

FLUSHING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ORCHESTRA HAND BOOK

2007-2008

Dear Students,

Welcome back once again! With the start of school comes the chance to connect with your old friends, make new ones and enjoy creating music together. I have been looking forward to the chance to share new musical experiences with you.

Like all worthwhile activities, the more you put into orchestra, the more you will get from it. There is truly no limit what can be accomplished, so get ready to work hard! As one famous composer said:

“I was obliged to be industrious. Whoever is equally industrious will succeed . . . equally well.” –J. S. Bach

There have been changes in our school and community in the past year. One thing that has not changed, however, is the quantity and quality of students who continue to be in orchestra. I can’t wait to begin working with you. Together we will continue to create music and memories.

Sincerely,
Mr. Forsleff

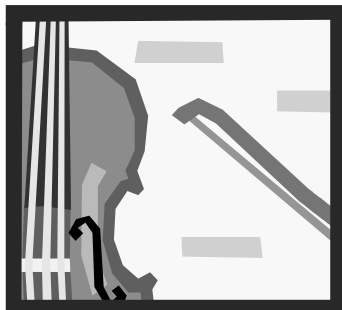


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Teaching/Learning Environment

1. Be part of the tribe

Don't miss the ceremony
Keep track of your bows, arrows, tools and blankets
Speak honorably of the tribe
Clean up the teepee

2. Invest your time and resources effectively

You can only earn one eagle feather at a time
Don't leave the camp without food and tools
Don't burn all your firewood on the first cold night

3. Acknowledge and learn from other native people

Figure out when to be silent
Notice how the elders solve problems
Recognize others' courage and discipline

O' GREAT SPIRIT

Help me always
to speak the truth quietly,
to listen with an open mind
when others speak,
and to remember the peace
that may be found in silence.

Cherokee Prayer

Classroom Procedures

1. Enter the room in an orderly manner, get instruments etc., and be seated quickly.
2. Refrain from talking during all school announcements.
3. Gum, food, and drink are to be deposited in the waste basket upon entering room, put beautifying items away out of sight.
4. Remove instruments from cases and place closed cases beside chairs.
5. “Respect the Podium”
6. Raise your hand if you have a question or concern.
7. Always use proper posture during playing time.
8. Stop and become quiet within two measures of a cut-off.
9. Participate to your fullest potential.
10. Keep a pencil in your folder/case at all times.
11. Play only your own instrument and refrain from handling other instruments.
12. At the end of rehearsal, the instructor will inform students of the appropriate pack up time.
13. Put away stands and your own things when leaving.

Maintenance of Equipment

The following rules are necessary for school owned instruments and equipment:

1. Only students who have filled out an instrument contract and have signed out a school instrument may use that instrument.
2. Students are responsible for any unnecessary damage done to a borrowed instrument.
3. Students are expected to provide their own accessories such as replacement strings, rosin, and shoulder rests.

Music

Students will be responsible for any music assigned to them. Music which is lost or destroyed must be replaced by the student.

1. Students are encouraged to make rehearsal markings in their music; but these markings **must** be written in pencil **only**. The student will be charged for any music written in with ink.
2. Music should always be kept in a folder to prevent folding or wrinkling. You will be issued a large music folio, but you may use a folder of your own choosing.
3. Every student will receive their own piece of music. If you are absent, you are responsible to get a copy of any music that was handed out while you were gone. See the director for your part; you will be expected to turn each piece of music in.
4. All students are expected to have all music each day during class. Even if you normally share with a stand partner you will be expected to have your own part.
5. Solo & Ensemble music and any other extra music can be obtained from Mr. Forsleff, other locations to purchase music can be provided as well during the year.
6. **Middle School Orchestra members will be offered the method book “Essential Technique” for \$7.95 from Mr. Forsleff.** If you have difficulty affording this cost, please see Mr. Forsleff and he will assist in providing a book.

Uniforms

The Flushing Orchestras will dress in formal concert attire for all concerts, contests, and public appearances. The uniform is as follows:

Junior High

Black dress slacks or skirt

Black dress shoes

Black socks (ladies wearing skirts should wear black hosiery)

White Flushing Orchestra top (students are to purchase –info forthcoming)

High School

Men:

1. School Tux Jacket and pants will be provided with \$7 cleaning donation to the Flushing Band and Orchestra Boosters.
2. White tuxedo shirt with studs
3. Black socks
4. Black dress shoes
5. Black cummerbund, bow tie

Women:

1. School orchestra dress will be provided with a \$7 cleaning donation to the Flushing Band and Orchestra Boosters.
2. Dark or neutral nylons/tights
3. Black dress shoes, one inch or lower heel

The orchestra uniform is intended to be a sign of pride within our organization. Uniformity reflects commitment to the success of the entire group. Individuals are encouraged to dress and groom as professionally as possible, and make efforts to *not* stand out in any way as an exception to the uniform. Excessive make-up or jewelry will not be allowed for concerts. Pants and dresses are not to be altered without specific permission from the Flushing Band and orchestra Boosters.

