

The Handbook of the Maury Orchestras



Concert Orchestra/String Ensemble Volume XIV 2011-2012

*this handbook was designed to familiarize all parents and students with the policies of the Maury High School Orchestras. Please take the time to read through this handbook carefully and it contains important information about the 2011-2012 school year.

Discipline Guideline

There is one basic principal that I feel should dictate our behavior in the classroom: RESPECT. Regarding any of our activities together as a class, in groups, or as individuals (i.e., rehearsals, meetings, trips, etc.), respect should be first, and foremost, in our minds. For orchestra members at Maury, respect takes several forms: respect for fellow students, their person, property, and education; respect for school facilities and equipment; respect for your teacher and the teaching that takes place during rehearsals; and lastly, respect for the Maury Orchestra program - to maintain the excellence achieved by present and past members.

If a student fails to honor his fellow students, teacher, and/or program, and prevents his or her classmates from receiving a quality education, the following actions will be taken!

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1st time | Warning plus a deduction from the class work points |
| 2nd time | Phone call home and/or conduct notice plus a detention. |
| 3 rd time | Referral plus a deduction from the class work points |

Attendance/Tardiness

Each rehearsal begins with prompt attendance and attention to business. Students will be marked tardy if they enter the classroom *after the bell has sounded*, are not in their seat when class begins (usually two minutes after the bell), and/or arrive late for mandatory night rehearsals.

If a student knows he or she will be absent from a daily rehearsal or an after-school/night rehearsal, please submit a note to Mr. Featherer so adjustments can be made (please do not wait until the last minute).

All night rehearsals are listed at the back of the packet under "Activities Calendar". Please mark your calendars now as the dates will not change. All night rehearsals are dress rehearsals for concerts and competitions and are considered mandatory. If you miss a dress rehearsal, you will not perform in the following concert and you forfeit your seat.

Grading

Some students have a mastery of good learning habits, others have innate musical abilities; the best young musicians are able to combine both. The orchestra assessment system is designed to encourage students to excel in both areas.

Students will be assessed in three different areas:

- Thirty percent (30%) of the total grade will be from class work or a daily grade, which includes rehearsal procedures, attention during rehearsals, attitude and daily instrument and music checks.
- Thirty percent (30%) of the total grade will be from quizzes. Quizzes can be either announced or unannounced. Unannounced quizzes provide an excellent indicator of who has and has not been practicing.
- The final forty percent (40%) of the grade comes from tests, pre-concert check-offs, final and/or concerts. Tests also include performance assessments such as scales and techniques and/or the infamous Pass/Fail assessment tests.

Because the 2011-2012 calendar is finalized, students should be aware of concert, rehearsal and important dates. Attendance at dress rehearsals is required for students in order to perform at the following concert. If a student misses a rehearsal, for an unexcused reason, they will be given special duties at the concert so that he or she may not receive a failing grade; however, their grade from the dress rehearsal will be a zero.

Auditions

Auditions will be based on specific judging procedures and/or by point totals as a result of cumulative skills tests scores and rehearsal procedure points.

The actual placement of students in the orchestra may vary from piece to piece, depending on the needs of the music and orchestra!

Instruments

Each student deserves an instrument equal to his/her ability. There are a few school instruments available for rental. School instruments are relatively old and well worn. The rental fee for violins is \$25.00, which is set by the NPS and there is no charge for the Violas, Cellos, and Basses.

For those that do not have a cello or bass at home, we have very few to lend and I will accommodate as many students as possible. I highly recommend students take a cello or bass home on the weekends to practice. Students still must complete a NPS rental agreement form before taking an instrument home.

Because of the large number of students, we have had problems in the past

with student's instruments being used or taken by other students. **Please be sure that your personal instrument is labeled and or/tagged! I will not tolerate student sharing other student's instruments.**

After each class I do expect all instruments in the class to be taken home. The owner of any instrument left behind will be given a lower classwork grade than those who took their instrument home.

Supplies

In addition to a working bow, instrument, and a secure case for storage, other items necessary at each rehearsal and class include: a pencil, rosin, a polishing cloth, and a mute. Cellists and bassists are encouraged to purchase their own endpin stopper (especially for off-campus performances).

The Orchestra does have a few extra strings to purchase for emergency events. Students are asked to repair broken strings promptly, without direction, rather than waiting until the last minute.

