

Henderson MS Orchestra

2830 Henderson Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30341
Front Office Phone: 678-874-2902
2022-2023 Orchestra Syllabus

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; some deviation may be necessary.

Instructor: Ms. Chiaman Samantha Tang

Orchestra Website will have the current calendar, required forms, any updates, and fun information. Please visit frequently.

<https://www.hmsorch.weebly.com>

Communication: email through Infinite Campus, Remind, Website, and hard copies sent home.

Email: Chiaman_Tang@dekalbschoolsga.org
Phone: (678) 874-2902

Parents AND Students -- Please join the free **Remind** app or join through **Remind.com:**

6th grade: @2h8aaa

7th grade: @gcf9fde

8th grade: @ca4feh

Class Periods

Period 2	9:50-10:35	Orchestra 8A
Period 3	10:40-11:25	Orchestra 8B
Period 4	12:20-1:05	Orchestra 7A
Period 5	1:10-1:55	Orchestra 7B
Period 6	2:20-3:05	Orchestra 6A
Period 7	3:10-3:55	Orchestra 6B

Availability times for Conferences

Morning 7:30-9:30; afternoon times by appointment only. Email or message in Remind to schedule a conference.

Required Materials

Essential Elements 2000 for Strings

- 6th Grade: Book 1 (violin, viola, cello, or bass)- orange

- 7th Grade: Book 2 (violin, viola, cello, or bass)- purple
- 8th Grade: Book 3 (violin, viola, cello, or bass)- green (Essential Technique)

Pencil

Instrument

Binder/Folder

Instrument specific items (rosin, rosin cloth, shoulder rest for violins and violas, rock stops for cello and bass)

Purpose

Middle school orchestra is offered to beginning sixth grade students as well as seventh and eighth grade intermediate and advanced students. The purpose of the course is to enhance, enrich and build a solid instrumental music foundation of performance skills as well as music theory skills. The courses are performance-based which afford students the opportunity to showcase their talents in class as well as out of class in small and large group performances. The curriculum is comprehensive for all orchestra instruments and facilitates growth at all levels of skill and talents. Students are evaluated based on performance and written assessments.

Objectives

Students in the Henderson Orchestra program will:

- Develop their instrumental skills

- Enhance their understanding of music theory, history, and practice

- Develop age-appropriate performance skills

- Develop individual responsibility, accountability, self-discipline, and leadership skills

Dekalb County Schools Grading Scale

A=100-90%

B=89-80%

C=79-71%

D=70%

F=69% & below.

Participation Policy

Orchestra is a performance-based course and attendance at all concerts and performances is REQUIRED. Orchestra is a team sport where EVERYONE is a valued player and has their own irreplaceable part to contribute. Unlike an athletic sport, there are no bench warmers in orchestra. If there is ever a concern about a concert conflict, please contact Ms. Tang.

Orchestra Dues

There is a participation fee for orchestra students. These dues of \$70 help cover the costs of new sheet music, technique books for the classroom, extra rosin and shoulder rests/rock stops, travel and state fees (LGPE –large group performance evaluation), GMEA (Georgia Music Educators

Association) for the director, and any additional unforeseen expenses. Each student will also receive the following: an instrument tag, a concert orchestra polo shirt, and a 2022-2023 orchestra t-shirt.

Obtaining an Instrument

Please see or email Ms. Tang if you need any information or assistance in getting an instrument for your child.

Flyers will be handed in class to various music shops where you can purchase/rent instruments from. If a student cannot afford to do so, a school instrument will be offered to borrow for the school year. Students and parents will need to sign a contract detailing their responsibility requirements. If the instruments breaks, it is the student/parent's responsibility to pay for it to be fixed. First come, first served.

An extra \$40 contribution (optional) is encouraged if borrowing an instrument, which covers the care and maintenance of that instrument for the school year, such as broken strings, broken instruments, etc.

Mendini/Cecilio, Palantino, or any Amazon instruments are highly discouraged!

Cello and bass players will use a school instrument daily. **Donations are encouraged** for maintenance of the instruments (string sets start at \$60 for cello and \$100 for bass). Students will be required to bring in personal instruments on days of combined rehearsals and concerts due to lack of sufficient instruments.

Personal instruments can be brought in to Ms. Tang for tuning and/or small tweaks and finger tapes.

Grading System

As a method of measuring the success and progress of orchestra students, the following system will be implemented to evaluate each student.

Formative Assessment (Pre-Assessment)	0%
Assessment During Learning	25%
Playing Checks or Written Quizzes	
Guided, Independent, or Group Practice	45%
Classwork/Participation	
Summative Assessment or Assessment of Learning	30%
Playing or Written Tests & Concerts/Performances	

Daily Class/Rehearsal Participation

This is where students develop to their fullest potential on their instrument. Students lose credit from their daily participation grade when they do not have all necessary materials.

When a student's instrument is in the music store for repair, the student must bring the following on the first day they will be without their instrument:

Name of music shop performing the repair
Date the instrument was taken to the shop
Estimated time for the repair
Parent/guardian signature

If a student is not feeling well enough to play, they will be sent to the clinic. Incidents of this nature will be handled on an individual basis. Basically, if a student is in school, then they will be expected to play their instrument in class unless a medical note is turned in.

