



Oakton High School Orchestras

Teamwork – Camaraderie – Passion – Excellence - Music

Handbook and Syllabus

2014-2015 School Year



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www.ohsorchestras.org

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2014-2015 School Year Orchestra Calendar

September

- 15 Back to Orchestra Night (required for new members)
- 17 Back to School Night for 9th and 10th graders
- 23 Back to School Night for 11th and 12th graders
- 29 Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions at McLean HS, 4pm (Also a Teacher work day)

October

- 20-21 Cheesecake sales begin (proposed)
- 29 * Fall Orchestra Concert, 6pm call – 7pm concert *Note this is a Wednesday*
- 31 Cheesecake orders due

November

- 13-15 Senior Regional Orchestra at Herndon HS
- 18 Senior District Orchestra Auditions at Rachel Carson MS, 4pm
- 24 Cheesecake delivered in OHS Lecture Hall, 2pm-4pm (estimate)
- 27-30 Thanksgiving holiday

December

- 12 IAD Holiday Run-Out Performance (Chamber Only), 3-8pm
- 16 First Annual OHS Holiday Music Showcase (Chamber Only), 10am
- 18 * Winter Orchestra Concert, 6pm call – 7pm concert
- 20-31 Winter Holidays begin

January, 2014

- 1-4 Winter Holidays
- 5 Mr. Oppenheimer's Birthday and return to school
- 9-10 Senior District Orchestra at Wakefield HS in Arlington

February

- 26 * Pre-Assessment Concert, 6pm call – 7pm concert
- 28 All Virginia Orchestra Auditions @ JMU

March

- 6-7* District XII Orchestra Performance Assessment, Times and location TBD
- 28-31 Spring Break

April

- 1-6 Spring Break
- 9-11 All Virginia Orchestra Event at CNU
- 16-20 Spring Performance Trip!

*** signifies required event**

May

- 7-9 OHS Spring Musical, TBD
- 21 Orchestra Banquet and Senior Recital, 5pm

June

- 4 * Spring Honors Concert and Award Ceremony
- 22 Graduation (underclassmen chamber only) at the GMU Patriot Center, 2pm

Please note ALL concerts on your family's calendar

Class Expectations and Objectives

1. **Respect.** – for classroom, materials, teacher and each other
2. Consistent, diligent practice is essential to successful involvement in the Oakton High School Orchestra program
3. Continued development of proper technique and musical expression
4. Coming to rehearsals prepared, with all needed supplies
5. A positive attitude and professionalism

Course Descriptions

COURSE NUMBER	ENSEMBLE	DESCRIPTION
923815	Intermediate Orchestra “Concert”	Preparatory ensemble for students with at least one year of experience. Performs grade level III to V literature. The course offers instruction in the development of intermediate performing skills, including individual playing and ensemble techniques.
923915	Advanced Orchestra Level I “Symphonic”	Designed for more advanced string players, often currently taking private lessons. Performs grade level IV to V literature. The course continues to develop already advanced students in technical, ensemble and disciplinary skills for refined rehearsal, musicality and performance.
923916	Advanced Orchestra Level II “Chamber”	Designed for the most advanced and dedicated musicians who take lessons on their chosen instrument. Performs grade level VI and professional literature at a high artistic level. Will combine with other performing arts departments for collaborative performances and play an active part in community outreach.

Grading

40 % Rehearsal Skills

Each class period students will be evaluated on progress to include the following:

1. The student watches the conductor
2. The student plays using correct posture
3. The student plays with energy and remains focused
4. The student plays with good tone and pitch
5. The student marks music as directed by the teacher
6. The student is on time to class and rehearsals and prepared with instrument and music

A grade will be lowered for the following class/rehearsal infractions:

1. No instrument
2. Class disruption
3. Food/drink
4. A school-owned instrument stored improperly or left unattended
5. Use of cell phone, or any electronic device during rehearsals or concerts

30 % Performance/Technique Assessment

Student achievement will be evaluated through a variety of methods to include the following:

1. Audio taped tests
2. Videotaped tests
3. Small ensemble performances
4. Individual class performances

30 % Concert Performance

A performance is the equivalent of a major unit test in other subjects.

Performances provide the culminating activity for the many hours of class rehearsal that has occurred.

