



DAVENPORT NORTH High School Orchestra

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & HANDBOOK 2014-2015

Contact information

Davenport North High School Orchestra
626 W 53rd St
Davenport, IA 52806

Phone: (563) 388-9880
Fax: (563) 388-9456

Web:

<http://www.davenportschools.org/north/fine-arts/music/orchestra/>

Google Calendar:

<http://www.davenportschools.org/north/fine-arts/fine-arts-calendars/>

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Davenport Community School District is to enhance each student's abilities by providing a quality education enriched by our diverse community."

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

Education that challenges conventional thinking, prepares all students to compete in a global society and inspires our students, parents, staff and community to answer the question, "what if?"

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Davenport Community School District (DCSD) provides equal educational and employment opportunities and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, ancestry, or actual or potential parental, familial, or marital status. DCSD will take affirmative action in recruitment, appointment, assignment, and advancement of women and men, members of diverse racial/ethnic groups, and persons with disabilities for job categories in which any of these groups of people are underrepresented.

Inquiries related to this policy may be directed to Dawn Anderson Rascher, DSCD Equity Coordinator, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803 or by phone at 563-336-3805. Inquiries may also be directed to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the Region VII Office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, or the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

WELCOME!

We are excited to welcome you as a member of the Davenport North High School Orchestra family. We are one of our school's most active and visible student organizations, and are part of a well-rounded Music Department that encompasses both instrumental (band and orchestra) and vocal music ensembles. The North High Music Department has a well-established tradition of excellence, and the expectations of our students are high. However, the rewards are remarkable and lifelong, and we are certain you will look back on your years in the North High Orchestra as some of the most memorable of your life.

If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to contact one of the directors. Our contact information can be found on the cover of this handbook. We look forward to working with you this year!

Michele Ottesen, Director of Orchestras (ottesenm@davenportschools.org)

Paula Hartmann, Assistant Director of Orchestras (hartmannp@davenportschools.org)

EXPECTATIONS OF ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

Members of the music department are more visible members of the student body than many of their classmates. The orchestra is seen often in public performances, civic functions and on television and radio. Students must be aware of this fact and conduct themselves accordingly to a higher standard and expectation. These expectations can be summarized as follows:

The Four B's:

BE YOUR BEST

This is a goal that everyone can achieve. It simply means what it says – be YOUR best. This is not the same thing as "Be THE Best," which is something that few can achieve. It is all that is expected of you, but it is expected all of the time – every minute, every rehearsal, every lesson, every day and every performance. Further, it is expected that you will Be Your Best outside of organized band activities, as well as in rehearsals and performances.

When you do your best, you can measure your own success and do not have to wait until someone else, like the director, senior or judge tells you. You already know!

BE RESPECTFUL

Respect yourself. Respect others and their property. Respect the music facilities, equipment and uniforms, as well as the traditions of the orchestra program.

BE PREPARED

Orchestra members are responsible for doing their best, working on their individual skills and practicing regularly. All required materials must be brought to all rehearsals and performances.

BE ON TIME

Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled call time for a rehearsal or performance so that you will be prepared physically and mentally before the start of the event. You will also have a cushion of safety if there is extra traffic or you are running a couple of minutes behind.

These expectations will suffice in most circumstances. When in doubt, the rule of common sense should apply. If you have any doubt if the decision you are about to make is the right one, it probably isn't. Do the right thing.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a critical component in a successful orchestra program. Information will be posted on the orchestra website, and via the Teacher Messenger service in Campus Portal. ***Please be sure to check your Campus Portal inbox on a regular basis.*** For direct communications, standard email, a phone call or a written note from home are best.

PERFORMANCE GROUPS & OTHER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students must be enrolled in Orchestra or Orchestra ALT to participate in activities of the North High Orchestra during any given term. Orchestra is for students not enrolled in another music ensemble during first block. Orchestra ALT is for students who are enrolled in both Orchestra and Choir during first block. Students enrolled in Orchestra will receive ½ credit per term. Students enrolled in Orchestra ALT will receive ¼ credit per term (with the other ¼ credit being awarded toward their other music class).