Playing Checks are taken during class time. In the case of an absence, the student is required to come in the morning and make-up the quiz. One week time is allotted from the absent date for all make-ups.

Playing Tests are taken during class 2-3 weeks prior to a concert performance. A spreadsheet is displayed for students to sign-up for their test.

Standards

To see the list of music standards taught in orchestra, please go to the following link (pp. 89-97):

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/K-12-Music-Georgia-Standards.pdf>

Academic Expectations

All student musicians are expected to participate in all required orchestra functions. Our success depends upon the attendance and hard work of each orchestra member. Therefore, 100% attendance is paramount. Absences (except for severe illness or loss of family members) should be pre-approved by the director to avoid penalty. A note must be presented at least two days prior to the rehearsal. Unless an emergency occurs, notes received the day of the rehearsal or later will result in an unexcused absence. Students receiving two unexcused absences from rehearsals prior to a concert will not be allowed to participate in the performance.

Performances

Absences from a performance will be excused at the director's discretion. Due to the effects of individual absences from concerts, performances count as "Summative Assessments" which is 30% of the orchestra grade. A student who receives an excused absence from a performance/rehearsal must submit a project assigned by the director in lieu of performance attendance. Absences from performances are **STRONGLY** discouraged.

Classwork

A student who misses class work for any reason must make up the work when they return to school. A grade of "0" will be entered into the grade book until the work is made up. In the event a playing check/test was missed, students will be required to complete it during a mutually set time and date.

Recovery Process

If your child needs to improve their orchestra grade, Ms. Tang is available before school for help sessions. Also, as long as your child attends the concerts, there is no way for them to fail unless they do not take their instrument to orchestra class. Ms. Tang will determine what combination of performance and/or written projects may be used to help improve a student's orchestra grade.

Practicing/Learning Music

There is not a set practice record or schedule for each student. Student musicians are advised to practice daily with a minimum of 60 minutes per week Monday through Thursday, and at least 30 minutes on the weekend. Most playing assessments will be in class which not only allows for the teacher to evaluate playing skills but it also allows students to gain confidence with public performance.

Concert Attire

The concert dress for the Henderson Middle School orchestra members is a Polo-Style Shirt that is embroidered with our school name, black pants, black socks, and black shoes. No black jeans or sneakers will be permitted.

Orchestra shirt orders may be indicated on the return sheet of this class syllabus.

Class/Rehearsal Rules

Students should enter the orchestra room quietly without tampering with instruments and items that belong to others.

Students are to place their belongings under their seats and get their instruments and materials needed for orchestra class immediately upon entering the room unless otherwise directed by the director.

Students are to remain quiet without talking or making disturbing noises until directed to play or talk by the teacher.

Students must discard gum or candy upon entering the orchestra room.

Students are to raise their hands and wait to be recognized before speaking.

Each student is expected to adhere to the behavioral expectations as outlined in the student agenda.

Consequences

- Non-verbal cue or reminder
- Participation points off
- Packing up –followed by brief conference
- Parent Contact
- After-School Detention
- Administrative Referral
- Removal from Orchestra Program

Orchestra events for the 2022-2023 School Year are as follows:

- Saturday, October 15, 2022 – District 4 All-State 1st Round Orchestra Audition (Optional/Select Students)
- Monday, October 24, 2022 – 8th Grade Spooktacular Concert with Lakeside HS Orchestra @ Lakeside HS Performing Arts Center
- Saturday, November 12, 2022 – District 4 Middle and High School Honor Orchestra. Location TBA. (Optional/Select Students).
- Tuesday, December 6, 2022 – Winter Orchestra Concert. 7:00pm @ HMS Gymnasium.
- Saturday, January, 14, 2023 – All-State Orchestra Final Round Auditions (Select Students).
- March 14-16, 2023 – Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE). Time TBA @ Lakeside HS. (7th/8th Grade Orchestras).
- Saturday, March 25, 2023 – District 4 Elementary/6th Grade Honor Orchestra. Time and Location TBA. (Optional/Select Students).
- Thursday, May 4, 2023 – Spring Orchestra Concert. 7:00pm. @ HMS Gymnasium.

This calendar is subject to change. Any deviations/changes will be announced in advance.

Please return this sheet by **Friday, August 26th, 2022**

My child and I have read the Henderson Middle School Orchestra Syllabus and we will meet the obligations of the orchestra program.

Student's Name _____

Student's Signature _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____

Email Address _____

Orchestra Polo Shirt Size _____ (sizes YM, YL, YXL, AS, AM, AL, AXL, AXXL). Check here if already have _____ **Need for Winter Concert and LGPE. Please do not discard unless outgrown**

Orchestra T-Shirt Size _____ (sizes YM, YL, YXL, AS, AM, AL, AXL, AXXL). **Need at Spring Concert**

Please attach the Orchestra Dues of \$70 (\$50 if you already have a wearable HMS Orchestra Polo). Cash or Check. Checks should be made payable to Henderson Middle School.