FCPS Grading Scale

A (93-100) = 4.0	C+ (77-79) = 2.3
A- (90-92) = 3.7	C (73-76) = 2.0
B+ (87-89) = 3.3	C- (70-72) = 1.7
B (83-86) = 3.0	D+ (67-69) = 1.3
B- (80-82) = 2.7	D (64-66) = 1.0
	F (below 64) = 0.0

Homework and Late Work

In addition to personal practice, all other assignments will have clear guidelines and due dates. Students are expected to turn all assignments in on time. Students will be given the opportunity to retake all playing assessments to improve their grade, however, any chair placements will be determined only by those students completing the task on time. I strongly encourage any student who is unhappy with a playing evaluation to seek extra help with me.

Support Resources

Mr. Oppenheimer will be available nearly every cougar time and after school on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students are strongly encouraged to come for extra help. Both cougar times are open for any orchestra student to use our room (165) for study and/or practice.

Other pertinent orchestra information will be available on BlackBoard and the OHS Orchestra website at www.ohsorchestras.org

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be awarded to students going above and beyond in regard to their general musical experiences outside of the OHS music department. These include but are not limited to:

1. Outside school concert attendance with short written review
2. Other outside school musically enriching events discussed with and approved by Mr. Oppenheimer

OHS Music Department Performance Attendance Policies

Attendance at all graded curricular performance events including concerts, District Performance Assessment, graduation, etc. is required. Furthermore, Students are required to stay for the entire event and help with stage clearance and orchestra room set-up afterward. Roll will be taken only when the directors have agreed that all work is completed. Early departure WILL result in reduction of grade. No notes will be accepted.

We can only be successful at concerts and competitions with 100% participation. There is no authentic replacement assignment available for a missed concert performance, as there is no individual assignment that is comparable to that exact setting and experience.

Concert absences will be handled on a case by case basis in relation to the following general policy:

Performance Attendance

Performance absences will be handled on a case by case basis in relation to the following general policy:

Excused Absence

Excused absences from performances will be granted for personal illness or family emergencies. No make-up assignment will be required. Students will not earn or lose points for the missed performance. A written note or email from the parent is required.

Conditionally Excused Absence

Every attempt should be made to enable the student to perform in the concert. The performance calendar is provided in advance for your planning purposes. Parents, please do your best to plan ahead to ensure the best experience for your child. However, a student may be granted a conditionally excused absence in limited instances to be determined on a case by case basis.

Advance notification of any absence from a performance is required. Parents, please provide notification as far in advance as possible. An E-mail or hand written note is preferred.

A student who is granted a conditionally excused absence from a performance will be required to perform all of the material for the missed performance, and will coordinate with the director to arrange the make up for the missed performance.

Unexcused Absence

Unexcused absences will be determined in accordance with the Oakton High School policy. An unexcused absence will result in a failing grade.

Tardiness

Please allow extra time for traffic. Plan ahead, remember the old saying, "to be early is on time and to be on time is late." Be considerate of your fellow performers and be at the performance early. For extreme tardiness, please provide a note from your parent.

Rehearsals

Attendance at all after school and Cougar Time rehearsals is required and is part of students' grades. The performing arts are considered co-curricular activities and outside the school day time will be required. The attendance policy for these events is the same as the school's policy for school day absences. If the school will excuse it, I will excuse it. Please note: students who are required to see another teacher during Cougar Time are excused from these rehearsals. They will need to provide a note from that teacher.

Lockers/Instrument Storage

Instrument storage will be assigned at the start of the school year. Students are to use ONLY their instrument for all rehearsals and understand that use of the lockers and locker room is a privilege that can be revoked in the event of inappropriate use.

Instruments

I highly recommend the following independent, local string/music stores:

1. Day Violins – 14221A Willard Rd. Ste. 500 Chantilly, VA 20151 (run by an Oakton family)
2. Brobst Violin Shop - 5584 General Washington Drive Alexandria, VA 22312
3. Foxes Music Co. - 416 South Washington Street Falls Church, VA 22046
4. Potter Violin Co. – 4706 Highland Ave. Bethesda, MD 20814

****Note**** Despite some stores being called a “Violin Company” they service and sell all string instruments.

A limited number of school instruments are available for a yearly rental price of \$92. Each cellist and bassist will be required to rent a school instrument due to county regulations prohibiting the daily transport of large instruments on school busses, the charge for this will be \$46 for the year (sharing with a student from the another class).

