

HH Dow High School Orchestra Handbook **2014-2015**

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The best way to reach me is via email. Because I go to several different schools every day, I am not always able to check phone messages in a timely manner.

2014-2015 Calendar

Items in **Bold** are required orchestra events.

- All-State Auditions October 25 and 26
- Time TBD at Owosso High School
- Fall Orchestra Concert October 28**
- **7:30PM at Memorial Presbyterian Church**
 - **Call time—7:00PM**
- Winter Orchestra Concert.....December 16**
- **7:30PM at Central Auditorium**
 - **Call time—7:00PM**
- District V Solo and Ensemble February 7
- Time TBD at Owosso High School
- Pre-Festival Concert (Symphony Orchestra Only)February 24**
- **7:30PM at Central Auditorium**
 - **Call time—7:00PM**
- MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival (Symphony Orchestra Only)..... February 27 or 28**
- **Time and Location—TBD**
- RenFair (Symphony and Honors Orchestras Only)..... March 7**
- **Time TBD at the Midland Center for the Arts**
- Midland Public Schools String Clinic (Concert Orchestra Only).....TBD**
- **Time and Location TBD**
- State Solo and Ensemble March 21
- Time and Location—TBD
- 4th Grade Concert (Symphony Orchestra Only)April 14**
- **9:00AM at the Midland Center for the Arts**
- Jazz & More (Selected Small Ensembles Only).....May 2
- Time TBD at the Midland Country Club
- Spring Orchestra Concert May 21**
- **7:30PM at Central Auditorium**
 - **Call time—7:00PM**

Attendance Policy

Daily Attendance

Daily attendance in orchestra class is the basis for the orchestra curriculum. Continued learning in orchestra is built on the material that was learned the day before. Also, when you miss class, it negatively affects your peers; they are not able to rehearse with the entire group there. While concerts are incredibly important, they serve mostly as a way of demonstrating what you have learned during class.

1. The school's attendance policy, as written in the Dow High School Handbook, will be enforced. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of daily rehearsal points, which will affect the marking period grade. Also for Symphony members, if the number of unexcused absences becomes excessive and negatively affects the student's ability to perform, membership in the ensemble may be terminated.
2. Tardiness will be handled according to the Dow High School tardy policy and will also result in the loss of daily grade points.
3. All missed tests, quizzes, and assignments will be made up in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with the instructor for a make-up test. Any missing work not made up within one week will receive a zero.
4. Bathroom – Please use the restroom before class. Due to the nature of a performance-based class, leaving the class hurts you and the rest of the group. Bathroom breaks will be limited to emergencies.
5. “I forgot something in my locker...” – If you must leave class to retrieve something from your locker, it will be reflected in your daily rehearsal points.

Performance and Extra Rehearsal Attendance

The success of a musical performance is dependent on the full participation of all of the members. Therefore, attendance at all performances is mandatory. School-related conflicts will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, but the following may serve as a guideline.

1. An orchestra member may be excused from a performance for certain family obligations. The student is responsible for filling out the pre-excuse form at least 2 weeks in advance. The form requires a parent signature. Depending on the nature of the absence, the student may be required to complete some make-up work.
2. Unexcused absences will result in loss of credit for the performance, and the points cannot be made-up.
3. Filling out the pre-excuse form does not guarantee that the absence is excused. Approval must be given by the director. An example of an appropriate excuse would be taking a university's entrance exam when no other dates are available.
4. Emergency absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but in general, severe illness and family emergencies (i.e. death in the family) will be excused.
5. Extra rehearsals should be treated as extra class periods. Daily grade points will be awarded.

Maintenance of Room and Equipment

Remember that this room is a shared space and needs to be kept in working order for everyone. Throw away all trash, and do not write on music stands or equipment.

The director and the school will not be held responsible for damage or loss of personal property left unattended in the classroom or in lockers. (i.e. Do not leave things in the classroom, and keep lockers locked.)

The student is responsible for the maintenance of his or her own instrument. If problems arise with an instrument, please inform the director as soon as possible.

Lockers

Lockers are issued for the sole purpose of storing an instrument and music. Lockers should be kept clean and well-maintained. Also, lockers must be kept locked. Lockers that left unlocked after class will be locked by a member of the music staff. Repeated offences may result in the locker being zip-tied shut.

Music

Original music will often be issued during orchestra. All students are responsible for their own music, and it must be brought to class every day. Music must also be returned in a timely manner. Destruction of original parts will result in a fine. The fine will be based on the cost of purchasing a new part, but it will often range from \$2 to \$10.

Extra Supplies (Strings, Rosin, Shoulder Rests)

The school does not supply extra supplies to students. If you play a personal instrument, you are responsible for carrying extra strings, rosin, etc. If you need to use the school supply of these materials in an emergency, you must purchase them at the following rates. For school instruments, the district will pay for regular maintenance. However, the student is expected to pay for any repairs caused by misuse or negligence.

Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass
E - \$2.50	A - \$5.25	A - \$10.00	G - \$13.75
A - \$3.75	D - \$5.50	D - \$10.50	D - \$14.50
D - \$4.00	G - \$5.75	G - \$11.75	A - \$18.25
G - \$4.25	C - \$6.25	C - \$12.75	E - \$20.75

Eating and Drinking

Only water is allowed. No other food or drink, including gum, is allowed in the orchestra room. Please follow the school rules about water bottles.

Scholarships

Every year, the Dow High Music Boosters set aside funds to give scholarships to students interested in furthering their musical study. These scholarships can be applied toward summer private lessons and music camps. You may start turning in applications on November 1, 2013, and they will be accepted until May 1, 2014.

Uniforms

Wearing the appropriate uniform is part of the performance grade. An incorrect uniform will result in loss of points.

Symphony Orchestra

Girls—Uniform skirt, white tux shirt, black tie, uniform jacket, cummerbund, black socks or panty-hose, and black dress shoes (closed-toed)

Boys—Concert coat, cummerbund, uniform tux pants, white tux shirt, black tie, black socks, and black dress shoes

Concert Orchestra

Girls—Black skirt or black dress pants (knee-length or longer), black blouse, black socks or panty-hose, and black dress shoes (closed-toed)

Boys—Black dress slacks, black dress shirt, black tie (optional), black socks, and black dress shoes

If a student has a problem acquiring the appropriate uniform for any reason, please contact the director.

Grading

Grades are calculated as a percentage of a total point score and will include the following components.

Daily Rehearsal Points

Most of the marking period grade will come from these points. Up to 3 points may be awarded each class period.

3 Points – Student is...

1 point – On time (in seat ready to begin 5 minutes after the bell)

1 point – Prepared (student has instrument, music, and a pencil)

1 points – On task (student actively participates in class)

Home/Class Work

This may include, but is not limited to concert analyses, personal and group assessments, and end of semester evaluations.

Playing Tests

There will be multiple playing tests throughout the year. Some will count towards the final grade; others will not. Some will be formal recordings. Others will be pass/fail play-offs in class. Students will always be aware of whether or not a test is graded. Students will receive a one-week notice for all formal playing tests.

Performances

Orchestra is a performance-based class, so the performances are a vital part of the learning experience. The performance grade will be based on attendance, rehearsal etiquette, and proper dress.

50 points – Student is...

10 points – Ready to warm-up at call time

10 points – in complete uniform

30 points – follows professional standards of conduct for rehearsal and performance

Final Semester Exam

The final exam may be written, performed, or both, and it will either be based on the music that was played throughout the semester, or it will serve as audition music for the Symphony Orchestra.

Evidence of musical growth will be considered as part of the final grade.

Honors Curriculum (.4 Credit)

The honors program of the HH Dow High School Music Department is offered to give students the opportunity for advanced musical training as a supplement to the music program and to receive credit for accomplishing those objectives. The director will grant honors program participation on an individual basis. Due to the function of this program as a supplement to the .3 music classes, the honors requirements are to be completed IN ADDITION to the .3 course objectives and performance requirements. Please be very sure that the goals are attainable as .4 credit holds more weight in the grade point average. It is recommended that students sign up for honors credit only after completing one year of .3 credit.

Practice Expectations

Home practice is orchestra's daily homework assignment. While a half hour a day is recommended, even 10 minutes can mean the difference between knowing and not knowing the music. Class time is not the time to do individual practice. If a student ever needs assistance with individual practice, please contact the director.

Please fill out and return the following information by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2014.

Student Name: _____

Preferred phone: _____ Preferred email address: _____

Parent Name: _____

Preferred phone: _____ Preferred email address: _____

H.H. Dow High School Orchestra Contract

I agree to all of the policies and procedures laid out in this handbook. I agree to fulfill my responsibility as an orchestra student/parent, and I will contact the director if any problems arise. I have written all of the performance dates in my personal calendar, and I will not put any other commitments on those dates.

Print Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date
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Print Student Name	Student Signature	Date
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Carpooling Permission Slip

Periodically throughout the year, orchestra events may take place at other locations within Midland including (but not limited to) Central Auditorium, Midland Center for the Arts, and other Midland Public School buildings. In these situations, we often arrange carpooling among the students and the instructor. If carpooling cannot be arranged, the student, parent, and instructor will work together to find another appropriate means of transportation. **Please select ALL that apply from the following.**

_____ My student (who has a driver's license) may drive himself/herself to other locations within Midland for orchestra events.

_____ My student (who has a driver's license) may drive a carpool to other locations within Midland for orchestra events.

_____ My student may carpool with other licensed students to other locations within Midland for orchestra events.

_____ My student may not participate in carpooling to travel to other locations within Midland for orchestra events.

Student Name _____

Print Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date
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