

Shamokin Area High School

2019-2020 Orchestra Handbook & Syllabus

Welcome

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Shamokin Area High School Orchestra. This handbook contains important information that you will need for this year's orchestra program, including department policies and expectations. Please be sure to read completely and carefully.

Facilities

Rehearsals will take place daily in the rehearsal room (A107). Students will be assigned shelf/rack spaces for their instruments and cabinet slots for their music. Strings lessons will take place in the rehearsal room, the middle school classroom (A122), or the storage room (A123) as necessity demands. It is expected that students will take care of their shared rehearsal space, keeping it clean and neat, as well as the equipment in that space. Misuse of the space or equipment can result in the loss of certain privileges as well as appropriate disciplinary action.

Breakfast Policy

Students are permitted to eat the school-provided breakfast during homeroom, provided it is finished before first period begins. A student taking time out of rehearsal to eat will lose points for that day's grade. Aside from this: NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED IN THE MUSIC SUITE.

Rehearsal Expectations

- Come prepared to rehearsal with all necessary materials (music, instrument, agenda, pencil, etc.)
- Gum, food, and drinks are prohibited during rehearsal
- Be attentive, listen to/follow instruction, and avoid excessive talking
- Use proper techniques and apply musical skills to the best of your ability
- KEEP CELL PHONES AWAY; there is a designated spaces for phones in the rehearsal room

Behavior Expectations

As members of the orchestra and of the music department, students are expected to behave in the following manner:

- Serve as positive examples for the rest of the student body
- Act respectfully towards fellow students and faculty
- Show respect for property and equipment of others and of the school
- Be responsible and dependable
- Come to rehearsal ready to learn
- Follow through with your commitment to the ensemble year-round

Additionally, smoking or use of any drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited at any Music Department function. Violations may result in the immediate expulsion of the student from the program and/or the loss of any awards, festival/trip participation, etc. The high school principal will be notified and any further disciplinary action required.

Concert Dress

Men

- White button-down dress shirt (long sleeves preferred)
- Purple tie (provided by Music Department)
- Black dress slacks (no jeans)
- Long black socks, black dress shoes (no sneakers)

Women

- Black concert gown (provided by Music Department)
- OR black dress pants/floor-length black skirt, with a white blouse (long sleeves preferred)
- Black dress shoes (heels or flats)

Failure of a student to dress appropriately for concerts WILL affect their concert grade and *may* prevent them from being able to participate in the performance with no chance for a make-up. Please make sure all items of clothing fit well before the concert.

Participation/Attendance

Orchestra is a class. In addition to performance and rehearsal expectations, the orchestra has the same expectations as any other class.

Attendance will be taken at all orchestra functions, and is mandatory at each rehearsal and performance. Tardiness and unexcused absences are unacceptable and WILL have an effect on a student's grade, and *may* prevent them from being able to participate in any performance, as well as the loss of other privileges.

If you miss too much rehearsal, you will not be allowed to perform.

In any ensemble, a musician's goal is not only to learn their own part, but how their part fits with the rest of the ensemble. Orchestra is a group effort, and progress can only be made if the individual acts as part of the whole. Learning all the music, only to not participate in the concert, is like cooking a 5-course meal for a dinner party and then throwing it all out when the guests arrive.

With that being said, there are situations that cannot be accounted for, and that may affect the ability to attend a concert. Work is not a valid excuse. The only valid excuses for missing a performance are severe personal illness or a significant family emergency. If a student misses a concert and the absence is deemed unexcused, the student will not be given an opportunity to make up the grade and will receive a zero. If a student misses a concert for a valid reason, it is the student's responsibility to turn in a signed parental excuse, and then the student will be expected to complete *The Concert Alternate Assignment* within a set time frame.

Fundraising

The Senior High Orchestra may occasionally participate in fundraisers. Music programs are expensive to operate, and there are certain costs to be considered. In the event that the orchestra does have a fundraiser, all students should consider participating. The profit from fundraisers can help the orchestra go on trips, repair or replace instruments, or can help ease the many other financial burdens of running a music program. Fundraiser participants should make sure any checks or money orders collected are placed in a sealed envelope clearly labeled with the student's name, the fundraiser, and the amount enclosed. All fundraiser envelopes should be placed in the black box in the band room (A106) before fundraiser deadlines.

Additional Opportunities

Members of the Orchestra have the opportunity to participate in several extra-curricular orchestral activities. Two such examples are the Chamber Orchestra and PMEA festivals.

Chamber Orchestra: Where the Orchestra plays large works meant for many players, the Ensemble plays works meant for smaller groups – such as chamber pieces, jazz combos, or quartets. Times for weekly rehearsals for the group are TBD. The size and exact instrumentation of the group may vary from year to year, given the needs of the music that will be played. *Previous members are not guaranteed to be part of the group.*

PMEA festivals: The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) hosts several musical events annually for the state's orchestral, band, and choral music students, namely the District, Regional, and All-State festivals. These festivals feature the best our state has to offer, and can be auditioned for at the end of autumn pending approval by Mr. Hollenberg. Interested students should see Mr. Hollenberg for audition materials. Students who successfully audition for festivals MUST remain in good academic standing with the school district in order to attend.