Academic Integrity

Cheating and/or dishonest behavior will not be tolerated for any student involved in an OHS music course and will be referred to the Honor Council.

OHS Honor Code:

Mission Statement

Oakton High School strives to be recognized as a school of honor. Students, teachers, staff and parents uphold high moral values focused upon fostering a love of learning and pride in individual accomplishment. Oakton students will gain an understanding that giving their word has real meaning. To avoid compromising their values of integrity and honesty, students recognize the importance of communication with their teachers.

Oakton students know not to

- Use unauthorized study aids during a test.
- Use unauthorized digital/electrical devices (i.e. cell phone, cameras, etc) during assessment activity.
- Copy another student’s work (i.e. test, quiz, homework, paper) without authorization.
- Deliberately allow another student to copy their work.
- Give or receive signals during a test.
- Coerce another student to provide unauthorized help.
- Take or copy the test key and use the key.
- Steal intellectual property.

Students will

- Support one another in the learning process, but not during individual assessments or on individually graded assignments.
- Utilize a range of sources to broaden their knowledge and properly credit sources used.
- Communicate honestly with faculty and staff.
- Respect the intellectual property of others.
- Understand and follow the Honor Code as well as individual teacher guidelines.
- Be familiar with the consequences resulting from Honor Code infractions.

Honor Pledge

"Integrity far outweighs any grade I could receive because it is a true representation of my character. In order to respect myself, I pledge to only put forth work that is my own and will encourage my peers to do the same."



Materials

Everyone:

* = Required material

1. Instrument and Bow*
2. Rosin*
3. Pencil*
4. Soft cloth for cleaning*
5. Name tag on instrument case*
6. Extra set of Strings
7. Metronome
8. Chromatic tuner
9. "Dampit" or other instrument humidifier

Violinists and violists:

1. Shoulder rest*

Cellists and Bassists:

1. Rock stop or chair anchor*

Consequences

Students failing to abide by these policies will be subject to any and/or all of the following disciplinary actions:

1. Warning
2. Comment of progress report
3. Direct email home
4. Call home
5. Disciplinary referral
6. Removal from class

Orchestra Activity Letter

Points will be awarded to students for contribution to the success of the OHS Orchestra program. At the end of the year, all these points will be added up and at a certain level, outstanding participants will be awarded an Oakton High School Academic Letter. A list of activities and point values will be distributed to all orchestra students.



Fundraisers for 2014-2015 school year

Fundraisers are conducted principally to help families reduce the cost of the spring trip. Participation is not mandatory but strongly encouraged (and it's A LOT of fun). We will be selling Sweetz Cheesecakes in the fall in time for Thanksgiving and conducting other sales and services throughout the year including car washes and run out performances.

No monies accrued through school sponsored fundraisers can be refunded should a student become academically ineligible or for any other reason. Monies paid directly from a parent/student will be refunded only if a percentage is refunded to the orchestra from the businesses involved (hotel, bus, airline, music festival etc.).

Due to recent changes in school financial regulations, individual student fundraising cannot be kept track of at the school level and all monies raised must be used for all students involved in the activity being fundraised for.

Oakton Orchestra Boosters and Volunteer Team

This group of dedicated parents provides extra organizational and volunteer support to the OHS Orchestra Department. Membership is free, open to anyone and **strongly** encouraged!

Please contact Mr. Oppenheimer if you are interested, we need your support!

Apply simply by signing the section at the bottom of your son and/or daughter's Orchestra Contract Agreement. Positions include but are not limited to: Chairman and Chief Volunteer Coordinator, Vice Chairman, Car Wash Manager, Uniform Coordinator, Webmaster, Fundraising Coordinator, Chief Photographer, Communications Coordinator etc.

I look forward to working with **all** parents this year for the musical success of all orchestra personnel!

Remind Text Messaging Service

I will be using a text message reminder service to alert students and parents about upcoming orchestra commitments and opportunities. Please follow the instructions below if you would like to subscribe to them.