Performing Ensembles

String Orchestra: Symphonic Strings is the core string orchestra performing group that all orchestra students will be a part of. We rehearse daily and perform throughout the year.

Full Orchestra: With the addition of wind, brass, and percussion students the full orchestra will begin rehearsals after the conclusion of marching band. We rehearse on Wednesdays during class time and perform on second semester concerts and State Large Group Festival.

Solos/Small Ensembles: All orchestra students perform a solo for an adjudicator and receive feedback at the North HS Local Solo Festival, and each is a member of at least one small ensemble that performs at the annual Ensemble Night concert. These events are usually held on the same afternoon/evening during late February or early March.

Musical Pit Orchestra: This extra-curricular ensemble provides the accompaniment to the spring musical. All rehearsals take place before or after school, and in the evening. The Pit offers advanced level students the opportunity to perform actual Broadway music, usually from the original scores.

Other musical experiences:

Private Lessons: All orchestra students will receive a weekly 15-minute lesson from the director. In addition, ALL students are encouraged to take private lessons from a specialist on their instrument. If you are interested, please see the director for a list of approved teachers.

All-State: Being accepted for the all-state choir, orchestra, or band is the highest individual honor a high school music student can receive in the state of Iowa. Auditioning for one of these groups will greatly enhance the student's musicianship. Auditions occur on the third Saturday of October. A predetermined number of musicians are chosen from each of the six districts in Iowa to perform in the all-state music festival held in November. Students accepted into the All-State ensembles will have the opportunity to work with nationally-recognized conductors and perform with the best musicians in the state.

State Solo and Ensemble Festival: North's tradition of participation in this event continues to grow and strengthen our performing groups and enhance the individual musicianship of each performer. Each student has the opportunity to perform a solo and/or be a member of one or more ensembles. This contest is held in late March or early April. Students should understand that, in order to be adequately prepared, time must be spent outside of the regular rehearsal period.

Honor Ensembles: Students are encouraged to participate in a number of ensembles outside of North High School. Opportunities include state-wide and area festivals and honor groups for which students are nominated or auditioned (e.g.

SEISTA Honors Orchestra, etc.), the Quad City Youth Symphony program (an auditioned group) and area ensembles which need extra musicians from time to time.

Fundamentals of Music: This class is a basic to intermediate class in music theory. It is intended for students who wish to expand their knowledge of scales, chords, rhythm and ear training. Students planning to major in music in college, or advanced level students are encouraged to take this course.

Note: the Instrumental Music Boosters pay for the cost of student entries for All-State auditions, SEISTA Honors orchestra auditions, State Solo and Ensemble entries and other honor orchestras and festivals. If a student signs up to participate in one of these events, and then withdraws after the registration has taken place, the student will be responsible for reimbursing the Boosters the cost of that entry.

GRADING

The student's overall orchestra grade is determined on the basis of:

Rehearsals (25%) – Students are expected to come to class prepared with all required materials, to have practiced the assigned rehearsal material and to actively contribute to and participate in the rehearsal process. Daily points will be assigned.

Performances (25%) – Performances are the culminating experience for most learning activities in orchestra. Attendance at scheduled performances is required of all students, except in extenuating circumstances, in which case a make-up activity must be completed. Make-up activities must be completed within two weeks of the date on which the absence occurred, or by the last day of the term if the performance occurs during the last week of the term. An unexcused absence from a performance will receive a grade of zero for that performance without the opportunity for make-up. See the section on "Attendance" for more information.