Music

Students are responsible for keeping track of their music. Students will be issued their own personal copy of each piece. Throughout the year, students will have surprise music checks in which each student must produce their copy in order to receive a passing quiz grade!

Concert Dress

Females: Our uniform supplier for the Concert Orchestra is Southeastern Apparel and the cost of the dress is \$62.00. This price does not include alterations, which are done at the students' expense. Dress measurements will be taken at the beginning of the school year and orders must be paid in full by September 8th.

Males: Males in the Concert Orchestra/String Ensemble are required to wear a white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, **black socks (NOT ankle socks)**, and black shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES). Gentlemen are NOT to wear printed T-shirts under their tux shirts. Jackets are not required for this ensemble.

If any student does not comply with the aforementioned dress code, they will not participate in the concert & receive a failing grade for the concert.

MELT Students

One of the benefits of the Maury Orchestra program is the opportunity for students to take part of the MELT program or the Music Education Leadership Training Program. This program allows students to take on a leadership role within the orchestra and learn how to teach and lead the orchestra in and out of my presence.

Some times during the school year, I will be out for personal and professional reasons and will call on the MELT students to run class in my absence.

The MELT students represent the teacher. If they are disrespected then the teacher is disrespected and the student will be dealt with in the same manner as listed above in the discipline guidelines in this handbook.

There are NO "free" days in Orchestra, ESPECIALLY during competition season. MELT students are called upon to run sections, run warm-ups, tune, etc. Get to know them as they are great resource.

Scholarships and Award Competitions

Each year members of the orchestra are awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships. Adjacent to the orchestra room is the music bulletin board in which information concerning scholarships and competitions will be posted. Students should check the board on a regular basis for available awards. **It is the student's responsibility to contact Mr. Featherer to apply for awards/competitions.**

In the event that the orchestra has more applicants than spots, an audition will be conducted. These auditions will be held in the same manner as the blind auditions stated in the section above.

Fundraising

We would like all the Maury Orchestra students to participate in the spring trip. Accordingly, we hope that students and parents will be able to take advantage of the fund raising opportunities we are scheduling throughout the school year.

Fundraising Events include the following:

Ad Campaign; Catalogue Sale; Yard Sale; Car Wash; Fruit Sale; Wreath Sale; Cheesecake Sale; etc.

We have many parents who will be working on large projects such as a yard sale, Christmas wreath sale, and cheesecake sale. All of these efforts are necessary to ensure that the majority of our students will have the opportunity to travel with the orchestra. All MAJOR dates and events are listed on the *Maury*

Orchestra Activities Calendar

Orchestra Shirts

The Maury Orchestra shirts will be offered again this year which was designed by an Orchestra parent.

Long Sleeve shirts are \$12.00

Short Sleeve shirts are \$10.00

I highly recommend all student purchase one of these shirts for off campus performance and to show some team spirit. The order form is on the back of this packet.

Instrument Storage Room

The instruments storage room is for instruments and music only. DO NOT bring food , drinks, or personal items into this room. We need to keep our room clear and clutter free. Cellos and basses are stored out in the main rehearsal room. If you bring your own cello, you can store it in the Orchestra storage room. Please note, there are TWO storage rooms, one for Band and one for Orchestra. Be on guard for any suspicious activity around these instruments. They belong to our program.

Mr. Featherer's Contact Information

Phone: 628-9188

School Email: rfeatherer@nps.k12.va.us

Blackberry Email: ryan@mauryorchestra.org

Personal Checks:

For the convenience of our families, both Maury High School and the Friends of the Maury Orchestra (FOMO) accept personal checks. Please note that there is a difference between the two and that there is a financial penalty should the checks be returned by either of the accounts.

When writing a check for the ORCHESTRA to Maury High School you must have two valid phone numbers along with a valid drivers license number written on the check.

E-Mails:

E-mail is the best way for me to communicate with the Maury Orchestra family. I will often send email to update everyone on the status of the Orchestra and just to send home reminders about upcoming events. They can be funny,

serious, or just plain bonkers ☺

Friends of the Maury Orchestra

There are four missions of the Friends of the Maury Orchestra. The principal mission of the Friends of the Maury Orchestra (FOMO) is to encourage the enrichment of the lives of these young people and further their musical interest through an active participation with the Orchestra at Maury High School. Additionally to they ensure the safety and welfare of the students when travel is involved or at any school function, away from school, or outside regular school hours, in which the Orchestra is participating.

