

ANNANDALE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy." - Beethoven



4700 Medford Drive Annandale, Virginia 22003 703-642-4300 adammerman@fcps.edu

Dear Annandale Orchestra Families,

9.16.2014

Welcome to the Annandale Orchestra Program! I am just thrilled to have you and your child in our Orchestra family this year. Here is an overview of the year. Please also find the school year calendar on the flip side of this letter.

<u>Supplies:</u> Violinists and violists should own or rent an instrument. Students will also need rosin, a few extra strings, and a shoulder rest (preferably a WOLFE FORTE or a KUHN rest- not a foam sponge). Cellos and basses will rent an instrument at school for rehearsals. Students are expected to also have an instrument for home practice. Cellos and basses will also need rosin and a rock stop.

Expectations and Guidelines:

- 1. Committed attendance at all rehearsals and performances
- 2. Appropriate behavior towards self and others, including students, teachers, parents, and visitors, at all times.
- 3. Preparation and completion of music and all assignments.
- 4. Show respect for our equipment (instruments, stands, music and other furniture in the classroom.)
- 5. **Parent participation in at least one event per year.** (You may sign up here or through CHARMS).

Orchestra Registration: This year, we will continue to use the data program called CHARMS to maintain our student info and finance records. Each student has already received a "Charms Assignment" in which they should have updated information for us regarding parent e-mail, phone number, etc.. Information is password protected and this great program even has features to help us communicate volunteering needs and for you to sign up to volunteer easily! Student numbers are made up of: 1st initial of first name, 1st initial of last name, last 4 digits of your FCPS student ID number. School Code is: AnnandaleHSOrch. Charms now has an app for your cell phone! You can make trip payments, log practice, and e-mail me through this app!

Private Lessons: It is highly recommended that you take private lessons if possible. Having a private teacher enables students to receive one-on-one time with a specialist and focus specifically on their personal playing goals. Students who take private lessons typically advance more quickly than students who do not. A county-wide private teacher list is maintained by the county and will be available at any point throughout the school year.

Grading:

Daily Rehearsal Technique 40%
Homework 10%
Concert Participation 30%
Assessments: 20%
Playing Tests (15%)
Ticket Out the Door (5%)

Spring Trip: We will take a Spring Trip to Boston, MA this year! All students are strongly encouraged to attend the trip. We will have fundraisers throughout the school year to raise money so the trip is as affordable as possible. This trip will include a clinic with either the Boston Symphony Orchestra or the New England Conservatory of Music, attendance at a symphony concert, college visits, shopping, and tons of food[©]

Musically Yours,



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4700 Medford Drive Annandale, Virginia 22003 703-642-4300 adammerman@fcps.edu

Annandale Orchestras

Annandale High School 2014 - 2015

Room 320





Orchestra Director:

Mrs. Angela Ammerman, MME

703.642.4300

adammerman@fcps.edu

Annandale High School 4700 Medford Dr. Annandale, Virginia 22003

Course Descriptions:





Concert Orchestra R1 923815

Previous participation in orchestra for a minimum of one year and/or an audition for Mrs. Ammerman is required for this course. Student must own or rent an instrument. Literature and method books will be provided by Annandale High School. Students will work on refining skills such as tone production, music reading, and accuracy of pitch, bow usage, and rhythm. Students will study a variety of musical periods through musical performance. Rehearsals and performance outside of normal school hours are required as part of this course. **Learning Objectives:**

- 1. The student will reinforce and improve working knowledge of the proper posture and technique
- 2. Students will develop the ability to perform music at a given level as described by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' Association (VBODA).
- 3. Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to sightread music at a challenging level as described by VBODA
- 4. Students will demonstrate a practical understanding of expressive musical concepts
- 5. Students will develop stylistic qualities consistent with historical context
- 6. Students will develop listening skills in order to determine essential musical elements of given pieces of music



