

# SHENENDEHOWA HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK



**Mr. Gumpper  
Orchestra Director  
Shenendehowa High School**

**Shenendehowa High School**

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## **Introduction Letter**

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome back to school and the Shenendehowa orchestra program. The information contained in this handbook will be a reference to you regarding policies, rehearsal procedures and performance requirements. Our goal is to maintain a music program of the highest quality so that everyone has the opportunity to grow musically and personally. The cornerstone of our program is discipline and commitment, and is fostered through our student leadership, positive attitude and determination. **Every orchestra member is counting on every other orchestra member to strive for excellence.**

We are looking forward to an incredible year! Please take the time to read this handbook carefully. Members of the instrumental music program have the responsibility to abide by the rules in the classroom, during concerts, and during all instrumental music related activities. If you have any questions, please contact me. My phone and email are:

881-0310 ext 61474  
[gumpjose@shenet.org](mailto:gumpjose@shenet.org)

## **Orchestra Course Descriptions**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra** – This is a string group that is open to everyone who has been recommended by the middle school orchestra director. This group also occasionally plays with band students to form a full symphonic orchestra.

**String and Symphonic Orchestra** – This is a string group that is open to everyone of intermediate or higher ability. This group also occasionally plays with band students to form a full symphonic orchestra.

**Chamber Orchestra** – This is an auditioned group of string students who concentrate on chamber pieces of advanced difficulty. This group does not perform symphonic works.

## **Grades**

Quarterly grades for orchestra will be determined according to the following criteria:

The Orchestra Ensemble Class grade (40%) will be determined by the student's rehearsal behavior, effort, preparation of orchestra music, and concert attendance. There may be written and/or playing assignments. There will be seating auditions every quarter.

The Lesson Participation grade (40%) will be determined by the students participation in lessons.

The Playing Test grade (20%) will be determined by the student's performance of lesson material, and/or scales.

## **Membership**

When accepting membership in the Shenendehowa High School Orchestra program you agree to:

1. Report promptly and attend all rehearsals and performances.
2. Practice sufficiently to be able to perform to the best of your ability at each rehearsal and performance.
3. Make a daily commitment to learn and improve as a musician and orchestra member.
4. Consistently conduct yourself in a manner that is honorable to your school, band and community.
5. Never disgrace the Shenendehowa instrumental music program by smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, using profane language, abusing any substance or possessing illegal drugs during orchestra-related activities, trips, rehearsals or performances.

## **Attendance**

If you accept the responsibility of being a member of a performing group, you accept the responsibility of being present and on time to all performances and rehearsals. Excused absences from performances are granted ONLY by the director and in cases of personal illness or a death in the family.

### **WORK DOES NOT EXCUSE YOU FROM A PERFORMANCE.**

If you are absent from school on the day of a performance, YOU MUST CALL AND NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR AT SCHOOL THAT YOU ARE ILL OR HAVE A FAMILY EMERGENCY. A written note signed by parents/guardians is required when you return to school. Two weeks notice will be given for any performances that are added to the existing schedule. Work is NEVER an accepted excuse! Attendance at all performances is expected and required. Students may be excused from activities if prior approval has been granted due to recognized religious holidays and school related activities. Extra rehearsals are sometimes necessary in preparation for a performance. Attendance is expected and will influence the grade. The schedule is in your hands, so make the necessary arrangements now!!

**EACH STUDENT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF EVERY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE!  
THE ORCHESTRA NEEDS EACH MEMBER TO BE PRESENT AT ALL PERFORMANCES!**

## **Equipment**

1. Instrument
2. Folder (or some other organizational device for lesson material)
3. Pencil
4. Shoulder rest (for viola and violin)
5. Rock stop or endpin strap (for cello and bass)
6. Rosin
7. Music stand and metronome for home practice

## **Lesson Books and Music**

Students will need to obtain lesson books for use in lessons. You may order music from a local music store or from an online service. If going to a music store, call before hand to see if they have it in stock or need to order. Below is a list of books to start for each instrument and grade level.