All students: Text (SMS) @oakton to (571)267-3170. When you receive the response message and reply with your name you will be signed up to receive text alerts. You cannot respond to these texts. Enter the number in your phone's contact as OHS Orchestras

I will also send reminders specific to individual classes. Please follow the same instructions as above but make the message specific to your ensemble. See below:

Concert Orchestra: @mroppen

Symphonic Orchestra: @mroppenh

Chamber Orchestra: @mroppenhe

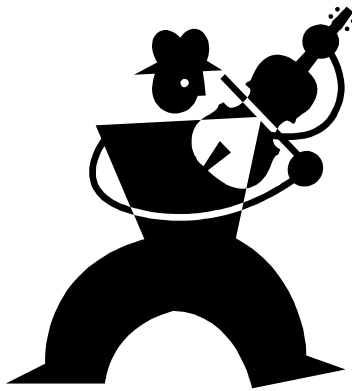
OHS ORCHESTRAS PARTICIPATION FEE

Did you know that Fairfax County provides minimal funding to run our exceptional orchestra program at OHS? In order to cover basic program costs for the 2014-15 school year, **each student is requested to pay an Orchestra Participation Fee in the amount of \$30.00**

The participation fee will cover the costs of orchestra awards, special music purchases, orchestra accessories, (awesome)orchestra t-shirt and polo, and other basic operating costs of the school program.

Please detach the form below and return with payment to Mr. Oppenheimer by September 19, 2014. Please make any checks payable to "Oakton High School"

Thank you for your support! Please contact Mr. Oppenheimer at (703) 319-2748 or MHoppenheime@fcps.edu with any questions.



Enclosed is payment of \$30.00 for the 2014-2015 Orchestra Participation Fee. Please make your check payable to "Oakton High School" and return to Mr. Oppenheimer by Friday, September 19, 2014.

Student Name: _____

Circle: Concert Orchestra

Symphonic Orchestra

Chamber Orchestra

Shirt Size (S, M, L, XL, XXL): _____

Oakton HS Orchestra Student – Parent - Teacher Contract
(Please make a copy of this page for your review)

Class: _____ **Chamber Orchestra – 6th Period**
_____ **Concert Orchestra – 3rd Period**
_____ **Symphonic Orchestra – 5th Period**

I have read and understand the orchestra information provided for the 2013-2014 school year. I understand that the entire handbook is available for viewing on the student's Blackboard account.

1. Performance/Events Calendar
2. Grading Policy
3. Attendance/Participation Policies
4. Rehearsal Procedures
5. Fundraising Opportunities
6. Orchestra Participation Fee **(please complete/return form and fee)**
7. Student/Parent/Teacher Contract **(please complete/return form)**

I agree to:

1. Write rehearsal and concert dates on the family calendar.
2. Attend all required events. Or explain, ***in writing***, the reason why you cannot attend a minimum of ***four weeks*** prior to the event. ***(Your ability to attend rehearsals and concerts will affect your seating AND your grade in Orchestra).***
3. **Support the OHS Orchestras Booster Club with your time and talents**

Student name: _____
(Please print clearly)

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Name (print) _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Interested in joining OHS Orchestra Volunteer Team?! It's a great way to get involved with the orchestra program and support your son and/or daughter in their musical development. Please sign below if you are interested!

Interested Parent(s) _____

2013 OHS Orchestra Concert Attire Order Form

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Gentlemen Concert Attire:

Tuxedo jacket, adjustable waist tuxedo pants, fold down collar tuxedo shirt, black cummerbund, black bow tie, brass shirt studs, black socks* and black dress shoes*.

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Purchases (Can be used all 4 years and exchanged if grown out of)

A la cart:

Tuxedo Jacket	\$55	_____	_____
Tuxedo Pants with Adjustable waist	\$25	_____	_____
Tuxedo Shirt	\$12.95	_____	_____
Cummerbund and Bow Tie	\$8.25	_____	_____
5 Brass Studs	\$3.00	_____	_____

Package:

All the above	\$100	(write in sizes above)	
		Total	_____

Ladies Concert Attire:

Black dress, black dress shoes (flats recommended)* and black stockings*

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Purchases (Can be used all 4 years and exchanged if grown out of)

New Dress	\$59	_____	_____
		Total	_____

* Families must provide

Students/families that have applied for Free or Reduced Lunch need to contact Mr. Oppenheimer directly concerning uniforms

Payment is due with order. Make check payable to Oakton High School.

This section is for Orchestra Staff Only

Date of payment: / /

☐ Student Acct ☐ Cash ☐ Check/Number: _____ Amount _____

Target Your Advertising and Support Oakton High School Orchestras

Oakton High School is home to a thriving orchestra program and the musicians and their parents are prime prospects for your business.

