

# Henderson MS Orchestra

2830 Henderson Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30341

Phone: 678-874-2902

2020-2021 Orchestra Syllabus

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; some items are subject to change.

**Instructor:** Ms. Tang, Chiaman Samantha

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

[www.hmsorch.weebly.com](http://www.hmsorch.weebly.com)

**Communication:** email through Infinite Campus, Remind, Orchestra Website, VERGE and/or hard copies sent home.

Please join your appropriate grade-level on the free app **Remind**. THIS IS REQUIRED.

6<sup>th</sup> grade: @ca4feh

7<sup>th</sup> grade: @2h8aaa

8<sup>th</sup> grade: @gcf9fde

**Classwork will be uploaded onto VERGE, and they should be submitted through VERGE. Any class meetings or conferences will be done through Microsoft Teams Video Calls. Video links will go DIRECTLY to the STUDENT EMAILS. Please check consistently.**

## **Class Periods**

Period 2	10:05-11:00	Orchestra 8-1 Mondays/Thursdays
Period 3	10:05-11:00	Orchestra 8-2 Tuesdays/Fridays
Period 4	11:10-12:05	Orchestra 7-1 Mondays/Thursdays
Period 5	11:10-12:05	Orchestra 7-2 Tuesdays/Fridays
Period 6	12:55-1:50	Orchestra 6-1 Mondays/Thursdays
Period 7	12:55-1:50	Orchestra 6-2 Tuesdays/Fridays

## **Availability times for Conferences**

Wednesdays 9:00am-1:50pm. Email or Message via Remind to schedule a conference.

## **Required materials**

Essential Elements for strings w/CD (cost is approximately \$7.95) (NOT ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS 2000)

- 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

Pencil & notebook

Instrument

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 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 or morning rehearsal, please contact Ms. Tang.

### **Orchestra Dues**

**Orchestra Dues will be POSTPONED this school year until we can head back to in-person classes.** There may be individual opportunities for students to participate in audition or district performance events, but there are no definite plans until further notice.

**STUDENTS NEEDING AN ORCHESTRA POLO** –There will be NO orchestra polos this school year due to the due payments being postponed!

### **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 instrument breaks, it is the student/parent's responsibility to pay for it to be fixed. First come, first served.

**Mendini/Cecilio, Palantino, or any Amazon** instruments are highly discouraged! Please visit [www.swstrings.com](http://www.swstrings.com) for all your music needs: instruments and accessories.

**Cello and bass players** will NOT be borrowing school instruments for home-use. It is too much of a liability, even with a contract, since the instruments are large and take a long time to replace if broken. Students WILL NEED an instrument, but not right away in the start of the school year. We will ease into instrument usage. **Mendini/Cecilio, Palantino, or any Amazon** instruments are highly discouraged!

Please visit [www.swstrings.com](http://www.swstrings.com) for all your music needs: instruments and accessories. Please see the information below for instrument renting options in DeKalb County.

### **Ronald Sachs Violins- Avondale Estates**

Henderson MS orchestra has been in partnership with Ronald Sachs Violin in Avondale Estates, and the owner Andrew Henke has been repairing our school instruments this past year. Mr. Henke has announced a rental plan with free tuning and adjustments. His informational video and flyer will be posted on the orchestra website. Please check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iciP7HW3N88&feature=youtu.be>

Please see "Classroom Expectations" for more resources on obtain an instrument.

**\*\*Please check Remind for information on how to sign up for a time to check an instrument (violins & violas) out from Ms. Tang at Henderson MS. It will always be set on Wednesdays. Ms. Tang will send out a Sign-Up Genius for sign up times in the near future.\*\* (This process will take some time, so please be patient).**

- Ms. Tang will not do home deliveries.
- If you are financially able to rent an instrument, I would encourage parents/students to do so, so we can leave the school instruments for those students who financially cannot purchase or rent an instrument.
- We have large 7th and 6th grade classes, so first come, first served.

- No school cellos or basses will be available for check-out.

### **Grading System**

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

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

### **Daily Class/Rehearsal Participation**

In the online setting, I expect all students to try their best on all assignments. If students do not understand something, then do not hesitate to ask Ms. Tang. She is there to help!

**Playing quizzes/checks** are have not been planned, but they may happen in the future. This is a quiz grade that checks for small improvements in the student's playing technique.

**Playing tests** are usually taken in the morning and during class 2-3 weeks prior to a concert performance. A spreadsheet is displayed for students to sign-up for their test. **\*\*Please be patient as Ms. Tang is trying to figure out the best possible way to do this. It is subject to change\*\***

### **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**

Performances will be difficult with the online setting, and will most likely not happen due to many factors. However, this may change.

### **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 quiz/test was missed, students will be required to complete it during morning practice.

### **Recovery Process**

If your child needs to improve their orchestra grade, Ms. Tang is available Wednesdays for help sessions.

### **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 or before and/or after school which not only allows for the teacher to evaluate playing skills but it also allows students to gain confidence with public performance.

### **Morning practice will be offered regularly from 7:30-8:25 a.m.**

There will be NO morning practice this school year until further notice.

### **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 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**

Please see a separate document for the online class expectations.

### **Consequences**

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

# **Orchestra events for the 2020-2021 School Year are as follows:**

- TBA

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

Please sign this sheet by **Friday, August 28th, 2020**, and screenshot/scan/take a picture of it, and upload to VERGE

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_