Lessons (25%) – Each student will receive individual lessons on their orchestra instrument each term. If a student is unable to attend a scheduled lesson, make-up times will be made available. Only one lesson may be made up per week. Students who take private lessons on their orchestra instrument from an approved instructor may count two of their private lessons per term toward the required lessons per term. Private lesson instructors will be required to complete the Private Lesson Credit Form found at the end of this Handbook. All private lesson forms are due before the last week of the term. Lessons are an important part of the student's individual musical growth. Students are expected to have a lesson book at each lesson, and are expected to have practiced the assigned material.

Assignments/Playing Tests (25%) – From time to time, students will be given assignments which are to be completed outside of class time. These may include worksheets, written assignments or playing tests. Late assignments will receive a grade of zero, or may be counted for partial credit at the discretion of the director.

Extra credit – Occasionally, students will be given the opportunity for extra credit. However, the student should not assume that these opportunities will always exist. If a student is in need of extra credit, he/she should contact the director to discuss their specific situation.

EXPECTATIONS WITH REGARD TO ATTENDANCE

As members of the orchestra, students have a responsibility not only to themselves but also to the other members of the group. When students are absent from a rehearsal or performance, it limits the ability of the group to grow and perform at its highest level. Therefore, students are expected to be in attendance and on time for every rehearsal and/or performance, and to be in attendance for the duration of the rehearsal and/or performance. All required materials (instrument/equipment, music, pencil, etc.) must be present at all times.

Tardiness cannot be tolerated. Being on time means being in your seat with all required materials ready to start at the designated time. Students who are unexcused late to a rehearsal or performance will be marked tardy and will lose 20% of the total credit for that particular event.

Students who are present for rehearsal or performance but do not have all of their required materials will lose 20% of the total credit for that particular event.

Legitimate excuses for rehearsal or performance absence are illness, family vacation, accident, or serious illness/death in the family and doctor's appointments. If possible, contact the director prior to any absence. **Students must bring an excuse note from parent or guardian following any absence from a performance.** A request to be excused from a future rehearsal or performance must be turned in at the earliest possible time and will be considered by the director, pending the legitimacy of the request presented.

If an absence from a performance is excused, the student will receive a grade of zero for that performance until a make-up assignment is completed. Make-up assignments must be completed within two weeks of the missed performance, unless that performance occurs during the last week of the term, in which case the make-up assignment must be completed

before the last day of the term. Excused absences from a rehearsal (e.g. student was not at school because they are ill) will exempt the student from the points for that rehearsal in their total grade.

Unexcused absences will receive a grade of zero for that rehearsal or performance, without the opportunity for make-up. Absences, tardiness or leaving early because of work or homework are not excused. If a student has a job, he/she should make arrangements with their employer at least two weeks in advance of the event. A calendar for the year is provided at the end of this handbook, as well as Request for Absence from Work forms. (Both of these items are also available on the orchestra website.)

Students may need to remind their employers of conflicts, verbally and in writing, as the date of a performance approaches or as the date for creating your work schedule approaches. If a conflict does occur, students should approach their employer as soon as possible and remind them that they cannot work on the given date. If students have given their employer proper notice well in advance, there should be no problem in resolving the conflict. If you have followed the proper procedures according to your employer's policies for requesting off work, and your supervisor is insistent upon you working, the directors will be happy to talk to him/her on your behalf.

***Proper planning and communication IN ADVANCE
is the key to avoiding most scheduling conflicts.***

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Instruments

Students are responsible for keeping their instrument in good working order, and making sure that is properly stored in the case with all case latches locked. An instrument in disrepair can make playing difficult, and can adversely affect the sound of the entire ensemble due to poor tone, bad intonation and faulty technique. Instrument cases should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

If you are considering a step-up instrument for your child, please contact your director before making this purchase. We can help you decide which instrument brand/model best suits your child's needs. As an intermediate step, you may wish to consider upgrading your child's strings. Students are often amazed what a small change in equipment can do to make their playing easier and better!