### **Violin**

#### **Violin – Grade 9**

Foundation Studies Book 2 for violin by Wohlfart published by Carl Fischer  
Suzuki Book 4 for violin

### **Viola**

#### **Viola – Grade 9**

Foundation Studies Book 2 for viola by Wohlfart published by Carl Fischer  
Suzuki Book 4 for viola

### **Cello**

#### **Cello – Grade 9**

Position Pieces for Cello by Rick Mooney published by Summy-Birchard  
Suzuki Book 3 for Cello

### **Bass**

#### **Bass – Grade 9**

Festival Performance Solos for Bass published by Carl Fisher

## **Music Check Out**

In elementary and middle school you may have used photo copies of music for which your teacher had an original. The reason for this was because children often lose or destroy music. As you begin to be viewed as young ladies and gentlemen, there is less of a need to do this. Depending on the age and availability of certain publications, you may be getting many original pieces of music. Whether you have originals or photocopies, you will need to return this music after every concert. If you lose or ruin your music, you will need to replace it. It must also be emphasized that all markings in your music will only be made in pencil, not pen. If music is returned with pen markings, it will be considered ruined.

## **Rehearsal Guidelines**

### **Preparation**

1. Check the board daily for announcements, music order, etc
2. Begin each class period by getting your instrument ready and arranging music on your Music stand
3. Warm up properly
4. **Always have a pencil (Not having a pencil in class will count as unprepared)**
5. Know your part when the director calls on you to play.

### **Promptness**

1. Be in your chair with instrument and any other needed items immediately after the bell rings.

### **Silence**

1. Stop playing and talking when the director steps up to conduct
2. Remain silent as director gives instructions.
3. During rehearsal, stop playing when the director stops.

### **Room Cleanliness**

1. **No food, candy, gum, or beverages** are allowed in the music room.
2. Maintain good posture - both feet on the floor, seated correctly, with good posture and alert.
3. Keep instruments clean and functioning properly.
4. Leave stands and chairs orderly.

## **Discipline**

- Use of alcohol, tobacco products, and/or illegal substances at any orchestra-related function is absolutely forbidden. In addition to school regulations regarding this matter, students in violation of any of any policy may be sent home immediately at the expense of the parent. The policy for activities at Shenendehowa High School, stated in the student handbook, further explains the consequences of unacceptable behavior.
- When bus transportation is provided, ALL students will ride buses to the event. Students may leave with their parents after the orchestra has been dismissed from the event. Parents must notify the director in writing prior to leaving the event with their child. Parent and student must see a director prior to leaving the event.
- You represent your home, school, community, and the Shenendehowa High School Music Program. It takes only one person to jeopardize the reputation of the entire organization.

## **Concert Dress**

Gentlemen – Black dress slacks, shoes, white shirts, and bow ties

Ladies – Black dress, black skirt with white blouse, or black dress slacks with white blouse.

## **Communication**

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via e-mail at [gumpjose@shenet.org](mailto:gumpjose@shenet.org) or by phone at 518-881-0310 ext. 61474

## **Friends of Music**

All parents are encouraged to become an active part of the Shenendehowa Friends of Music and are welcome to all meetings. They are a group of parents, students, teachers, and community members who feel that music is a vital part of educational and social development. They are working to ensure that opportunities for musical performance and appreciation are available to everyone in our community.

### High School Orchestra Concert Schedule 2011-12

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Groups</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>10/20/11</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>West Orchestra</b>	<b>HSE Auditorium</b>
<b>10/24/11</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>East String Orchestra and East Chamber Orchestra</b>	<b>HSE Auditorium</b>
<b>11/18/11 to 11/19/11</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>NYSSMA Area All-State (Selected Students Only)</b>	<b>Saratoga High School</b>
<b>12/19/11</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>West Orchestra, East String Orchestra, and East Chamber Orchestra</b>	<b>HSE Auditorium</b>
<b>1/13/12 to 1/14/12</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Suburban Council Festival (Selected Students Only)</b>	<b>Columbia High School East Greenbush</b>
<b>3/16/12 to 3/17/12</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>All-County String Festival (Selected Students Only)</b>	<b>Hadley-Luzerne</b>
<b>3/28/12</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>West Orchestra, East String Orchestra, and East Chamber Orchestra</b>	<b>HSE Auditorium</b>
<b>6/4/12</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>West Orchestra, East String Orchestra, and East Chamber Orchestra</b>	<b>HSE Auditorium</b>

**Print Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian's email** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

We, the parents and Orchestra student(s) have reviewed the Shenendehowa High School Orchestra Handbook and agree to comply with its guidelines.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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