



# SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.shaker.org](http://www.shaker.org)

## OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION FOR ORCHESTRA PARENTS

Welcome to the 2013-2014 season of the Shaker Orchestras. We are looking forward to a very exciting year that will include more great music, impressive performances, and continued musical growth.

This evening, you should receive a copy of the Shaker Orchestras Grading Policy, complete with the dates of all known High School Orchestra performances. Please make sure to mark your calendars for all Shaker Orchestra events that involve your student. Reminders and updates will be sent by email prior to all major events. Every student is expected to participate in every performance that involves their class. An unexcused concert absence will significantly lower your student's grade in orchestra. Excused absences are only granted in extreme situations. District policy states that if a student has a concert that conflicts with a sporting event or other extra-curricular activity, the student is to attend the concert since the concert is for academic credit. If you find a potential conflict with any of the concerts, it is very important that you communicate this to me well ahead of time so that we can work together to find a solution.

Email is the best way to reach me ([jelen\\_d@shaker.org](mailto:jelen_d@shaker.org)), but you can also leave a phone message at the High School, x7768. I check my phone messages about once a day in the afternoon.

Parents – please check out our brand new Moodle page! There you will find all of the information in this packet, and much more! The guest password is “orchestra.”

Here's to another great year!

-Donna Jelen

### Concert Dress Code

Gentlemen: Black Dress Pants  
Black Dress Shirt  
Black Socks  
Black Dress Shoes

Ladies: Black Dress Pants or Skirt with a Black Dress Shirt  
OR  
Black Dress  
Black Dress Shoes

\*All hemlines must cover the knees when seated.

\*If stockings are worn, they must be natural or black in color.

## Private Teachers on the East Side

The following is a list of recommended private instructors.  
This is not a complete listing of teachers, so if you know of a qualified instructor who might like to be on this list, please let me know!

### Violin

Laura Shuster	216-321-3055
Susan Britton	216-321-0309
Leah Burtnett	216-321-1661
Liza Grossman	216-407-4923
Calista Koh	216-577-8316
Cara Tweed	216-408-9792

### Cello

Ida Mercer	216-921-3480
Kent Collier	216-932-6697
Nick Diodore	216-952-5558
Robert Nicholson	443-414-9028
Julie Myers King	216-932-7942
Derek Snyder	216-288-6909

### Viola

Laura Shuster	216-321-3055
Liza Grossman	216-407-4923
James Rhodes	801-822-1448
Jennifer Welsch	305-720-6553

### Bass

Megan Constantine	216-533-0457
Tracy Rowell	216-321-9680
Joel Negus	847-275-7572
Glenn Holmes	216-522-2146

## Music Schools

The following east side music schools offer private lessons.  
Many of the teachers listed above are affiliated with one or more of these schools.

The Cleveland Institute of Music	216-791-5000	<a href="http://www.cim.edu/preparatory/instruction.php">http://www.cim.edu/preparatory/instruction.php</a>
The Cleveland Music School Settlement	216-421-5806	<a href="http://thecmss.org">http://thecmss.org</a>
Fairmount Fine Arts Center	440-338-3171	<a href="http://www.fairmountcenter.org">www.fairmountcenter.org</a>
The Fairmount School of Music	216-321-5868	<a href="http://www.fairmountmusic.com">www.fairmountmusic.com</a>

## Instrument Repair Shops

These are local establishments where you can get your instrument or bow repaired.  
These are also good places to buy or rent an instrument.

Cleveland Violins	216-932-9310	<a href="http://www.clevelandviolins.com">www.clevelandviolins.com</a>
Terry Carlin	216-791-2440	<a href="http://www.carlinviolins.com">www.carlinviolins.com</a>
Peter Zarat	440-461-1411	<a href="http://www.zaretandsonsviolins.com">www.zaretandsonsviolins.com</a>
Motter's Music	440-442-7470	<a href="http://www.mottersmusic.com">www.mottersmusic.com</a>
Academy Music	216-381-8460	
Studio Strings	330-336-1644	<a href="http://www.studiostringsonline.com">www.studiostringsonline.com</a>

## String Web Sites

As a professional musician, I often order my supplies from these websites.  
Shipping fees are low, service is speedy and the selection is wider than what you will find locally.

Shar	<a href="http://www.sharmusic.com">www.sharmusic.com</a>
Southwest Strings	<a href="http://www.swstrings.com">www.swstrings.com</a>

## Things Every Orchestra Parent Should Know:

- **All students need a home instrument that is properly sized and in good working condition.** Please refer to the back of this sheet for a list of music stores in the area that rent or sell string instruments.
- **Students should practice their orchestra music at home.** Aim for about 30 minutes a day, at least 5 days a week. Once your student has mastered their part, they should still practice to maintain their skills. If a student goes for more than a couple of days without practicing, their skills begin to rapidly deteriorate. Good technique is built on repetition and consistency, not “cram sessions.” Consider setting aside a specific point in the day or evening for instrument practice.
- **String instruments go out of tune easily and often.** An out-of-tune instrument is a HUGE detriment to quality practicing. Tuning a string instrument is a complex skill, so make sure that you have an electronic tuner. All SHHS orchestra students should be able to do minor adjustments, but major adjustments may need professional attention. Violin and viola students should be bringing their home instrument to school each day, where it will receive daily tuning with teacher supervision. Cellos and basses may bring their home instrument to school if they wish to have to teacher tune it. Do not, however, plan on leaving your home instrument at school for more than a couple of days – you will need it to practice at home!
- **Students progress faster when their work is frequently evaluated.** Ask your student to play their orchestra music for you every now and then! This will give the student an opportunity to show their skills and to get a “reality check” on how prepared they are for the upcoming concert. It also gives you a way to connect with your student’s musical growth.
- **There is no substitute for private lessons.** Students can learn a great deal from school orchestra, but they will become far more advanced under the guidance of a private instructor. A list of local private teachers was included in tonight’s packet. Feel free to email or call me for additional recommendations.

### Required String Instrument Accessories:

- Music Stand
- Shoulder rest (violins and violas only)
- Rock stop or endpin strap (cellos and basses only)
- Extra set of strings
- Rosin
- Metronome
- Tuner (You can save money by purchasing a combination metronome/tuner)
- Mute (Often not needed until High School)
- Soft cotton cloth for wiping excess rosin off instrument

### Optional Accessories:

Heavy Practice Mute - Metal

A great accessory, especially for students who live in apartment buildings or shared living quarters. This metal tool cuts the volume of the instrument by more than 50%.

Instrument polish and cleaner

In a pinch, you can use regular household wood cleaner.

Humidifier

Fine instruments are susceptible to cracks when the weather gets dry. There are many different humidifiers out there – ask me if you are not sure which one to get.