



DeKalb High School

Concert Orchestra Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Felder

Contact Information:

- Please Email sheila.felder@d428.org whenever possible. The music office phone # is 815-754-2120. Office hours are during periods 8, FLEX and after school by appointment. Course website is: dhsorchestras.weebly.com

Course Goals/ Big Ideas:

- Description: Concert Orchestra is a year-long course in the development of instrumental music with a focus on orchestral performance. Literature changes yearly and students may repeat the class. Concert Orchestra is the foundation course for all other orchestra courses. All concepts taught can be applied to higher level orchestra courses.
- Content: In each semester the Concert Orchestra will prepare music for public performance. Literature for each performance will be chosen from the following genres: baroque, classical, romantic and 20th century art music, jazz, pop, bluegrass and the music of other cultures. Literature will dictate the development of playing skills required for success in the course.
- Objectives: Musical gestures and emotional connection to the music shall be demonstrated as dictated by the literature. Development of music reading skills (including sight reading), critical listening and musical analysis skills are also primary objectives of this course.
- Technical development on a student's given instrument and individual musicianship growth are key components to the concert orchestra curriculum and should be considered a student's most important goals in this course.

Extra Help:

- Extra Help is available during FLEX and after-school. You are encouraged to set up an appointment whenever you'd like extra help. The school does not provide private or group lessons at the high school level. As such, students are highly encouraged to find a reputable private teacher. Private study is particularly encouraged of students who wish to participate in ensembles which require an audition for acceptance. A list of area private teachers is available.
- **Course Materials:**
Students need to arrive to class everyday with their instrument, a pencil, needed supplies (shoulder rest, rock stop, rosin, etc.) and the music folder supplied by the school. Additionally all students need to arrive to class with an open mind and eagerness to learn.

Behavior Expectations:

- Students are expected to adhere to the Heart of a Barb Matrix (**Be Responsible, Achieve Academically, Respect Self and Others and Be Proud**) during this course.
- Students are expected to be ready in their seats with instruments, music and necessary materials no later than **3 minutes after the bell** has rung.
- Music folders, instruments, and **equipment must be put away** at the end of class.
- *Other personal belongings must be stored in lockers, not the orchestra room. Each student will be assigned a music locker. Instrument cases are to be left in lockers or outside of the rehearsal area.*
- Electronic devices (CELL PHONES) may be used for tuning, **but are not to be used during class time** unless requested by the instructor. **No earbuds/headphones** are to be used or worn during class.
- **Chromebooks** will be used periodically in class and will be used for at home playing assignments.
- It is the student's individual responsibility to **practice at home** and learn the music, so that rehearsals may focus on higher-level musical concepts. Students will receive practice packets at the beginning of each quarter.

Grading Policy: Total class grade factors for 80% of final grade, final exam 20%

- Daily Participation/ Conduct Grade: 10% -- Students are assigned a grade everyday for their participation in class. In order to receive full credit, students must have all supplies (instrument, all music, shoulder rest/rock stop and a pencil), and participate as directed.
- Sectionals: 10% -- Students will be required to attend sectionals at least once a semester during FLEX time and/or class time.
- Performance Grade: 25% -- Students must attend all performances scheduled for the group outside of school. Students should arrive at the instructed time with all materials and proper attire. The teacher should be informed of all absences as soon as possible. For a list of excused absences, please refer to the DHS student handbook. **Employment outside of school is not an excused absence.** Orchestra is a performing art and student participation in outside events is critical for success in the program. Students will only receive the opportunity to make up work for a missed performance if the absence is excused.
- Playing Exam Grade: 25% -- Students will earn grades based on playing examinations. Students will perform alone during these examinations and will usually record themselves.
- Written Work/Quizzes: 10%
- Final Exam: 20% Students shall take a written and/or playing final in each semester, using concepts taught in class that are tied to national standards for arts education and CCS standards.
- Extra Credit: Students may earn extra credit with additional performances, performing in outside ensembles, participating in String Band and/or Chamber Orchestra, taking private lessons, participating in ILMEA District and Solo/Ensemble Contest, helping with music events (ILMEA, Solo & Ensemble, MS Concerts, etc) and attending outside music performances.

Semester Calendar: An overview is provided below. A detailed calendar may be found at www.dhsorchestras.weebly.com and is attached.

