

**Course Syllabus: Davidson Fine Arts
CRESCENDO Orchestra (4A, 4B, 5A)
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 (provided for DFA rental instruments), rock stop/strap (cello/bass)
- Textbooks: 1) Essential Elements, Book One by Allen, Gillespie, Hayes, and
2) Basic Music Theory and History for Strings, Workbook One by Wendy Barden & Terry Shade
- 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 rehearsals and 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; check the calendar for some of them). 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 all after-school rehearsals/performances and 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 if they are not ready to begin.
- 2) Students should bring all necessary materials to every class, including their instrument, music binder and a pencil. **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. 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. 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!**

Grading:	Performances (includes rehearsals)	40 %
	Tests/Projects	30 %
	<u>Classwork/Homework</u>	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/quizzes, 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 (practice log).
 - 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.

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

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: _____

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, swstrings.com, and 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 TEXTBOOKS:
 - Essential Elements, Book One by Allen, Gillespie, Hayes – can be purchased from local music stores, the websites listed above or from jwpepper.com or amazon.com. Some of you from the Richmond County Orchestra Program may already own this book.
 - Basic Music Theory and History for Strings, Workbook One by Wendy Barden & Terry Shade
- 4) Performance clothes
 - Crescendo Orchestra members wear embroidered DFA Orchestra polo shirts (\$25). An order form will be sent home the first day of class and is due by **September 18**. Black pants/skirts, shoes and socks/hose are required and not provided.
- 5) Required orchestra binders:
 - Binder specifics: **1-inch WHITE** three-ring binder
 - Contents: pencil pouch, four sharpened pencils, 25-40 page protectors for music
 - DEADLINE and binder check: **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.