School-owned instruments

The school will assess a \$40.00 rental fee to students using a school-owned instrument. The fee for students on free and reduced lunch will be prorated accordingly. This is a district fee and is used to offset the cost of instrument maintenance. Students will be responsible for repairs to school-owned instruments caused by abuse or neglect (including broken strings, etc.). Students should care for school-owned instruments as if they are their own.

Music

Students are issued ensemble music and folders just like textbooks in other classes. When not in use, music and folders must be kept in the assigned storage shelves, not in student lockers. Proper care of music is the student's responsibility. Students will be charged for the cost of lost/damaged music. Students are responsible for providing their own lesson book. Lesson books should be clearly marked with the student's name.

Uniforms

The orchestra uniform consists of:

MEN – tux coat, tux pants, tux shirt, bow tie, cummerbund, black shoes, LONG black socks
WOMEN – long black skirt and top, black shoes (flats or conservative heels)

Men must provide their own tux pants, tux shirt, black shoes and socks. Tux pants and shirts can be inexpensively obtained from the used rental stock at most formal wear stores. (A shirt generally runs around \$20, pants around \$30.) Bow ties and cummerbunds will be ordered by the Boosters and billed to students. Tux coats are owned by the instrumental music department and issued to students each year. Women must provide their own black shoes. Dresses will be ordered by the Boosters and billed to students. See the section on "Charges" below for specific costs.

The Music Boosters will have tux jackets cleaned at the end of the appropriate season. Do not launder or clean your jacket on your own – they are not machine-washable, and do require specific dry-cleaner instructions. If a uniform requires cleaning before the end of the season, see the director or uniform chairperson.

Students will be responsible for paying to repair or replace uniform parts lost or damaged due to misuse or neglect. The director and the uniform chairperson will determine whether a uniform part needs to be repaired or replaced. Students must not switch uniform parts with other students. Students will be held accountable for the numbered uniform item issued to them. If changes need to be made due to fit or repair, contact the director or the uniform chairperson.

ORCHESTRA CHARGES

The Boosters will assess charges to all students participating in orchestra. This money is used to support the operation of the orchestra program, and covers some expenses not funded by the District.

General Orchestra Charge (all members who play in the orchestra) - \$15

- Includes orchestra t-shirt, as well as assorted band solo and large group charges

String Orchestra - \$10-\$60

- \$10 for tux coat rental (all men)
\$15 for cummerbund and tie (freshman men and new members only) [students may keep these and reuse in future years]
\$60 for skirt and blouse (freshmen ladies and new members only) [students may keep these and reuse in future years]

If funding is a problem for your family, please contact Ms. Ottesen. No student will be prevented from participating in orchestra due to a financial hardship.

FUNDRAISING

Some, but certainly not all, of the basic needs of the North High Orchestra program are funded by the School District. Money for program enhancements such as special equipment, additional staff, travel opportunities, and other items not funded by the district can only be generated through fundraising. These enhancements insure a broader experience for all students. It is the hope of the directors that every member of a performing group will realize his/her responsibility to help with these projects. A percentage of some fundraisers will go into the student's Credit Account to be used during his/her high school years for trips or camps. The remaining percentage, as well as all of the other specific fundraisers will be left in the Organization Activity account to be used as mentioned above.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS

The North High Instrumental Music Boosters is a parent organization that provides moral and financial support to the instrumental music students and programs at North High School. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm in one of the music rooms at North High School. In the event the Booster meeting falls on a holiday, the meeting will take place on the following Monday.

Each family is asked to help out with at least one committee each year. Some areas in which you may wish to volunteer your time include the Uniform Committee, Merchandise Committee, Concessions, Silent Auction, or by serving as one of our officers. For more information about any of the Booster committees or positions, contact our Booster President Eleanor Porter (alsydhl@yahoo.com).

