

Mason High School

Orchestra Handbook

2008-2009

Directors

Mrs. Stephanie Jones
jones@mason.k12.oh.us
398-9035 ext. 46190

Mr. Brian Frey
freybr@mason.k12.oh.us
ext. 71490

For orchestra updates and info, visit
www.masonorchestra.com

Mission Statement

The orchestras of the Mason City School District are dedicated to continuous musical and personal development culminating in meaningful musical experiences for all orchestra members and our audiences.

We are committed to the development of a lifelong interest in and appreciation of music.

With patience, understanding, caring, and commitment, we will strive to develop in each of our orchestra members the ideals of leadership, personal responsibility, and pride so we may become the model of an enlightened community.

Objectives

- LOGICAL - To provide each orchestra member a practical knowledge of music he/she can appreciate and participate in the aesthetic experience of listening to and making music.
- TECHNICAL - To provide each orchestra member with the skills needed to participate fully in the orchestral experience.
- CITIZENSHIP - To help the student become a better citizen through membership in a community where each person's contribution is equal in importance.
- PERFORMANCE - To provide rewarding performance and learning experiences for all members of the orchestra and audience.
- EMOTION - To promote personal expression and creativity through the making of music.
- COMMUNITY - To continually broaden the musical interests of each member and our community through the performance of fine yet diverse orchestral repertoire.
- TEAMWORK - To collaborate with our fellow musicians to experience the full spectrum of musical expression and to promote a friendly and rewarding environment.

Rehearsal Procedures & Student Expectations

1. Every student must bring their own instrument, music, pencil and other necessary equipment every day. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of points from the class participation grade.
2. Students are expected to know their part and be prepared to perform it accurately in rehearsal. At home practice and preparation is required and expected of every student.
3. There is to be no individual playing during rehearsals unless requested by the director. Unsolicited playing during rehearsal will result in a deduction of points from the class participation grade.
4. There is to be no talking or other disturbance during the rehearsal. This is vital to the effective use of rehearsal time and will be strictly enforced.
5. Gum chewing, eating, or drinking of any kind (with the exception of water in a closeable bottle) is not permitted during any rehearsal or performance.
6. Cell phones must be turned **OFF** (not on silent) in any rehearsal or performance.
7. Each student must be seated at the start of class, or the student will be marked tardy.
8. Music folders, instruments, and equipment should be kept in their proper storage places when not in use. Please note that the music is provided by the school, and it is the student's responsibility to keep track of their own music.

Grading Policy

Class grades will be determined on the following criteria:

- 30% Class Participation Grade
- 30% Playing Tests, Scales, Exercises & Quizzes
- 30% Performance Grade
- 10% Exam Grade

Playing Tests, Scales, Exercises and Quizzes – students will be evaluated on their improvement and effort in the following areas: Music Production (tone and intonation), Music Literacy (reading rhythms and notes correctly, and interpreting dynamic markings and musical symbols), and Musicality (phrasing and expression).

Class Participation Grade – includes readiness to begin on time, bringing instrument, music and pencil to every class, following stated student expectations, and making a positive contribution to the class through your participation and effort.

Performance Grade – All students are required to attend all performances. Please refer to the attendance policy for more details on this portion of the grade.

Music Policy

Students will be given original pieces of music to use in performance. Individual orchestra parts are the property of the Mason Orchestra. Some method books and workbooks are property of the student as designated. Students are responsible for the return of all music when the performance is over. Music can be very expensive to replace and it is imperative that students return their music at the end of a performance.

Concert Attendance

Concert attendance is mandatory. All members are expected to play in all scheduled performances dressed in proper concert attire (see *Concert Attire*). Students are to arrive at the performance venue at least forty-five minutes before the concert starts to tune and warm up.

Performance attendance is equal to 30% of a student's grade in orchestra. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that portion of their average. Absences are unexcused except in emergency cases or personal illness. Any school activity conflict must be worked out between the advisors (including the orchestra director), student and parents at least three weeks in advance. The student has the responsibility to inform the orchestra director immediately when the conflict is discovered.