- Advertising in the programs gives you an opportunity to reach a **community of musicians and music lovers** dedicated to developing musical talent. The majority of orchestra students take private lessons and are engaged in music activities throughout the year.
- Orchestra students are typically high-achieving students with the highest GPAs and academic accomplishments, making this an **ideal audience for academic enrichment activities**.

*Programs are printed on
8.5" x 5.5" pages.*

ADVERTISING RATES

Concerts 2014-15 Season:

- **October 29**
- **December 18**
- **February 26**
- **May 21**
- **June 4**

Size	1x Price	2014-15 Season	Measurement (approximate)
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page	\$175	\$450	(7.5" x 4.5")
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page	\$120	\$260	(4.75" x 3.75")
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page	\$60	\$150	Business card

INCLUDES AN AD ON ORCHESTRA WEB SITE

Company _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please make your payment to **Oakton High School** (with Orchestras in the memo area) and mail the completed form and payment to:

OHS Orchestra: *Jennifer* _____ Oakton, VA 22124.

Messages and artwork can be e-mailed to OHSorchestras@gmail.com .

Call *Jennifer* at _____ with any questions.

**OHS Orchestras Parent Staffing Needs
2014 – 2015**

POSITION	DESCRIPTION	PARENT VOLUNTEER	EMAIL
Volunteer Team Leaders (2)	Assist director in planning and implementing fundraising and other orchestra activities. Coordinate overall parent support and communications.		
Student Accounts Administrator (1)	Maintain records of individual student fundraising activities	Emily [REDACTED]	
Webmaster (1)	Maintain and update orchestra website year-round	Bill [REDACTED]	
Cheesecake Fundraiser (1)	Organize and coordinate distribution of order materials, collection of orders/payments and distribution of deliveries in November	Chi [REDACTED]	
Cookie Dough Fundraiser (1)	Organize and coordinate distribution of order materials, collection of orders/payments and distribution of deliveries in February	Terri [REDACTED]	
Cougar Kick-Off Coordinator (1)	Coordinate preparation of visual displays and man information table at Cougar Kick-Off event in August		
Spring Trip Coordinator (1)	Assist director in chaperone selection, chaperone training, trip orientation meeting, trip supplies and bus assignments		
Awards Dinner Chair (1)	Plan annual spring awards dinner – food, drink, decorations, set-up, including coordination of volunteers		
Uniform Orders (2)	Assist director in measuring for new uniforms, completing order forms and distribution in fall. Assist in collection and inventory of uniform rentals in the spring.		

POSITION	DESCRIPTION	PARENT VOLUNTEER	EMAIL
Room Parents (9)	<p>Plan class parties/treats 3 to 4 times per year. Assist director where needed to chaperone class events and supervise concerts.</p> <p>NOTE: Room parents will be assigned to their child's class once final class assignments are made by orchestra director. In the meantime, sign-up to volunteer.</p>	<p>Terri L [REDACTED] Jennifer [REDACTED] Dawn/Tim [REDACTED]</p>	
Communications (1)	<p>Update orchestra Gmail account at beginning of year to add new families and remove graduates.</p> <p>Coordinate with director to send out weekly Gmail blasts to families with news and reminders. Send out Sign-Up Genius messages soliciting volunteers for concert and other support.</p>		
Advertising/Sponsors (1)	Solicit sponsors of OHS orchestra program through donations and/or advertising in concert programs and on website		
Photographer (1)	Attend and photograph all concert events and other key activities. Transmit photos to webmaster for publication on website		
Videographer (1)	Attend and videotape all concert events and other key activities. Transmit videos to webmaster for publication on website. Coordinate production of DVDs on occasion.		
Concert Support (5)	Assist director in taking pre-concert attendance, stage set-up and decorating and manning post-concert receptions.	Denise [REDACTED]	

POSITION	DESCRIPTION	PARENT VOLUNTEER	EMAIL
Tag Day Coordinators (2)	Plan and coordinate annual spring Tag Day event – door to door solicitation of \$ donations to orchestra program by student/parent teams		
Run Out Concert Coordinators (2)	Assist director in planning and implementing community concert events, including coordination of chaperones and collection of donations.		
Car Wash Coordinator (1)	Plan fall and spring carwashes in Oakton community for donations and team building		

QUESTIONS? Ask Max Oppeheimer, Patty [REDACTED] or Anne [REDACTED].