4)

This is a class for the most advanced string students. High level development of technique, orchestral skills, and classical music knowledge base occupy part of the curriculum. High level chamber, string orchestra, and Symphony Orchestra music will be studied and performed. The Chamber/Symphony Orchestra is the flagship performing organization of the CHS Orchestra Department and may give several extra performances during the school year. There is a **placement audition** to be in this ensemble.

Please see the Page **IMPORTANT DATES** on the Orchestra Website  
for concert and rehearsal information!

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# GENERAL RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## CARE AND RESPECT FOR THE INSTRUMENT

This applies equally to rental and privately owned instruments. The instrument should always be treated with utmost care and respect. Every time the instrument is removed from the case, the angle and placement of the bridge should be checked. Pegs should be kept in smooth working order. Each student's instrument must be kept clean. Excess rosin on strings and around the bridge should be wiped after each use with a clean cloth to avoid buildup of rosin. The instrument should be carefully reinstalled in the case after each rehearsal and the bow should be loosened and properly installed in the case. ALL students are expected to have working strings on their instrument for class each day. Strings must be replaced immediately when they are worn out or broken. **EVERYONE will need to provide his/her own replacement strings and should be sure to always have spare strings in the instrument case** so that broken strings can be replaced immediately. If the student's daily instrument used in class is not in proper working order each day (i.e. four properly installed strings) the student will not be able to play in class and will lose participation credit.

**Repairs should be done only by qualified professionals who specialize in string instruments.**

**Here are some nearby repair shops that specialize in string instruments:**

Beau Vinci Violins	116 North Main St.	Alpharetta 30009	(678) 691-2394
North Fulton Violins	20 Milton Avenue	Alpharetta 30004	(770) 664-4384
Atlanta Violins	387 S. Atlanta Street	Roswell 30075	(770) 436-3786
Huthmaker Violins	3140 Main Street	Duluth 33096	(770) 476-9443

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR EQUIPMENT

Students are responsible for keeping their equipment in working order for every rehearsal. This includes instrument, pegs, bow, rosin, mute, and cello/bass anchors. Cello and bass anchors are loaned to students for the school year free of charge. However, if an instrument is lost, the student is responsible for paying for a replacement. Students are also responsible for putting equipment away properly at the end of each rehearsal.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSTRUMENT LOCKER

Students will be assigned a free orchestra locker in which to keep their instrument. The locker must be kept closed & locked except when the student is in class. At the beginning of the class all empty cases must be stored in the closed locker & not brought into the orchestra room.

## RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT FOR MUSIC

The student should always treat original sheet music with the utmost care and respect. Remember that it will likely be used again by someone else. Always mark music neatly with a pencil in such a way that it can be clearly understood by any player and so that it may be erased later if necessary.

## BASIC REHEARSAL RULES

No beverages (excluding water) are allowed in the orchestra room. Students must be at their seats ready to begin at the appointed time for rehearsal to begin. In order to promote group concentration on the work at hand, no one should bring any instrument cases, papers, books, or other extraneous materials into the orchestra setup. No talking is allowed without permission from the conductor. Total focus on the tasks at hand is our goal!

**All string players must keep left-hand fingernails cut short to play with proper finger positions.**

## DRESS REQUIREMENTS FOR PERFORMANCES

Boys and girls will wear the Chattahoochee Orchestra Tuxedos and Dresses. Footwear should be formal and black.

# GRADING FOR ORCHESTRA CLASSES

The system described below is subject to change at any time as announced to the students in writing by the director.

## **Rehearsals/Concerts - 20% of grade**

### **REHEARSALS/CLASSES**

Daily participation is a pre-requisite that is at the heart of orchestra class. Students are expected to have instruments in good working condition at every rehearsal and to participate productively (See General Rules and Responsibilities above) in order to gain full credit.

### **PRE-PERFORMANCE REHEARSALS**

Being tardy to a pre-performance rehearsal or warm-up is a very serious matter. Each minute a student is late to a pre-concert rehearsal will subtract one point from the participation total. If the student is going to be late due to emergency circumstances, the orchestra director should be texted immediately. If no texting is possible, a message should be left if the phone is not answered and an explanatory email should be sent ASAP.

### **CONCERT PERFORMANCES**

Concert performances are a major goal and requirement of each orchestra class curriculum. Student attendance at all such performances is absolutely essential. Conversely, every student is essential to the group.

**An unexcused absence from a concert performance may result in the student's grade being lowered by a letter grade [i.e. a final grade of a B would become a C.** An alternate assignment will be provided to make-up the concert grade].

An absence would be considered excused **ONLY** in the following instances: A death in the immediate family; the student is physically unable to come to the concert due to sickness, injury, or vehicle accident. In these cases, it is essential that the student or parent contact Ms. Gomez (by phone message or email) at the earliest possible moment to inform him of the problem. Extra-curricular activities or family obligations (except emergencies) are not acceptable excuses for absence from a concert. In the case of an excused absence, a substantial makeup assignment would be required in order to get credit for the missed performance.

