

**Course Syllabus: Davidson Fine Arts  
CONCERT ORCHESTRA  
2020-2021 Academic Year**



**Instructor:** Dr. Laura Tomlin  
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**Materials:** **Please see attached form for details. Due: Monday, September 21**

- Textbooks: Essential Techniques, Book Three by Allen, Gillespie, Hayes
- **Masks and hand sanitizer**
- Instrument, case and bow
- Rosin, shoulder rest (violin/viola), extra set of strings, rock stop/strap (cello/bass)
- 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.

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. A list of available teachers in area will be provided and many of them offer the option of online lessons. Students will also be encouraged to attend live performances involving stringed instruments, both at Davidson Fine Arts and off-campus, preferably by professional musicians, once they are available. Many in the area are free or with minimal admission costs. Video options will be available for those students unable to attend concerts.

**All State:**

- Annual statewide competitive orchestra festival: April 15-17, 2021 in Athens (TBD)
- Grades 6-12 eligible
- District auditions: Dec. 5 (Virtual) / State auditions: Feb. 13 (Virtual)
- For more information: <https://www.gmea.org/aso-information>
- **Registration fee (\$20) for those who wish to audition is due by Friday, October 16, 2020**

**Fieldtrips:** • We will not be able to have any field trips off campus at least for the first part of this year, but we will have various field trip opportunities online during the year to attend concerts, special events, etc.

**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. Students will enter the room through the door closest to the front office and exit out the back door. Backpacks will be kept with the student. When retrieving instruments from the lockers, cello/bass racks or instrument storage room, students must take turns and maintain social distance.
- 2) Each student will have their own individual music stand. Therefore, 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) If you move a chair or stand, please return it to where you found it at the beginning of class. If you use DFA rosin, tuners, shoulder rests, cello straps or bass rock stops, please return them to where you found them.
- 7) **Students are responsible for the events listed on the DFA Orchestra calendar. A chronological list of important dates will also be handed out the first full 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/Rehearsals	30 %
	Quizzes/Tests/Projects	30 %
	Classwork/Homework	40 %
		<hr/> 100 %

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

- 1) **Performances/Rehearsals/Exams - 30 %**
  - **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) **Quizzes/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 - 40 %**
  - 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, rehearsal/class procedures followed.
  - 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”/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.

## 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: [sharmusic.com](http://sharmusic.com), [swstrings.com](http://swstrings.com), and [johnsonstrings.com](http://johnsonstrings.com), and most have a rent-to-own option
- 2) **Masks and hand sanitizer**
- 3) Rosin, shoulder rest (violin/viola), extra set of strings (unless renting from DFA), rock stop or strap (cello/bass), metronome/tuner (recommended)
- 4) **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** Essential Techniques, Book Three 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).
- 5) 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 and is due by **November 1, 2020**.
- 6) Required orchestra binders:
  - Binder specifics: **1-inch DARK BLUE** three-ring binders.
  - Contents: Pencil pouch, four sharpened pencils, 25-40 page protectors for music provided.
  - **DEADLINE** and binder check (for a grade): **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**.
- 7) 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.

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

**Please sign and return by MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020.**

*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**

\_\_\_\_\_ **N/A Field Trip Chaperone out of town**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Parent help with technology**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Parent help with TBD as needed**

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

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

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