- August- October: The orchestra will study a wide variety of literature, often concentrating on Baroque era literature, while continuing to advance the techniques of all musicians. There will be at least one playing exam during first quarter. We will end the quarter with a fall performance.
- October-December: The orchestra will learn new literature, often concentrating on Classical era literature and will refine a program for a December performance.
- January- March: We will begin reading new literature and refocus on skill development after finals. Often we concentrate on Romantic era literature. There will be a playing exam this quarter. Participation in NIU String Day usually occurs in February. IHSA solo/ensemble literature will also be prepared at this time. All students should plan on attending this event.
- March-June: Final literature for the year will be prepared, often concentrating on Pop Culture literature. Culminating performances will include participation at IHSA Organizational Competition in April and a Spring Orchestra Concert. Auditions for Symphony Orchestra will occur in April.

Guidelines for Success/Self Monitoring Checklist:

- Class participation and performance:
 - ❖ Arrive on time and bring my instrument/music/supplies/ pencil everyday
 - ❖ prepare music (practice) for active contribution in class
 - ❖ complete and turn in requested assignments
 - ❖ prepare and complete playing tests
 - ❖ Check Skyward and Google Classroom to monitor progress and check assignments
 - ❖ Fall Concert Participation and Winter Concert Participation
 - ❖ NIU String Day
 - ❖ Solo/Ensemble Contest and IHSA Organizational Contest
 - ❖ Spring Concert Participation
 - ❖ Extra Credit

DeKalb High School Concert Orchestra 2016-17 Concerts

Saturday, Oct. 8 <i>due Sept. 16)</i>	ILMEA District Orchestra Auditions	Individual slots; Huntley MS (<i>Nominees</i>)
Tuesday, Oct. 18	*DCO and HMS Orchestra Fall Concert	Concert @ 7 PM, call @ 6:30 pm, DHS
Saturday, Nov. 19	ILMEA Festival Rehearsal & Concert	DeKalb High School – Selectees, \$\$
Friday, Dec. 9	*DCO/DSO Orchestra & Choir Concert	Concert @ 7 PM, call @ 6:00, DHS
December 15-17	DHS Madrigal Dinners at NIU	Chamber Orchestra – NIU, \$\$
January 26-28	ILMEA All-State Orchestras	Peoria – Selectees, \$\$
Tuesday, February 14 by 3:30	*NIU String Day	During school day – Return
March 26-30	DHS Orchestra Tour to New Orleans	Performances & Clinics in New Orleans
Friday, April 7	D428 Faculty Recital	Concert @ 7 PM, DHS auditorium
Saturday, April 8	*Solo & Ensemble Competition	Individual slots, TBA; DHS
Saturday, April 8	Solo & Ensemble Honors Recital	Selectees, Evening; DHS choir room
Fri. or Sat., April 21/22	*IHSA Organizational Contest	TBA
April or May	DHS Musical	Pit Orchestra – Selectees, \$\$
Wednesday, May 17	String Band at House Café	String Band -- TBA
Thursday, May 25	*DCO/DSO Concert with Randy Sabien	Concert @ 7 PM, call @ 5:45, DHS
Tuesday, May 30	DHS Orchestra Banquet	Dinner @ 6pm; Awards at 6:45 pm

*** denotes required participation**
 \$\$ denotes entry cost at auditorium

Concert Attire:

Girls -- Black long sleeved shirt, Black dress pants and/or Long Skirt or Long Black Dress
 Black stockings and Black dress shoes
 Boys -- Black dress pants, White dress shirt, Tie, Black socks, Black shoes

Please read through the Course Syllabus and apply Concert Dates to your family's calendar. Thanks!

This form is due back to Mrs. Felder tomorrow for 25 points, one day late 20 points, two days late 15 points and three days late for 10 points.

- We understand the expectations for concerts and daily rehearsals, including concert attire, attendance policy and behavioral expectations.
- We understand the grading policy set forth by the director.
- I will obtain and maintain the materials needed for this course.
- I have received the concert dates and will make arrangements to be at all performances promptly.

I (student signature), _____, have read and understand the expectations set forth by my director for the school year.

I (parent/ guardian signature), _____, have read and understand the expectations set forth by my director for the school year.

Please address any known conflicts of required concerts now:

Do you have any questions for the director? Please leave an email/ phone number.