Sinfonia Orchestra

R3 923915

Previous participation in orchestra for a minimum of two years and/or an audition for Mrs. Ammerman is required for this course. Student must own or rent an instrument. Literature and method books will be provided by Annandale High School. Students will work on the development of vibrato, shifting, and advanced bow techniques. Students will also work on perfecting skills such as tone production, expression, and accuracy of pitch, bow usage, and rhythm. Students will study a variety of musical periods through musical performance. Rehearsals and performance outside of normal school hours are required as part of this course.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. The student will improve working knowledge of the proper posture and technique
- 2. Students will develop the ability to perform music at a given level as described by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' Association (VBODA).
- 3. Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to sightread music at a challenging level as described by VBODA
- 4. Students will demonstrate the ability to self-assess musical performances
- 5. Students will develop stylistic qualities consistent with historical context
- 6. Students will develop listening skills in order to determine essential musical elements of given pieces of music
- 7. The student will demonstrate the ability to dictate a 16 measure melody





W8 923916

Previous participation in orchestra for a minimum of two years **and** an audition for Mrs. Ammerman is required for this course. Student must own or rent an instrument. Literature and method books will be provided by Annandale High School. Artiste Orchestra offers instruction to the advancing musician. Students will work on the perfection of vibrato, shifting, and advanced bow techniques. Students will also continue fine tuning skills such as tone production, expression, and accuracy of pitch, bow usage, and rhythm. Students will study a variety of musical periods through musical performance. Rehearsals and performance outside of normal school hours are required as part of this course. Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. The student will improve working knowledge of the proper posture and technique
- 2. Students will develop the ability to perform music at a given level as described by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' Association (VBODA).
- 3. Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to sightread music at a challenging level as described by VBODA
- 4. Students will demonstrate the ability to lead and assess rehearsals
- 5. Students will refine stylistic qualities consistent with historical context
- 6. Students will refine listening skills in order to determine essential musical elements of given pieces of music
- 7. The student will demonstrate the ability to dictate a 16 measure piece of music



Philharmonic Strings

W6 925016

Previous participation in orchestra for a minimum of two years **and** an audition for Mrs. Ammerman is required for this course. Student must own or rent an instrument. Literature and method books will be provided by Annandale High School. Chamber Orchestra offers instruction to the advanced and serious musician. Students will continue to work on the perfection of vibrato, shifting, and advanced bow techniques. Students will also continue fine tuning skills such as tone production, expression, and accuracy of pitch, bow usage, and rhythm. Students will study a variety of musical periods through musical performance. Rehearsals and performance outside of normal school hours are required as part of this course. Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons and are **required to audition for District Honors Orchestra**.

Philharmonic Orchestra – Full Orchestra

Students enrolled in Philharmonic Strings will be expected to participate in the Annandale Philharmonic Orchestra. This ensemble will rehearse on **Monday evenings from 7 – 9 pm** in room 320 beginning January 5th, 2015. If Philharmonic musicians cannot participate in this ensemble, they will be required to find a sub from the Artiste Sub List. This list will be given to Philharmonic musicians at the first rehearsal. Students will also be expected to perform the Philharmonic Orchestra repertoire at one band concert on May 28th, 2015.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. The student will improve working knowledge of the proper posture and technique
- 2. Students will develop the ability to perform music at a given level as described by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' Association (VBODA).
- 3. Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to sightread music at a challenging level as described by VRODA
- 4. Students will demonstrate the ability to lead and assess rehearsals
- 5. Students will refine stylistic qualities consistent within historical context
- 6. Students will refine listening skills in order to determine essential musical elements of given pieces of music
- 7. The student will demonstrate the ability to dictate a 32 measure piece of music
- 8. Students will develop the ability to compose soli and duets

Orchestra Guidelines:

1. Always Come Prepared:

- bring all materials to class:
 - Instrument
 - Music
 - Pencil

2. Be Timely:

within 3 minutes of the period students should be in assigned seats with instrument in hand