This uniform is mandatory for all members of the orchestra. If a student comes to a performance without proper attire, he/she will not be permitted to take part. In that event, the student would receive an “E” for that performance grade (see grading policy). If a student is having financial problems and is unable to purchase uniform parts, please see Mr. Forsleff and he will make sure that proper attire is obtained. It is not our goal to exclude any student for financial reasons.

Grading

Students' final grades will be derived by a combination of four factors. They are: 1) daily musicianship, 2) practice charts (MS) or leadership points (HS), 3) performances, and 4) quizzes, tests, and assignments. During the first semester this may include several small written assignments which will be outlined in class.

Daily Musicianship

This grade will be determined by observed student rehearsal deportment. Each student will begin the marking period with zero points and earn up to 20 points a day. Negative rehearsal deportment will result in the student not earning his/her daily points.

Some examples of positive deportment include: listening to announcements/director at all times; demonstrating excellent playing position; remaining focused on assigned tasks; having all materials and equipment as specified by the director in class daily; making musical rather than unmusical sounds on the instrument; keeping clean hands and short fingernails; maintaining a clean orchestra room and other performance areas; having a clean and well maintained instrument (including prompt repair and replacement of strings); demonstrating self-disciplined, respectful, and appropriate behavior which adds to the learning process.

Some examples of negative deportment which may result in the loss of musicianship points include: talking or playing instruments at inappropriate times; exhibiting poor posture or playing position, chewing gum or consuming food or drink, applying cosmetics; doing homework for other courses during rehearsal; forgetting any required materials; playing loud or unmusical sounds as a disruption; tardiness or unexcused absences; leaving instrument or other materials out after class.

Daily points will also be added for attending after school rehearsals in High School Orchestra. After school rehearsals will be on Mondays from 2:45 to 4:00 p.m. starting in November. The only acceptable excuses to miss after school rehearsals include illness, family emergency or athletic conflicts. You will not be excused due to a job or transportation issues. In the case of athletics, it is hoped that compromises will be made by the student with the coach involved to attend as much of the rehearsal(s) as possible. Students will not be excused from after-school rehearsals for work, or transportation problems. Please schedule private lessons, doctor/dentist appointments, etc. Around these Monday afternoon times as possible.

These after school rehearsal times are our only time to meet as a full orchestra. We will only improve as an ensemble with your commitment to the ensemble. This can not be achieved during second hour only. All members of the Flushing High School Orchestra are expected to strive for excellence and to commit to practice diligently, and attend all rehearsals and functions of the ensemble.

Practice Charts (Junior High Orchestra)

Because daily practice is important, we are requiring charts to be filled out and signed each week. Charts need to be signed by a parent and are to be turned in each Monday. They should be filled out to reflect the practicing from Monday to Sunday. For instance, the student practices this week, completes the practice chart on Sunday and turns it in the following Monday. Charts will be recorded and graded by Mr. Forsleff and returned to the student in class. Parents who have concerns about their child’s progress may want to require their child to bring home graded charts. The grading scale is:

150 or more minutes	A+
120 minutes	A
108 minutes	B
96 minutes	C
84 minutes	D
Below 72 minutes	E

Leadership Points (High School Orchestra)

Each high school student will be asked to accumulate leadership points each marking period. Grades will be based on the following scale:

600 points (or more)	A
500-599 points	B
400-499 points	C
300-399 points	D
Below 300 points	E

Leadership points can be earned through the following activities which are to take place outside of orchestra class time:

Practice: Time is to be verified by charts signed by parents and on school orchestra instrument. Each minute of practice equals one point. Private lessons equal double points.

Letters: Various “P.R.” letters will be discussed in class. Any articles published relating to orchestra will also receive points. 150 points per letter.

Concert attendance: Verification such as a program with a paragraph review of any musical ensemble performance is worth 100 points (church services or non-musical plays will not count).

Tutoring: Younger orchestra players in Flushing schools who are tutored at no charge will earn 150 points per lesson. Tutoring needs to be arranged or OK’d by Mr. Forsleff.

