

2019-2020

**MVHS
Orchestra
Handbook**

Mr. Lucas Shogren, Director

Varsity, Concert, Symphony, & Chamber Orchestra

Ms. Rachel Rogness, Director

Philharmonic Orchestra

Room 166

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CONCERT ATTENDANCE WORKSHEET

PLEASE LOOK AT ATTACHED CONCERT DOCUMENTS AND PUT EACH DATE IN YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR.

ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY (In accordance with the Mounds View High School registration guide)

In the case of an emergency (i.e. family emergency, sickness or serious injury) an adequate way will be determined to make up points missed. A note signed by a parent explaining the circumstances of the absence may be requested. If a performance is missed because of a non-emergency circumstance (i.e, work conflict, homework, not having a ride, evening classes) it will be the discretion of the director, and if necessary, the music department to determine if a make-up assignment will be allowed. It is not an expectation that make-up opportunities for performances be provided. Students are expected to attend all performances of which they are a part.

PLEASE SIGN BELOW STATING THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY

STUDENT NAME PRINT

PARENT NAME PRINT

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT SIGNATURE

MOUNDS VIEW ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION

We have a wonderful Booster program who are trying to support all orchestra students at our school in various ways. They are involved in a lot of aspects of the orchestra program. We want to ensure that all parents receive communication for all booster related events. However, if you wish to **NOT** be a part of the booster communication, please email mvorchestraboosters@gmail.com to inform of this request, or simply unsubscribe when you receive your first email communication.

To learn more about Mounds View Orchestra Association please visit their website at the following URL:
<https://sites.google.com/site/mvorchestraboosters/home>

COURSE OVERVIEW

Each orchestra will be performance based. Each day we will strive to become better musicians through working on technique, music theory, music history, and playing challenging repertoire. We will have one major concert each semester in which we will be showcasing the skills we have worked hard throughout the year. Each year members of the Philharmonic, Concert and Symphony orchestras will go on tour to various places nationally and internationally.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

My number one goal as a teacher is to get students excited, engaged, and motivated about music and orchestra. It is my belief that this will start a chain reaction that will create the most optimal learning environment that will get students playing their instrument at the highest potential. Another belief is that we must play great music that is also engaging and motivational. Nothing dampens learning more than playing music that doesn't excite most students. I also believe that an orchestra is a team and not a class. We will strive to create fulfilling relationships and learn to collaborate and work together for our learning in music and growth as humans. Lastly, I believe that I must create a class that all can succeed through hard work.

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING SCHEDULE

Students will have several assessments throughout the year. We will have theory assignments given out throughout the semester along with a cumulative theory test at the end of the semester. Assignments are expected to be handed in a timely manner.

GRADING POLICY

Grades in orchestra are moving towards proficiency based learning and will stay consistent with the norms within Mounds View High School.

HOMWORK POLICY

Homework will be assigned in orchestra. Our foundation is going to be rooted in our playing, but as homework, quizzes, and tests are assigned, it is each student's responsibility to get the required information to successfully accomplish each task. Please accomplish each assignment in a timely manner. Please refer to the late assignment policy below to know restrictions. Lastly, Mr. Shogren and/or Ms. Rogness can find time to help any student on any assignment. Please come set up a time if extra help is needed.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

It is expected that students will turn in work on the assigned day, but sometimes this is not possible for a variety of reasons. Regardless of the reason, the following policies apply to late work:

- Communicate with teachers any known absences to work out adjusted due dates/deadlines
- Any sickness or sudden excused absences, it is the responsibility of the student to communicate upon returning how to resolve the missed work.
- I will have specific due dates and deadlines. A due date refers to when the assignment needs to be handed in for full credit. A deadline refers to the last possible date a student can hand in an assignment for any sort of credit. In some instances, the due date and the deadline could be the same date.
- Students are expected to complete the assigned tasks and assessments on time. Work turned in after the due date but before the deadline, may be lowered no more than one letter grade or no more than 10% of the grade for the assignment/task.