3. Respect Classmates, Teachers as well as instruments and equipment:

- * a musical environment is a team activity and requires appreciation as well as respect for all players
- instruments and musical equipment must be handled with respect and care

4. Demonstrate a Sense of Maturity:

- students shall keep hands, feet, and instruments to yourself at all times
- students shall NOT talk when another classmate or teacher is speaking
- avoid class disruptions
- do not blame others for your actions

5. Keep Food, Drinks, and Gum Out of the Classroom

*Violation of Orchestra Guidelines will result with the following consequences:

1st violation – verbal warning

2nd violation – phone call to parents

3rd violation – after-school detention with letter of apology to class

4th violation – parent/teacher conference WITH student AND elimination from Spring Trip

5th violation – Office Referral

Classroom Seating:

Students will be seated during Orchestra Rehearsals at Mrs. Ammerman's prerogative. Students will not be arranged in order of "best player" to "least player." There will not be auditions for class seating.

Students may audition for the **CONCERT ONLY** position of first chair for first violins, second violins, viola, cello and bass if they wish. Seating may change between performances in order to give students leadership opportunities. Please understand that Mrs. Ammerman places students in concert seating based on many different qualities. Any further questions may be addressed by contacting Mrs. Ammerman.

Personal Electronic Device Policy

There will be days when students will be asked to bring personal electronic devices (PEDs) for curricular activities. Mrs. Ammerman will inform students in advance of these days. PEDs will be confiscated and turned into the main office if students are using PEDs without permission.



Fingernails

1. Why?

Fingernails past a certain length can be extremely detrimental to the development of your child's instrumental technique. Because of this, "long" fingernails will not be allowed in class.

2. Violins and Violas:

fingernails for violinists and violists must be slightly shorter than the end of the finger

3. Cello and Bass:

cellists and bass players must have nails that do not pass the fingertip

4. Acrylic Nails:

- acrylic nails will not be accepted in Orchestra period.
- students who refuse to dispose of acrylic nails will not be allowed to utilize school instruments

Annandale Orchestra Grading:

Daily Grade: Assessments: Concert Attendance: - Participation - Journal Entries - Check In with Chaperone - Materials (pencil, sheet music, instrument) - Listening Quizzes - Balcony Seating - Ticket Out the Door - Appropriate Attire - Tuning - Playing Tests/Practice

Orchestra Grade:

Daily Rehearsal Technique	40%
Homework	10%
Concert Participation	30%
Assessments:	20%
Playing Tests	(15%)
Ticket Out the Door	(5%)

***Extra Credit will become available throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to ask for opportunities to improve your grade.

Awards:

Heart of the Orchestra Award (1) – this award is presented to a Senior in orchestra. The recipient of this award is the most supportive, encouraging, and musically active student in the program.

Director's Award (1) – this student must audition for Senior Regional Orchestra, District Orchestra and must be section leader for at least one performance. This student also must maintain a minimum of a 95% in Orchestra with at least **200 hours of practice** per semester. This award is given only to a Senior.

National School Orchestra Award (1) – this student must audition for Senior Regional Orchestra, District Orchestra, and must be a section leader for at least one performance. This student also must maintain a minimum of a 95% in Orchestra with a minimum of 180 practice hours per semester. This award is reserved for an upperclassman.

110% Award (2-5) – the recipient of this award must audition for District Orchestra OR Senior Regional, must constantly put forth extra effort. This student must maintain a minimum of a 90% in Orchestra with at least 100 hours of practice per semester.

Leadership (2-5) – This award is given to a student who has consistently displayed leadership as a musician, peer and student. This student must have participated in Solo/Ensemble Festival, District Orchestra Auditions OR Senior Regional auditions. This student must maintain a minimum of 90% with at least **100 hours of practice** per semester.

