

North Allegheny High School Orchestra Student & Parent Handbook, 2020-2021

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Welcome to orchestra at NASH & NAI! We are excited for a great year with you! We hope that the information below will help us to have a successful year together.

Daily Procedures

Students will come to class prepared to learn. Please arrive on time with the materials needed for class.

Students are expected to participate. Completing homework for other classes, reading outside materials, and engaging in activities not related to the rehearsal are not permitted. You are expected to be in the orchestra room during your class period. Cell phones are not permitted during rehearsal. If you are caught using a cell phone in class, your phone will sit in "cell phone jail" during class for 5 days. Detention will be issued to repeat offenders.

Students will refrain from chewing gum and eating during all activities.

There will be no food or gum in class. You are welcome to bring a bottle of water.

Students are expected to practice. While we do not ask for you to keep practice records at the high school, we do expect you to practice the amount necessary to keep up with and encourage the progress we are making in class. If you are interested in taking private lessons to help with your progress, please ask your orchestra teacher for a private teacher list!

Class Supplies

Required for Violin/Viola:

Instrument, shoulder rest, rosin, laptop

Optional Violin/Viola Items:

Tuner, music stand, extra strings, printed music/pencil

Required for Cello/Bass:

Rosin, laptop

Optional Cello/Bass Items:

Instrument, tuner, music stand, extra strings, printed music/pencil

Grading System

Our grading system is as follows: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 59 or below=F. Grades will come from formative and summative assessments throughout the grading period.

Performance Assessments

Flipgrid and SmartMusic will be used to assess student progress on music we rehearse in class.

Written Assignments

Students will continue to learn more about technique, music technology, music history, music listening, concert programming, composers, and other topics in the field of string music and education. Assessments will be used to evaluate progress in these areas as well.

Concerts & Dress Rehearsals

At this time, there will be no performances in the first semester. We will update families on concert & dress rehearsal attendance policies in the second semester. At this time, there will be no required events outside the school day.

Instruments

All instruments are to be placed in the instrument storage lockers/racks. Please take care of your instrument and respect the property of others. Do not move students' instruments to different lockers. Do not use other students' instruments without permission. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items; please consider securing your violin/viola and music with a combination lock.

School instruments are sometimes loaned to students for use at home. An **Instrument Loan Form** must be completed and returned to school before taking an instrument home. Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of these instruments.

Uniforms

Students wear a uniform for concerts (not dress rehearsals) and strolling events. Uniform fittings will not take place at this time; stay tuned for an update at a later date.

Girls wear: the uniform black dress provided during fittings hemmed neatly (not stapled) to the top of the shoes, closed-toe black dress shoes (not Toms, canvas sneakers, or other casual shoes), optional hosiery (must be nude in color)

Boys wear: the black pants, jacket, tie, and cummerbund provided during fittings, a white tuxedo shirt with a winged collar and sewn pleats on the front (no cuffs with cuff links), black closed-toe dress shoes (no sneakers), black socks

Students are responsible for replacing lost/missing items. Replacement bow ties are \$5 and cummerbunds are \$7.

Golden Strolling Strings

All students in the orchestra program in grades 9-12 participate in the Golden Strolling Strings. The goal of this co-curricular activity is to enhance the orchestra program, provide unique performance opportunities for our students, and to provide unique entertainment throughout the community. At this time, music will be rehearsed in class but strolling groups will not be assigned until a later date.

Spring Trip

Each spring, the orchestra seeks performance opportunities that cannot be created in the classroom. We have traveled, performed and participated in clinics and workshops all along the east coast. At this time, there are no formal plans for a trip this spring but we will update families if we are able to move forward with a rescheduled Disney trip this year.

NAOPA (North Allegheny Orchestra Parents Association)

Working in the background to make many of our activities possible is the North Allegheny Orchestra Parents Association (NAOPA). This group is made up of parents with children in the orchestra program, grades 9-12. The job of the NAOPA members is to assist the directors and students with fundraisers, concerts, the orchestra banquet, and by acting as chaperones on any trips we take throughout the year. More

information about this organization and meeting dates can also be found on the orchestra website, NAorchestra.org.