

Diamond Fork Middle School

ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK

Information

Hello! My name is Tammy Drager, and I am so excited to be teaching your child in orchestra this year. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year! Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Tammy Drager

tammy.drager@nebo.edu

Equipment and Fees

Violin and Viola	Cello and Bass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Quality, playable instrument and bow/case:</u> purchased or rented from any local music store or rented from DFMS. Rental through DFMS is <u>\$125 fee.</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Rosin-</u> each student should purchase their own. rosin and label it with a sharpie. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Shoulder Rest</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Pencil</u> to be kept in music folder. (I will provide the folder). <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cleaning cloth</u> to wipe down instrument every day. Any soft cloth or washcloth will work. <input type="checkbox"/> Music Book: Make sure you get the right book for your instrument. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Sound Innovations for String Orchestra Book 1</u> (Beginner groups, periods 3,4 & 6) ○ <u>Sound Innovations for String Orchestra Book 2</u> (Advanced groups, periods 2 & 7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Quality playable instrument and bow/case:</u> purchased or rented from any local music store or from DFMS. Rental through DFMS is <u>\$125 fee</u> (2nd instrument \$50) <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Rosin</u> - each student should purchase their own rosin and label it with a sharpie. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Rock Stop</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Pencil</u> to be kept in music folder. (I will provide the folder). <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cleaning cloth</u> to wipe down instrument every day. Any soft cloth or washcloth will work. <input type="checkbox"/> Music Book: Make sure you get the right book for your instrument: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Sound Innovations for String Orchestra Book 1</u> (Beginner groups, periods 3, 4 & 6) ○ <u>Sound Innovations for String Orchestra Book 2</u> (Advanced group, periods 2 & 7)

Local Music Stores: (please avoid purchasing instruments online)

Boothe Brothers Music – 135 N. Main in Spanish Fork

Summerhays Music – 1006 S. State, Orem

Bert Murdock Music – 981 N. 1280 W. Orem

Instruments and Lockers

Instruments can be rented or purchased at any of the above listed music stores. A quality working instrument is extremely important to the success of your student. An instrument that does not stay in tune or that has poor tone will not be fun to play or to practice. ***Please avoid purchasing instruments online***...especially from Amazon.com or eBay. I have seen many students bring these instruments to school and quit playing because of frustrations involving an unresponsive instrument. **A quality instrument makes all the difference.** I always recommend renting or purchasing the best instrument you can afford. Your student will love playing and love to practice if they hear pleasant sounds coming from their instrument. Please let me know if you need any help deciding on an instrument.

Please mark all equipment with the student's first and last name! This doesn't have to be anything fancy - masking tape and sharpie will do. Many violin/viola cases look the same, and it is easy to get mixed up - especially at the beginning of the year. Please be sure to mark rosin and shoulder rests as well. **Violin and viola students must have a shoulder rest.** Shoulder rests are essential for proper position and for advanced techniques such as vibrato.

Students who rent instruments from the school must pay a \$125 fee which covers rental and maintenance. School-owned instruments and equipment become the responsibility of the student to whom they are assigned. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will need to be repaired at the student's expense. Remember, horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment.

Violin and viola students will be assigned an instrument locker inside the orchestra room. The school will provide locks for these lockers.

Students are expected to come to class prepared with all equipment every day. If students cannot bring their instruments, they must bring a note from their parents explaining the situation. Students will NOT need instruments on the first day of school. **Please plan on bringing instruments to school on Monday, August 21st.**

Music and Folders

I will provide each student with their own music folder or binder. Students must keep their method book and all music inside the folder with a pencil. Music is provided for rehearsal and for personal practice. Students are encouraged to take their music home for practicing, but

must be responsible for returning it every day for each rehearsal. All sheet music will be collected at the end of each concert. Students who wish to mark their music may do so in **pencil only**. Students need to be responsible with folders and music by putting them away when not in use. Those who leave folders on stands after class or do not put them away will lose class participation points.

Rehearsal Expectations

It is expected that each student will comply with both district and school policies as well as additional guidelines outlined below:

1. Follow directions, the first time, with promptness and accuracy. Stay on task and develop an appropriate mind-set for teamwork and success.
2. Students must be prepared for class every day. Be in your seat ready to play when the bell rings, with all necessary equipment, music, notebook and pencil. All students must bring their own music for every rehearsal. Students must stay in their assigned seats. Always be ready to play on the conductor's downbeat.
3. RESPECT everyone and everything within the room and school. Do not play your instrument during tuning, or while instructions are being given. During the rehearsal, do not talk while someone else is speaking, or while another section of the orchestra is rehearsing.
4. The room is full of expensive instruments and equipment. DO NOT TOUCH or PLAY any instrument or equipment not intended for your personal use. Play only your instrument. Students who damage instruments or equipment due to careless behavior will be charged the repair or replacement fee.
5. Mark your music with a PENCIL in every rehearsal. Do not rely on your memory. This will allow us to have a more enjoyable and productive rehearsal.
6. Homework or study for other courses is not to be done during class time.
7. Students may use the hall-pass sparingly. Students are encouraged to use the restroom before class begins, and are expected to take care of all other needs prior to class.
8. No food or gum is allowed in the classroom. Students may have a water bottle.