Varsity Letter Application:

Student Name:	Ensemble:	School Year: 2014 – 2015

Students seeking a Varsity Letter in Orchestra must keep a log of all orchestra-related events throughout the year. Mrs. Ammerman WILL NOT keep this log for orchestra members but will sign off. Students seeking a Varsity Letter in Orchestra must have been in the Annandale Orchestra program for 2 or more years and demonstrate their willingness and ability to go above and beyond the minimum requirements of membership by fulfilling the following within one year:

- * Regular daily class attendance
- ❖ Attendence at ALL scheduled rehearsals, concerts, performances, and festivals
- Participation in fundraising activities and events
- The student must also earn a minimum of 100 points through participation in a variety of the following activities:

Dates	Mrs. A Initial	Requirement	Points
		Student takes private lessons on orchestra instrument (3 consecutive month minimum)	40
		Student takes private lessons on non-orchestra instrument (3 consecutive month minimum)	20
		Student has prepared and performed at Solo & Ensemble Festival receiving an Excellent or Superior Score	30
		Student has auditioned for Jr. or Sr. District Orchestra	20
		Student has successfully made it into Jr. or Sr. District Orchestra	20
		Student has auditioned for Senior Regional Orchestra	30
		Student has successfully made it into Senior Regional Orchestra	30
		Student attends an outside of school concert or musical	5 each
		(max of 20 points total)	
		Student performs outside of school with an ensemble (ongoing ensemble)	30
		Student participates in recruiting or performing events for the Annandale Orchestras	10 each
		Student tutors at an elementary or middle school orchestra program (6 consecutive months)	40
		Student attends concert for Annandale Pyramid Schools, assists with tuning, and any other help needed	5 each
		Student teaches private lessons	20
		Student volunteers with the District X Middle School Orchestra Assessment	1/hour

Other activities for the general improvement of the student, the Annandale Orchestras, and the Annandale Pyramid Orchestras may count toward point bank. Points will be awarded at the Director's discretion:

Date(s)	Mrs. A Initial	Activity:	Points

	TOTAL POINTS:				
Points must be submitted to Mrs. Ammerman no later than Friday, March 27 th in order to receive letter awards at the Red Carpet Academy Orchestral Awards.					
curper readenry cremes					
Student Signature	Parent Signature				

Attendance/Concert Procedures:

Attendance to ALL Orchestra Concerts and rehearsals are mandatory.

- ❖ in case of emergency, parent, student and/or guardian MUST contact the teacher
- special situations may be discussed between students, guardians, and director
- an appropriate assignment may be assigned if a student misses due to emergency situations

Excused Absences – Students who are excused from a concert for a family emergency must make up the concert. These students will have the opportunity to earn full points from the concert by performing his or her part for Mrs. Ammerman via audio recording. Students will be graded based upon a performance rubric.

<u>Unexcused Absences</u> – Students who neglect to attend a concert without any prior approval may have the opportunity to make up a maximum of 80% of the concert participation grade. Each student in an ensemble plays a vital role in the success of our concert. Students who miss the concert greatly affect the entire ensemble and the ability to succeed in a performance. Students will be required to perform his or her part for Mrs. Ammerman via audio recording. Students will be graded based upon a performance rubric.

Concert Attire:

Each AHS Orchestra Member is provided with concert attire for use during concerts. The concert uniform is purchased by the AHS Orchestra Boosters and is rented to the members of the orchestra for one school year for the charge of \$50 (checks made payable to Annandale High School). Please find attached a contract for this uniform. The Masquerade concert is the only exception, however, students must follow school dress code guidelines for that concert.

*Students dressed inappropriately for concerts will **not be allowed on stage** and will receive a 50% for their Concert Grade. In this case, the student must still stay until the end of the concert.

Concert Dates:

at Bates.		
Masquerade Concert:	October 23rd, 2014	7 pm
Winter Concert:	December 18, 2014	7 pm
Pyramid Concert:	February 19, 2015	6:30 pm
District X HS Orchestra Assessment:	March $6 - 7, 2014$	TBD

@ West Potomac HS

• DO NOT SIGN UP FOR SAT's THIS WEEKEND!