MUSIC ATTENDANCE POLICY

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

A concert is the culmination of months of study and practice by all students in music. Each student is expected and required to participate in each concert. Performing the music for an audience is an integral part of the learning process.

Concert schedules are distributed by the director and/or listed on the school calendar. Parents and students are expected to note dates and make every effort to avoid conflicts. Below is the Music Department Concert Policy.

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SUPPLIES

Members of the orchestras are expected to have the following supplies with them at each rehearsal:

- Instrument, bow, case in good working order
- Name tag on case
- Rosin (in good condition—not chipped/cracked/broken)
- Shoulder Rest/End Pin Stopper
- Soft Cloth for wiping rosin off of strings
- Extra Set of Strings (must have all four, with the exception of basses)
- Mute
- Pencil
- Black Binder
- Blank paper (notebook or loose leaf)

Members should have all of the above items plus the following when practicing at home:

- Music stand (folding stands should have a **case** and be labeled with student's name)
- Cellists—an appropriate chair (your legs should bend at 90-degree angle)
- Bassists—an appropriate height stool
- Appropriate lighting (an inexpensive stand light can help!)
- Metronome in working condition—use EVERY time you practice!!
- Recording method

PRIVATE LESSONS

The music department at Mounds View strongly encourages all students to take private lessons. All students not already with a teacher are encouraged to call about openings in the area. Teachers set their own schedules and rates.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY

1. Your instrument and accessories must be kept in the best possible condition for you to give your best performance. Be sure to clean your strings, dust rosin off of instrument, and bring your instrument to the repair shop for a “checkup” once a year, usually in the fall. **Always** have an extra set of strings in your case.
2. Ideally, your bow will be made of WOOD or high-quality CARBON FIBER. You should have natural horsehair, instead of synthetic, on your bow. If you have a fibreglass bow, consider upgrading this year. Be sure to replace the horsehair every **year** in order to keep producing the best possible sound.
3. Strings are an important part of the sound of an instrument. As high school musicians, students should invest in high-quality strings and consider upgrading from the brand they may have used in middle school. Strings should be replaced every **one to two years**. The staff at a local violin shop that specializes in string instruments will be able to match your instrument with the best possible strings. Check SHAR or Southwest Strings for the best prices once you know what kind to use. Contact Mr. Shogren and/or Ms. Rogness with any questions.
4. Do not put anything inside your instrument case that does not belong there, such as music or pencils. Loose objects will scratch or crush the instrument. Cover up violins and violas with soft cloths to protect the wood from possible scratches.
5. The instrument storage area must be kept clean and is for instruments and music **ONLY**. Students currently enrolled in orchestra may use the storage area for instruments and materials for the **current**

day. The orchestra room is not a locker facility: no backpacks, jackets, or **food or drink.** MVHS assumes no responsibility for lost/stolen items, although we do our best to maintain a secure area.

6. Any damage to school facilities or equipment will be repaired immediately at the expense of those students responsible.
7. All music students are expected to abide by the Performing Arts Department Facility Guidelines.

PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS

The music department does the best it can to keep the orchestra room locked and/or monitored at all times. **However, Mounds View High School cannot assume responsibility for personal items stored in the music wing, and school insurance does not cover the loss of student property.** Please make sure student instruments are covered with a rider by your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy.

Local violin shops:

All Strings Attached	Golden Valley	763-542-9542	
www.allstringsattached.com			
Claire Givens	Minneapolis	612-375-0708	www.clairegivens.com
House of Note	St. Louis Park	952-929-0026	www.houseofnote.com

Other Music Stores:

Eckroth Music, Schmitt Music, Groth Music, Quinn Violins

RENTAL OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

The school maintains a supply of violins, violas, cellos, and basses for personal use that may be rented starting at \$50 per year, should the cost preclude purchase from a music store. **Please consider purchasing your own instrument if you haven't done so already.** If you need advice about choosing an instrument, please talk to Mr. Shogren and/or Ms. Rogness. Cellos and basses are required to rent an instrument for use at school. There is a limited supply of school-use violins and violas. Parents who cannot afford the fee, due to financial hardship, should contact the orchestra director.