Practicing

Rehearsals and lessons are not enough for the orchestra to be the best it can be. Orchestra members are expected to take a certain amount of personal responsibility for learning the music through independent practicing. Students are encouraged to take advantage of study hall time during school and to take home their instruments as often as possible, especially over weekends.

In-school practicing:

For weekly sectionals, please follow the posted sectional schedule on the music suite bulletin board. The school staff receives this schedule every month, and attempting to move times becomes confusing for all involved. Do not ask to move your sectional time.

For extra practice time, students may only come to the music suite during a study hall, and MUST have a pass from a music teacher. Getting the 'ok' from another teacher is not acceptable. While you are in the music suite during a study hall, you are expected to PRACTICE. You will be asked to return to study hall if you cannot stay on task. Students wanting extra practice time may also utilize the practice rooms in the music suite after dismissal until 3PM.

Some practicing tips:

1. Practice in a place where you will not be distracted.
2. Practicing more often for less time is generally more productive and will yield better results than practicing less often for more time. (i.e. practicing 20 minutes every day vs. practicing 2 hours every Saturday)
3. Start with clear goals in mind. Do not just play through your music in 'autopilot mode.' Say to yourself, "I will be able play (x) with correct bowing/with better technique/with more accurate rhythm," and then work towards that goal.
4. If you are having difficulty with a certain passage, break it up into chunks and slow it down. If it keeps giving you trouble, move on to something else, but be sure to come back to it.
5. Vary your practice session by practicing several different things. Working on a single passage or even a single piece for half an hour can be hindering and frustrating.
6. Do not practice just the fingerings. Practice things like rhythm, articulation, bowing, dynamics, phrasing, etc. All these aspects are just as important as the notes, if not more so.
7. Practice how you perform! Play with correct technique, proper posture, etc.

Grading Policy

Orchestra grades are tentatively based on the following:

- Daily rehearsal attendance/participation: 5 points (per rehearsal)
- District-required quarterly writing samples: 15 points
- Classroom/Practice assignments: 10-25 points
- Written/Playing tests: 50 points (per test)
- Concerts: 100 points (per concert)
- STRINGS ONLY: Sectional attendance/participation: 20 points (per lesson)

Daily/sectional participation rubric: In order to receive full credit for rehearsal and sectional participation, students are expected to do the following:

- Come to class prepared and on time with all items necessary for practice (instrument, music, pencil, agenda, etc.)
- Participate fully in all class activities
- Follow school/class rules and expectations at all times
- Apply musical concepts and skills to the best of ability
- STRINGS ONLY: attend at least 5 sectionals each marking period, or complete the make-up lesson assignment.

Important Dates

- Choir/Orchestra Fall Performance: Wednesday November 20, 7:00PM
- Combined Winter Performance: Thursday December 12, 7:00PM
- Spring Orchestra Performance: Wednesday May 20, 7:30PM
- Senior High Graduation: Date/Time determined by school year schedule
- PMEA Festivals (optional)
 - District Orchestra Pre-Auditions: November 24
 - District Orchestra: January 29-31
 - Region Orchestra: March 11-14
 - All-State: April 22-25

Contact

In an attempt to save paper and resources, Mr. Hollenberg has started an email newsletter to inform parents/guardians of orchestra business. This will be sent out periodically and will contain important information about orchestra events, fundraisers, etc. that students and parents will need to be aware of. To make sure that you get these emails, please either add Mr. Hollenberg as a contact, or take steps to ensure that his emails will not go directly to spam.

Additionally, Mr. Hollenberg or the band/orchestra boosters may occasionally make contact home regarding school or orchestra business by email, phone, Remind, or through mail.

Mr. Hollenberg can be contacted the following ways.

- Email: jhollenberg@indians.k12.pa.us
- Phone: (570)648-5731 ext. 3424
- Remind app: text @sahorchest to 81010 or enter class code @sahorchest in Remind to register for text announcements.

***NOTE: Students must now have parental permission to use Remind.**

Please fill out all requested information. Sign and return this page to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the attached information. Additionally please fill in all requested information where able.

- I give my permission for my child to use Remind for the purpose of Orchestra business and announcements. (check box if yes) **CLASS CODE: @saorchest

Student Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Preferred Phone

Parent/Guardian Preferred Email

Additional Phone (if applicable)

Additional Email (if applicable)

Orchestra instrument

Other played instruments (if any)

Instrument information - String players only: (check one) Mine__ Schools__

Not all instruments may have all of what is asked for. Fill in what you are able.

Instrument_____ Size_____ Year_____

Make(ex. Samuel Eastman, Yamaha, etc)_____

Model Number_____ Serial Number_____

If you have an additional school instrument at home, please provide the information for that instrument below

Instrument_____ Size_____ Year_____

Make(ex. Samuel Eastman, Yamaha, etc)_____

Model Number_____ Serial Number_____