Cell Phones

I work hard to help all students succeed. Students are required to be responsible by coming to class prepared with a pencil, instrument, music, and a willing attentive attitude. Cell phones must be out of sight and **never** used during an orchestra rehearsal. Please put your cell phone in your backpack (not pocket) BEFORE entering the classroom. We will not be using cell phones

for any assignments or for tuning. Your undivided attention is needed to help you and the rest of the group master the music and achieve greatness. The rule is really very simple; if I see a cell phone, I will take it. It will be sent to the office where the student can pick it up at the end of the day.

Practice

Practicing at home is a requirement for this class! This year we will have weekly practice assignments which need to be turned in every Monday. These assignments will not take a lot of time, but will be important to build the muscle memory and skill needed to play an instrument. Please encourage and support your child in this. All students will need a Canvas account. The Canvas platform can be accessed through chromebooks, smartphones or computers with mics and webcams. Students will need to be able to log on at home, as some assignments will be submitted through Canvas. Students may also come in before or after school to practice or submit assignments.

Concert Dates and Dress

Mark your Calendars! These are required concerts and every student is essential for our success. Concerts are 30% of overall grade each term.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
OCT 26, 2023	FALL CONCERT	6:00 pm	DFMS Cafetorium
DEC 6, 2023	COMBINED CONCERT W/JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL (ORCHESTRA 2 GROUPS ONLY)	6:00	SFHS Auditorium
DEC 19-20, 2023	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS (ORCH 2 ONLY)	During the day	Local Elementary Schools
FEB 13, 15 2024	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOUR (ORCH 1 GROUPS ONLY)	During the day	Local Elementary Schools
MARCH 21, 2024	SPRING CONCERT	6:00 pm	DFMS Cafetorium
MAY 14, 2024	FINAL CONCERT	6:00 pm	DFMS Cafetorium

Students will wear a white shirt, tie (for boys- any color), black pants/skirt and black shoes to the concerts unless otherwise instructed.

All students are expected to stay through the entire concert. Each group works very hard to

prepare these performances, and it is motivating for students to hear other groups.

Grading Policy and Criteria

There are four areas that students will be graded on in orchestra which are given a weight factor that is used to calculate the student's grade:

Concert Attendance

30% of final grade

Orchestra is a performance class. Members of the orchestra are required to perform at ALL scheduled performances. Failure to participate in a concert is an automatic 0 (zero) for the concert. Only students with legitimate excuses for not participating in the concert may make up the points. To make up a missed concert, students will do an alternate assignment as determined by the director.

***Please note that concert attendance is worth 30% of a student's final grade. If you are aware of an unavoidable conflict with an upcoming concert, please request an excuse from the performance at least 2 weeks in advance by phone or email.

Practice Logs & Assignments

30% of final grade

Students are required to practice each week throughout the term. Students are expected to keep track of their practice logs and turn them in on the due date. Assignments build on each other, and a student can not miss very many before getting behind. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENT TURNS IN PRACTICE LOGS ON TIME!** A student may turn in an assignment for up to a week after the due date for partial points, and then I will no longer accept the assignment.

Written Assignments & Playing Tests

20% of final grade

Students will complete other assignments to assess understanding of concepts taught in the classroom. These include bellwork assignments, playing tests, concert reviews, and other assignments done in class.

Class Participation

20% of final grade

Students earn points each day for coming to class prepared (instrument, music and pencil), following class rules and procedures, focusing in class, and doing their best work. Students lose points for disrupting class, coming unprepared, or not following rules/expectations.

Attendance and Tardy Policy

Playing in an orchestra is a team effort, and as such, attendance, preparedness, and participation in rehearsal is vital for our success as a group. To maximize the effectiveness of our rehearsal time, I expect everyone to be in the classroom when the bell rings, either working on bellwork or playing the bellwork song. Not being prepared when class starts may count as a tardy.

I also expect students to attend rehearsal. Missing too many rehearsals because of study hall or other absences affects the student's ability to perform which also affects the orchestra as a whole. Please be aware of the importance of rehearsal and ensure your student does all they can to be there! Orchestra is a team effort, and we need everyone on the team!

Parents

Parents are an important part of the Diamond Fork Middle School Orchestra, and I appreciate all you do to support our orchestra program. You can be supportive of the orchestra program and your child's participation by:

1. Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 2. Notifying the director if your child is to be absent or late for a performance.
 3. Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 4. Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by attending performances.
 5. Discussing with the director anything that will help her better understand and serve your child.
 6. Arranging for private lessons when possible.
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