Concert dates are listed on the Calendar attached to this Syllabus. Please check the dates **NOW**. If you find an unavoidable conflict with a scheduled performance, parents and student should conference with Mrs. Gomez immediately.

It is possible that concert performances not yet known will be added to the schedule during the year. In that case, written notification will be given to the student and parents as soon as it is known.

## **Performance Assessments – 50% of grade**

Learning to be prepared for rehearsal is one of the most important habits a musician can acquire. Often, the student will have specific exercises and music to have prepared for class. This should be treated as a homework assignment would be treated in an academic class. Students will play alone or in small groups in class frequently. On some days this playing in class can be evaluated for a daily quiz grade. For announced playing tests, students will be told at least one day in advance which passage(s) will be evaluated. Individual tests can be taken in class or appointments can be made to take the test before or after school. Retakes are available for

those who make a grade below a B. Optional performance of scales, thirds, & arpeggios may qualify for extra credit.

Performance evaluations will be based on following areas:

Proper posture, hand, and arm positions with regard to the bow & instrument; tuning of instrument; tone quality; intonation; correct notes, rhythms, and dynamics; correct bowing techniques and procedures; accomplishment of interpretive elements previously communicated by the teacher; artistic expression and projection; use of proper orchestral practices (readiness, listening, watching, contributing the appropriate energy level, etc.).

### **Minor Assessments - 15% of grade**

The written grade will be based on meeting deadlines, student writing assignments as well as tests on basic matters such as key signatures, musical terms, music history, musical form, required reading, and any other information covered in class. All written work should be in complete sentences using formal language, follow conventions of grammar, usage and mechanics, and accurately cite sources used with discipline-specific requirements.

### **FINAL EXAM - 15% of grade**

The final exam is a two-part exam. 10% is a performance assessment/placement audition. The other 5% is a written multiple choice exam (Fall) or written reflection (Spring).

## **ORCHESTRA FEES**

The program fees for orchestra are \$175 per year. This fee includes meals before and after concerts, buses to and from field trips, instrument repair and maintenance, supplies like strings, rosin, shoulder rests, rock stops, chin rests, end pin and rock stops. This fee also covers the cost of music for the concerts, both rental and purchase. The replacement of broken strings and minor repairs (as well as spare parts).

If the student is new to Chattahoochee they will need to purchase an Orchestra Uniform. Fulton county policy states that all music students will be in uniform for our Large Groups Performance Evaluations. The student can opt to purchase the uniform on their own, or opt for the school to purchase the dress/tux. A company comes in a fits the kids for dresses and tuxes so it is often easier for the parents to let the school deal with the purchase of the uniform.

*If a student is unable to pay the fees, an alternate solution will be found. There are scholarships available for those with financial need. No student will be turned away for lack of ability to pay the orchestra fee.*

## Chattahoochee High School Orchestra Annual Fees for the School Year

	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
<b>Program Fees</b>	\$175.00	\$175.00
<b>Uniform (only for new students)*</b>	\$95*	\$70*
<b><u>Total Without Uniform</u></b>	<b><u>\$175.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$175.00</u></b>
<b><u>*Total With Uniform</u></b>	<b><u>\$270.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$245.00</u></b>

The program fee of \$175 includes annual family dues for supplies and music as well as the dinners to be provided for the students on concert days. Other uses of the fee include music used in class, school instrument purchases and repair, equipment and classroom materials, portions of trip costs, and physical improvements to the orchestra suite. Fee also covers extra events such as field trips open to all students (longer trips may be discounted), All-State, Honor Orchestra fees.

\*Students entering the CHS Orchestra Department for the first time will need to purchase the official CHS orchestra uniform (tux for boys, dress for girls). **All previous students now own the uniform they paid for when they entered the program.** This uniform will belong to the student permanently. It is theirs to keep and to *keep clean*. If a student needs a different size uniform than the one owned, he/she can trade in the old one for a new one **PROVIDED the old one has been cleaned and is in excellent condition.** Parent volunteers will be at the school in the fall to measure each student in order to make sure there is a good fit. Uniforms should not be stored at the school but can be kept temporarily on racks in the Orchestra Suite on concert days.

Please make your checks payable to “**CHS**”. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Gomez regarding fees, especially if you need to make payments in installments. Otherwise, all fees or arrangements for installments or delayed payment must be received by **Friday, Aug. 11th**.

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**DETACH & RETURN with your payment by Friday, August 11th.**

Please make checks payable to “CHS”. Payments can be made in installments if needed. Please inform Mrs. Gomez of your payment schedule.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (please print)

I have paid the CHS Orchestra Uniform fee in a previous year. Please circle one: Y    N

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please PRINT parent name