2. The Friends of the Maury Orchestra seeks to bring into clear relationship the home and the school so that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the social and musical development of the student.

3. The Friends of the Maury Orchestra seeks to develop between educator and general public such united efforts as will secure for every child who is interested in instrumental music or the instrumental department's programs/groups the highest advantages that can be offered.

4. The Friends of the Maury Orchestra will endeavor to provide funding for the Maury High School Orchestra for items which are beyond the resources of the Norfolk Public School System.

The 2011-2012 Friends of the Maury Orchestra Executive Board is as follows:

President...Kami Lannetti

1st V.P. -OPEN

2nd VP - Ad Campaign...Margaret Fernan

Secretary...Patty Shelanski

Treasurer...Becky Dearborn

Scholarship Chairperson....Tristan Carter-Warren

Senior Parent Rep...Debby Freeman

Junior Parent Rep...OPEN

Sophomore Parent Rep...Christine Boswic

Freshman Parent Rep...Suzanne O'Donnell

Maury Orchestra Website

The Maury Orchestra is proud to have its own website at www.mauryorchestra.org Please visit this website to stay on top of the latest news and information. Mr. O'Donnell is our webmaster and will be happy to post any information on our website. To contact Mr. O'Donnell, please send Mr. Featherer an email and I will forward said information on to Mr. O'Donnell.

***Maury High School Orchestra
Activities Calendar
2011-2012***

- | | |
|---|---|
| Thursday September 8, 2011: | General Membership Meeting
7:00 PM |
| *Saturday, September 24, 2011: | Regional Orchestra Auditions
Kellam HS, Virginia Beach |
| End of September: | Catalogue Fundraiser |
| Tuesday, October 25, 2011: | Concert Orchestra Rehearsal
Rehearsal—6:00 PM - 8:00 PM |
| Thursday, October 27, 2011:
Concert Call: 6:00 PM | Fall Concert
Concert Begins: 7:00 PM |
| Late October - Early November: | Wreath Sale Delivery: TBA |
| *Friday/Saturday,
December 1-2, 2011: | Senior Regional Orchestra
Western Branch High School
Chesapeake, Virginia |
| Monday, December 19, 2011 | Concert Orchestra
Rehearsal—6:00 PM - 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday, December 20, 2011: | Chamber Orchestra
Rehearsal—2:05 - 3:30 PM |

Tuesday, December 20, 2011: Winter Concert
Concert Call: 6:00 PM Concert Begins: 7:00 PM

January, 2012: Annual Cheesecake Sale
Delivery: TBA

***Friday/Saturday
February 25-26, 2012:** All-Virginia Orchestra Auditions
James Madison University

Tuesday, February 28, 2012: Chamber Orchestra
Rehearsal—6:00 - 8:00 PM

Wednesday, February 29, 2012: Concert Orchestra
Rehearsal—6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Thursday, March 1, 2012: Pre-Assessment
Concert/Rehearsal
Concert Call: 6:00 PM Concert Begins: 7:00 PM

Thursday -Saturday, March 8-10, 2012:
FESTIVALS TIMES FOR EACH GROUP: TBA
***BLOCK OUT DATES UNTIL
FINAL TIMES ARE GIVEN***

Monday, June 4, 2012: Concert Orchestra
Rehearsal—6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Tuesday, June 5, 2012: Chamber Orchestra
Rehearsal—6:00 - 8:00 PM

Wednesday, June 6, 2012:
Concert Call: 6:00 PM

Pops Concert
Concert Begins: 7:00 PM

TBD:

Orchestra Banquet
Location and Time: TBD

****If extra performances and/or rehearsals are deemed necessary, they will be added with several weeks notice.**

***selected students**



*Friends of the Maury Orchestra
(FOMO)
T-Shirt Order Form*

Student Name: _____

Sizes: Small - XXL

Styles: Short and Long Sleeve

Prices: \$10 for Short Sleeve and \$12 for Long Sleeve

<i>STYLE</i>	<i>SIZE</i>	<i>QTY</i>	<i>PRICE</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Totals

\$_____

Please make checks payable to M.O.P.A.

\$25.00 returned check fee.