Solo & Ensemble: Performance at this festival will award you 300 points.

Paper transfer: Attending the Band & Orchestra paper transfer equals 100 points per visit.

Other extra-curricular work: Work done outside of class time such as class bulletin board, music library work, or other projects. Work may be worth 100 to 200 points per project.

Performance

Because performances are an important part of the students' growth as musicians, it is absolutely necessary that they participate in every performance. Members also need to appreciate that the orchestra's overall success depends on the full participation of each and every student involved. A copy of this year's performance schedule is included with this handbook. These dates are being given well in advance so that parents and students will have the opportunity to reserve them. 50% of this grade will be based on the student's concert etiquette which involves being a good audience member. Students will be expected to remain seated with their group before and after their actual performance, and be respectful of other performers. Parental support on this policy is greatly appreciated.

Daily Quizzes, Tests, and Assignments

Orchestra, like any other class, will have daily assignments and homework. Students will have a variety of playing and written assignments for this portion of the grade.



Resources for Orchestra Students

String teacher –private lessons:

Mary Yon, 659-5150

Private lessons/ensembles such as Flint Youth Symphony, Philharmonia

Flint Institute of Music, 238-1350

flintinstituteofmusic.com

StringInstruments/repair:

Mark Schwartz, 3717 VanSlyke Rd., Suite 10, Flint (810)766-1450

Email: mark@markschwartzviolins.com Cell: (810)836-2455

Larry Letts, violin & viola maker, restoration, repair (810)659-9488

Music retail:

Guitar Center, G3640 Miller Rd, Flint (behind Best Buy) (810)720-3863

Marshall Music: 1-800-221-1755

String specialty:

Shar, 2465 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor 1-800-248-7427 sharmusic.com

School programs & info:

flushingmusic.org

ORCHESTRA EVENTS CALENDAR 2007-2008
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Tues. Sept. 18	M.S./H.S. Scholarship Auditions	Starting 2:30 p.m. H.S.
Tues. Oct. 9	H.S. Choir/Orch. Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. High School
Mon. Oct. 15	H.S. Choir/Orch. Dress Rehearsal	6-9:00 p.m. Auditorium
Tues. Oct. 16	H.S. Choir/Orch. Concert	7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Mon. Oct. 29	Composer's Dress Rehearsal M.S./H.S. Orchestras	6-9:00 p.m. Auditorium
Tues. Oct. 30	Composer's Festival Concert	7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Fri. Dec. 7	H.S. Combined Concert with Flint Youth Symphony	7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Thurs. Dec. 13	M.S. Holiday Concert	7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Mon. Dec. 17	H.S. Dress rehearse –Collage	6-9:00 p.m. Auditorium
Tues. Dec. 18	H.S. Collage Concerts Band/Choir/Orch.	6:00 p.m. Auditorium 8:00 p.m. Auditorium
Wed. Dec. 19	H.S. Holiday Assemblies	8:30 a.m. Auditorium
Sat. Feb. 16	H.S. Solo & Ensemble Fest	All day/TBA
Tues. Feb 19	H.S. Full Orchestra Rehearsal	6-9:00 p.m. Auditorium
Thurs. Feb. 21	M.S. Pre-fest Concert with M.S. Bands	7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Tues. Feb. 26	H.S. Pre-fest Concert with H.S. Bands	7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Fri./Sat. Feb. 29, Mar.1	M.S. Orchestra Festival	TBA/Auditorium
Fri./Sat. Mar. 7, 8	H.S. Orchestra Festivals	TBA/Auditorium
Sat. Mar. 15	H.S. State Solo & Ensemble	Walled Lake/TBA
Sat. April 12	All Day/TBA	M.S. Solo & Ensemble Festival
April 17-20	High School Musical	Auditorium
Tues. May 20	M.S./H.S. Final Orchestra Concert	7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Sun. June 1	High School Commencement	4:00 p.m. Whiting

Statement of Understanding and Signatures

By signing below, the parent(s) and student understand and agree to abide by the conditions set forth in the Flushing Orchestra Student Handbook.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Best phone # to reach you: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parents: Please check any items you may be that you may be available to assist.

Check box

___ Chaperone festivals/special events

___ Assist with fund raisers

___ Assist with uniform management

___ Assist with Oct. 30th concert (costume recommended!)

___ Volunteer to work Band & Orch. Festival(s) in Feb./March

___ Assist with Band & Orchestra Booster paper transfer

___ Transport instruments to festivals/special events

Please sign and return this page

Due Tuesday September 11, 2007