In the event of an excused absence, the student may receive the full 30% performance grade credit by bringing in a letter (in emergency/illness cases) upon their return to school, signed by the student's parents explaining the reason for their absence. The director may call for further verification. In addition, students with excused absences must attend a professional or collegiate orchestra concert and write a 2-3 page paper on their observations to receive full credit. Just as a student who sick the day of a major test is allowed to make up the test, so is a student who is absent the day of a performance. For unexcused absences no make up opportunity is given.

Concert Attire

Concert dress gives an ensemble a more uniform appearance. The Mason High School Orchestras will all wear the same concert attire. This attire will remain constant from year to year. Students are required to purchase/rent their concert attire as listed below. Costs and fees associated with the purchase and rental of concert attire is listed on a separate sheet.

Ladies

Female students are required to purchase the dress through the Mason Orchestra Boosters. Female students will own their own dress and therefore be required to clean it and have it altered. If a female student outgrows her dress before she has graduated, the Orchestra Boosters will facilitate the sale of her dress to a freshman student entering the orchestra. Female students are also required to wear black or neutral colored hose with their concert dress as well as solid black sensible shoes.

Gentlemen

Male students will rent a tux from the orchestra boosters. Tux pants, jacket, shirt, bow tie and cummerbund will be provided in this rental. Students are responsible to provide black dress shoes and black socks. Gentlemen will be refitted each year for a new size tux as needed.

Discipline

Any behavior that disrupts or does not follow given rules is considered inappropriate behavior. Students will be expected to exercise self-discipline at all times in order to maintain an environment conducive to learning. Below is the procedure for any discipline infraction.

1st offense: Verbal warning and/or conference with the student.

2nd offense: Detention with student and student/teacher conference. (All detentions are for one ½ hour. Students and parents will be notified 24 hrs. in advance.)

3rd offense: Detention with personal parent contact.

4th offense: Parent/teacher conference and disciplinary action as discussed with student and parent. An administrator may be involved in this conference.

5th offense: School discipline administrator involved.

Performance Dates for 2008-2009

Saturday, September 27, 2008	MHS Symphony Orchestra at Mason Gala Manor House 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 23, 2008	MHS Symphony Orchestra Concert MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 15, 2008	Symphony Orchestra on Wind Symphony Concert MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 16, 2008	Symphony Orchestra performance at Rotary Breakfast MMS Commons 8:00 a.m.
Saturday, January 24, 2009	OMEA District 13 Solo & Ensemble Contest Lakota West High School times TBA Required for Symphony Orchestra
Thursday, February 12, 2009	MHS Concert & Symphony Orchestra Concert MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
February 20-21, 2009	OMEA Orchestra Contest Required for Symphony Orchestra *Day and time TBA
March 13-14, 2009	OMEA District 13 Honor Orchestra Garfield Jr. High
April 2-6, 2009	MHS Concert & Symphony Orchestra to NY
May 7-10, 2009	MHS Spring Musical
Monday, May 11, 2009	Concert & Symphony Dress Rehearsal MHS Auditorium 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12, 2009	MHS Concert & Symphony Orchestra Concert MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

***Dates listed in bold are mandatory**

**** Contest dates, rehearsals or community performances may be added to the schedule. You will be made aware of these additions as soon as they occur.**

Statement of Commitment

We have read the Mason High School Orchestra Handbook and agree to abide by all policies and procedures stated herein. **We have marked all of the 2008-2009 Orchestra dates on our calendar.**

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

For Director's Information:

Student Name: _____

Address: _____ Home phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Names: _____

Daytime phone #: _____ Person phone # reaches: _____

Additional phone #'s if desired: _____

Parent's email address: _____

Student's email address: _____

Do you take private lessons?: _____ If yes, how many years? _____

Private teacher's name and phone #: _____

Circle One: I rent / own my instrument. If rented, from which store?: _____

Parents: Are you interested in helping during orchestra events such as field trips, concerts, and other activities? _____ If yes, what is the best way to reach you? _____

**If you have any other special skills or access to resources that may benefit our orchestra program (ie: seamstress, graphic designer, musicians/pianists) please describe below:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO MRS. JONES BY **FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th** Thank you! We are looking forward to a great year! ☺