Note Club

You or your business may also wish to support the North High Instrumental Music programs in a more significant way. Consider becoming a member of the Note Club! Note Club members receive free admission to any band or orchestra concert where admission is charged, receive recognition in Concert Programs and will be included on the Booster Newsletter mailing list. The North High Instrumental Music Boosters are a 501(c)3 organization as defined by the IRS, and Note Club memberships are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. An application for Note Club membership is included at the back of this handbook.

MUSIC FACILITIES POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Following are some general guidelines with regard to the use of the music facilities. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. When in doubt, the rule of common-sense should apply:

1. Music facilities and equipment are intended for use by music students only. Students who are not currently enrolled in band, orchestra or choir should not congregate in the music rooms.
2. Students are not allowed in music rooms unless a faculty or staff member is present.
3. Food and drink (other than water) are NOT permitted in the music rooms at any time. Gum is not allowed. This includes the rehearsal rooms, practice rooms, storage rooms, computer lab, and auditorium.
4. Every student will be assigned a locker in which to secure their instrument and other personal belongings. Lockers should be kept locked at all times. Only school-issued locks are permitted; students may not use their own locks to secure their locker. DO NOT SHARE YOUR LOCKER COMBINATION WITH ANYONE. Food and drink (other than water) may NOT be kept in lockers. Music should not be kept in lockers, but should be stored in designated folder slots so that it is accessible at all times.
5. DO NOT TOUCH, PLAY OR OTHERWISE MEDDLE with any instrument or equipment but your own. Students should not allow others to play their instrument. All music and other equipment must be returned to its designated storage area after use. Pick up any trash you see and dispose of it properly. The music facilities should be kept neat and orderly.
6. The North High School Music Department is not responsible for lost or stolen personal articles.



DAVENPORT NORTH
High School Orchestra

Performance/Event Schedule 2014-2015

Oct. 9	Wood/North Masquerade Concert 7:00 p.m. North Auditorium
Oct. 25	Iowa All State Music Auditions Fairfield, Iowa (select students)
Nov. 20-22	Iowa All State Orchestra Ames, Iowa (select students)
Nov. 21	Iowa Junior All State Honors Orchestra Ames, Iowa (select students)
Nov. 24	Holiday Concert rehearsal 6:00 p.m. West High School
Dec. 1	Holiday Concert rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Vickie Anne Palmer Hall
Dec. 2	Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m. Vickie Anne Palmer Hall
Dec. 15	NHS Combined Music Concert 7:00 p.m. North Auditorium
Jan. 17	SEISTA Honors Orchestra All day, Bettendorf High School (select students)
Feb. 12	Winter Concert 7:30 p.m. North Auditorium
Feb. 21	Elem/Middle Solo Festival All day, NHS (North students must work)
Mar. 10	Solo and Ensemble Night All evening, NHS
May 6	Spring Concert 7:00 p.m. North Auditorium
May 8	IHSMA Large Group Festival All evening, Bettendorf High School
May 12	Music Awards Night North Auditorium
May 18	Festival of Orchestras 7:30, North Gym



DAVENPORT NORTH High School Orchestra

Private Instructor Lesson Credit Form

All private instructor lesson forms are due one week prior to the end of the quarter during which the lesson took place. Only lessons during that quarter will be eligible for credit. Students are allowed 2 private lesson credits per quarter.

Any questions please call the orchestra office at 563-388-9880, or email Ms. Ottesen at ottesenm@davenportschools.org
Thank you for your work with our students!

Student Name

Instructor Name

Instructor Phone #

Date of Lesson

Briefly describe what information was taught during the lesson:

Please give an approximate grade for this lesson

Instructor Signature

Note Club

North High School Instrumental Music

2014 – 2015

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail address _____

Student name _____

Sponsor Levels:

___ Whole Note: \$250.00

___ Half Note: \$100.00

___ Quarter Note: \$50.00

___ Eighth Note: \$25.00

***All Sponsored Levels Include free admission to North HS Band and Orchestra events where admission is charged.**

Thank you for your Support!