Almost Summer Concert:	May 21, 2015	7 pm
Spring Band Concert**	May 28 th , 2015	7 pm

**All Philharmonic students must perform in the concert as the Annandale Philharmonic Orchestra

Orchestra Leadership:

President

- lead class if Mrs. Ammerman is absent or running late
- * keep class morale at a high point
- take daily attendance

Vice President

- * assume Presidential duties in case of absence
- ensure cleanliness of room after class (books, rosin, & chairs)

Librarian

file any music in the "to be filed box" as soon as there is music in it

^{***} All performances are subject to change. Your child will notify you of any changes to this schedule.

Secretary

- update Mrs. Ammerman's calendar
- * maintain practice chart

Photographer

- * take pictures of Orchestra members at music events and during "special moments
- * record other ensembles with camcorder

Instruments:

Instruments and Strings:

- ❖ All students are required to own/rent their own instruments. Cellists and Bass players may rent a school instrument for the school year in order to eliminate the hassle of transporting the instruments.. Instruments must be appropriate in size and quality. They must be stored in a cool place and in the case if not in use when not at school.
- Students are encouraged to purchase an extra set of strings fitted to their instrument and size in case a string breaks. If a string breaks at school, I will replace the string with a school string, however, students must return within a week with a replacement string to repay the school.

Instrument Storage:

- On days when students have Orchestra, all students are required to bring their instrument in the morning and drop it off in the designated locker.
- violinists and viola players are strongly encouraged to take instruments home every day

Accessories:

- shoulder rests are going to be required for violins and violas. Students must have a shoulder rest no later than October 17th, 2014. The best shoulder rest to purchase is the "wolfe forte secundo" or the "kun." Make sure that the shoulder rest fits the instrument. Shoulder rests can be purchased at most music stores, on e-bay or amazon.com for \$20 to \$40.
- ❖ ALL STUDENTS must have the following:
 - Soft cleaning cloth (handkerchief or non-terry dishtowel)
 - Mute
 - Rosin
 - Folding music stand (for in home practices)
 - cello and bass players must have an endpin holder (rock stop)

^{*}Mrs. Ammerman retains veto power, final approval, and may "impeach" officers.

Activities and Expectations:

- 1. Annandale Orchestras will present five concerts annually (see attached schedule.) All orchestras will participate in the District X Orchestra Festival in March. Additional performances may be required of Philharmonic String members.
- 2. All students are strongly encouraged to pursue private instruction on their instrument.
- 3. All students are encouraged to audition for Junior District Orchestra (in November) or Senior District Orchestra and of course attend the corresponding event should you be accepted, and/or perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival (in April.) Philharmonic String members are REQUIRED to participate in at least one of these events.
- 4. Orchestras with adequate instrumentation will have the opportunity to participate in Spring travel and/or competitive events.

Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions	September 29	McLean HS
Senior Regional Orchestra Events	November 6 - 8	Herndon HS
District Orchestra Auditions	November 18	Lee HS
District Orchestra Event	January 8 – 10	Falls Church HS
All Virginia Auditions	February 28	James Madison Univ.
HS Orchestra Assessment	March 6 – 7	West Potomac HS
All Virginia Event	April 9 - 11	Virgina Tech
Solo/Ensemble Festival	April 4 – 5	Jackson MS
All Virginia Auditions HS Orchestra Assessment All Virginia Event	February 28 March 6 – 7 April 9 - 11	James Madison Univ. West Potomac HS Virgina Tech

Monies:

Title:	Purpose:	Amount Due:	Payable To:	Options:	Deadlines:
Cello/Bass	To avoid transportation	\$46/year	Annandale High	Cash/Check	October 3,
Rentals	issues if necessary		School		2014
Free/Reduced	Providing instruments	\$20/Year (as long as	Annandale High	Cash/Check	October 3,
Lunch	for students in need if	you have agreed to	School		2014
Instrument	necessary	share your			
Rental		free/reduced status			
		with Orchestra)			
Uniforms	Uniform adjustments	\$50/Year	Annandale	Cash/Check	October 3,
	(hemming, dry		High School		2014
	cleaning, replacements)				
Solo/Ensemble	Optional	No more than	Annandale	CHARMS –	Late March
	participation fee	\$11/Student	Orchestra	Credit Card,	(TBD)
	based upon		Boosters	Cash, Check	
	ensemble size.				
Spring Trip,	Pay for hotel,	Approximately \$580	Annandale	CHARMS –	Broken
2015	transportation,	(cost will become	Orchestra	Credit Card,	Payments:
	participation,	clearer as we get	Boosters	Cash, Check,	Nov. 1
	events, food, etc.	closer to the date)		Fundraising	January 6
				profits	March 4
Special Events	Participation Fees	TBD if student	Annandale	CHARMS –	TBD
		qualifies for event.	Orchestra	Credit Card,	
			Boosters	Cash, Check	

DELINEATED GRADING SCALE



- Demonstrates superior work in daily rehearsals
- Shows evidence in class of regular, thorough home practice
- Works always to the best ability in daily rehearsals
- Is able to work effectively with teacher and classmates can function as a leader if needed
- Has correct music, equipment at all times is always on time and attentive



- Demonstrates above average work in daily rehearsals
- Shows evidence in class of regular home practice
- Works to the best of ability in most daily rehearsals
- Is able to work effectively with teacher and classmates can work independently
- Has correct music, equipment regularly is on time and attentive



- Demonstrates average work in daily rehearsals
- Shows evidence in class of adequate, but irregular home practice
- Works below ability during many daily rehearsals
- Experiences a little difficulty working with teacher or classmates
- Is without proper equipment or music at times is occasionally late or inattentive



- Demonstrates below average work in daily rehearsals
- Shows little evidence in class of home practice
- Works below ability in most daily rehearsals
- Experiences much difficulty working with teacher or classmates needs supervision often
- Is frequently without proper equipment or music is frequently late or inattentive



- Demonstrates poor work in daily rehearsals
- Shows no evidence in class of home practice
- Works below ability shows no effort
- Is regularly without proper equipment or music is regularly late, inattentive or disruptive
- Unable to complete independent work

Averaging for weekly, nine-week, semester, or final grades will follow the guidelines below:

\mathbf{A}	3.8-4.0	93-100
A-	3.4-3.7	90-92
\mathbf{B} +	3.1-3.3	87-89
В	2.8-3.0	83-86
В-	2.4-2.7	80-82
C+	2.1-2.3	77-79
\mathbf{C}	1.8-2.0	73-76
C-	1.4-1.7	70-72
\mathbf{D} +	1.1-1.3	67-69
D	0.8-1.0	64-66
\mathbf{F}	0.0-0.7	Below 64

Permission to Use the Music Room

with friends, get help from M supervision before and after s	circ. Ammerman or study. I understand the school. I have instilled in my child the been using the Music Room before and/or a	nat Mrs. Ammerman is unable to past behavior and communication o	practice, rehearse provide constant of his/her whereabouts
Parent Signature	Date	DUE	
			mber 12 th
Student Signature	Date	2014	
Annandale Orchestra DOE	newspapers/local messpapers NOT (circle one) have my per internet, newspaper or bulletin board. S	edia sources mission to use my child	's
Parent Signature	Date		
Student Signature	Date	, 6. 0 N	6.0
My child and I have viewe	ndale High School Orches ed the Annandale Orchestra Handbo	ok (either online or in hardcop	•
	and will ablue by the guidelines set i	— ————	
Student Name	Student Signature	Date	
Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date	
Parent e-mail	Parent Phone number		

Please tear this sheet off and turn in no later than **September 12**th, **2014** *