

**Course Syllabus: Davidson Fine Arts  
CHAMBER Orchestra (2<sup>ND</sup> Period)  
2019-2020 Academic Year**



**Instructor:** Dr. Laura Tomlin  
(706) 823-6924, Ext. 2350  
TomliLa@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

**Materials:** Please see attached forms for details. **Due: Monday, August 12**

- Instrument, case and bow
- Rosin, shoulder rest (violin/viola), extra set of strings, rock stop/strap (cello/bass)
- Textbook: Advanced Technique for Strings by Allen, Gillespie, Hayes
- Performance clothes
- Orchestra binders and required contents.

**Course Description:** The orchestra program is divided into four levels:

- 1) Beginning Orchestra MS (CRESCENDO) (25 minutes)
- 2) Beginning Orchestra MS (ENCORE) (1 hour)
- 3) Intermediate Orchestra (CONCERT) (1 hour)
- 4) Advanced Orchestra (CHAMBER) (1 hour)

Topics covered include: ensemble skills (both large and small), music fundamentals/ theory, music history, music of other cultures, stringed instrument techniques, and individual mastery of their instruments. **This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.**

Students will be encouraged to participate in activities outside of school which are appropriate to their level, such as District and All State Orchestra, special workshops/masterclasses held on campus or in the area, as well as summer camps. Students are also encouraged to take private lessons, if possible. Students will also be encouraged to attend live performances involving stringed instruments, both at Davidson Fine Arts and off-campus, preferably by professional musicians (many opportunities exist in the area with free to minimal admission costs). Video options will be available for those students unable to attend concerts, but attendance at a live performance is encouraged.

**Class Policies:** Orchestra students are expected to adhere to the following rules both in class and out, including at all after-school rehearsals/performances and at away events:

- 1) Students should arrive to class on time (physically in the room at the bell) and immediately begin to prepare for class. At five minutes after the bell, points will be deducted from their weekly personal responsibility grade.
- 2) Students should bring all necessary materials to every class, including their instrument, music binder and pencils. **A sharpened pencil should be on the stand at every class/rehearsal.**
- 3) Students should be respectful of their own property, as well as the property of others. Repairs cost money which could be better spent elsewhere.
- 4) Students should strive to make the best use of their time. Rehearsals will be held in a professional manner. All extraneous talking/playing should cease when the director steps on the podium and when the director stops the ensemble to give corrections/directions.

- 5) No food or drink allowed in the orchestra room except with permission and only at the table!
- 6) **Students are responsible for the events listed on the DFA Orchestra calendar. Links for it can be found on my teacher page accessed from the DFA main website under Fine Arts Department and on the DFA Orchestras website at [dfaorchestras.com](http://dfaorchestras.com). A chronological list of important dates will also be handed out the first week. PLEASE CHECK THE ONLINE CALENDAR REGULARLY AS IT WILL HAVE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. The calendar can also be printed. DFA Orchestras now have a Facebook page, too. Please “like” us!**

<b>Grading:</b>	Performances (includes rehearsals)	40 %
	Tests/Projects	30 %
	Classwork/Homework	30 %
		100 %

#### **Evaluation of Grading Components:**

- 1) **Performances - 40 %**
  - Students are expected to be present and participating in all required rehearsals leading up to a performance, as well as all performances.
  - Students should be on time and prepared for rehearsals and performances.
- 2) **Tests/Projects - 30 %**
  - Testing methods will include written tests, as well as playing tests.
  - Solo and small ensemble playing will also be encouraged. Group and chair placement may not always be based on level, but with peer mentoring and other considerations in mind.
- 3) **Classwork/Homework - 30 %**
  - Each week students will be given a personal responsibility grade based on their preparedness for class – instrument, music, pencil, evidence of practice outside of class.
  - Students are expected to complete work by its assigned date, neatly and conscientiously.
  - Students should turn in original work. Cheating will result in an automatic “0” and disciplinary action
  - Late penalties will be according to the school-wide guidelines, 11% loss per day, and a “O” after three days
  - Make-up work will also follow the guidelines in the student handbook.

- All State:**
- Annual statewide competitive orchestra festival; more information – [www.gmea.org](http://www.gmea.org)
  - Grades 6-12 eligible
  - District auditions: Saturday, October 19, 2019 in Augusta
  - State auditions: Saturday, January 11, 2019 at Marthe Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts in Atlanta
  - All State weekend: March 5-7, 2019 in Athens
  - **Registration fee (\$20) for those who wish to audition is due by Friday, August 30, 2019**

- Fieldtrips:**
- We will have various field trip opportunities in the area during the year to attend concerts, special events, etc. More information and dates coming soon.

## Materials Needed

- 1) Instrument, case and bow
  - Provide your own OR rent a DFA instrument, if one is available, at the rate of \$75 for the year, \$40 each semester
  - Money will not be refunded if the privilege is revoked due to student behavior and lack of care
  - Rental instruments are available at most of the local music stores, as well as online at reputable string-specific websites such as: [www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com), [www.swstrings.com](http://www.swstrings.com), and [www.johnsonstrings.com](http://www.johnsonstrings.com), and most have a rent-to-own option
- 2) Rosin, shoulder rest (violin/viola), extra set of strings (unless renting from DFA), rock stop or strap (cello/bass), metronome/tuner (recommended)
- 3) REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Advanced Technique for Strings by Allen, Gillespie, Hayes - can be purchased at local stores, on the websites above, or on [jwpepper.com](http://jwpepper.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).
- 4) Performance clothes
  - Tuxes are provided for the guys, bowties and cumberbunds must be purchased by the student.
  - Skirts are provided for the gals, blouses must be purchased by the student.
  - Black shoes and socks/hose are required and are not provided.
  - An order form will be sent home the first day of class and is due by **September 18, 2019**.
- 5) Required orchestra binders:
  - Binder specifics: **1-inch black** three-ring binders for Chamber Orchestra
  - Contents: Pencil pouch, four sharpened pencils, 25-50 page protectors for music provided.
  - DEADLINE and binder check (for a grade): **MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019**
- 6) The beginning of the school year comes with many expenses. Please contact Dr. Tomlin if you have concerns about payment of any of the orchestra fees, the purchase of supplies or the availability of internet service at home.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return by FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019.**

*I have read all of my orientation materials, and I understand the requirements for and agree to abide by the stated rules of my orchestra class this year.*

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read all of my orchestra student's orientation materials, and I understand the requirements and the rules that my child is responsible for in his/her orchestra class. I agree to do whatever is necessary to aid my child in fulfilling his/her requirements this year.*

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**I have received or will receive on \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Training through the Richmond County Board of Education and have a valid volunteer ID card. I would be willing to volunteer for the following orchestra activities:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Field Trip Chaperone during the school day**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Field Trip Chaperone out of town**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Monitor at evening or weekend rehearsals**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Monitor backstage & in audience during performances**

**Volunteer Name: (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Numbers: (H)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(W)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(C)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_