



Welcome to the Shaker Orchestras!



High School Grading Policy

The student's grade is determined with the following percentages:

Concert Performances: 30% Playing Tests and Other Assignments: 30% Daily Preparation, Participation, and Performance: 40%
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In the event that there is a grading period without a concert or a playing test, the remaining category (or categories) will comprise 100% of the grade.

Attendance at Shaker Orchestra concerts is required. Points may be deducted at the director's discretion for tardiness, disruption, non-adherence to the dress code, etc. Students must dress in dressy All Black attire for performances, including black dress shoes and black socks or hosiery. Skirts must cover the knees when the performer is seated.

There may be extra performances scheduled during the school year that are not yet on the calendar. If any such performances arise, they will be communicated at least two weeks in advance.

2013-14 Shaker Orchestra Performances:

Fall Concert	Wednesday	October 16 th , 2013	7:30pm concert, Call time TBA	HS Large Auditorium
Winter Concert	Thursday	December 12 th , 2013	7:30pm concert, Call time TBA	HS Large Auditorium
OMEA Convention (Chamber Orchestra Only)	Friday	February 7 th , 2014	9:30 warm-up, departure time TBA	Hyatt Regency, Columbus, OH
OMEA Large- Group Contest (String Orchestra Only)	Friday	February 21 st , 2014	Time TBA	Location TBA
Spring Concert	Monday	May 5 th , 2014	7:30pm concert, Call time TBA	HS Large Auditorium
Commencement	Thursday	June 12 th , 2014	Call time TBA	Playhouse Square

Shaker Orchestras Grading and Assessment Policies

The Shaker Orchestras promote a broad and inclusive definition of student achievement.

While in other classes, student behavior may be considered separate from student achievement, success in any musical ensemble necessitates mastery of appropriate social behavior in rehearsal and performance contexts. These social skills are considered to be as important as technical aspects of performance when it comes to assessing each student's overall musical achievement. This is why Shaker Orchestra students are assessed not only on their technical skills, but also on the quality of their daily participation in rehearsals.

On a daily basis, all Shaker Orchestra students will:

- **Display consistent and proper posture for their instrument.**
 - Improper posture is evidence of poor technique and/or insufficient effort.
 - Improper posture results in poor tone, intonation, phrasing, and fluidity.
 - Improper posture makes advanced techniques impossible, thereby sabotaging the student's achievement.
 - Improper posture affects the other students in the ensemble by lowering the bar of achievement in the class. A student's posture is visible to everyone, and the perceived lack of effort from any orchestra member has a negative affect on the effort and morale of their peers.
- **Remain focused and engaged, even when the director is working with other students.**
 - In orchestra, as in other classes, the instructor sometimes has to work with small groups or individuals while other students wait their turn. However, since orchestra is a group endeavor, all instruction is relevant to all students. Students are constantly receiving instruction, either directly or indirectly, and should take advantage of it.
 - Students are not allowed to engage in work from other classes or in leisure activities at any time during a rehearsal.
 - Students who disengage from the rehearsal are typically not ready to begin again when the director is ready for them. Disengaged students have a negative effect on the flow of the rehearsal and on the group morale.
 - Students will refrain from distracting their peers from the task at hand.
- **Achieve at the highest personal level possible.**
 - Music is a subjective pursuit. Each student will progress at a different pace and in a different way, but any honest effort to improve will eventually result in achievement. Each student is expected to constantly and vigilantly address their weaknesses while enjoying the benefits of what they already do well.
 - Every musician always has areas in which he or she can improve, regardless of how they compare to their peers. The Shaker Orchestra program accommodates students of all skill levels and expects them all to show improvement.
 - A student who struggles but maintains an honest and full effort may be assessed more favorably than a student who has advanced skills but does not work to their full potential.
- **Support and respect one another in music-making.**
 - The morale of the orchestra is of paramount importance. The orchestra experience is defined by interpersonal relations as much as it is by notes and rhythms. In a successful orchestra rehearsal, students feel empowered to take risks and stretch their limits. This requires a supportive and diplomatic environment.
 - All students are expected to display a positive attitude during rehearsals. Negativity and pessimism are detrimental to the morale and success of an orchestra.
 - Comments and critiques will be offered in a constructive and helpful way.
 - Individuals will treat each other and the rehearsal with respect at all times.
 - A lack of effort or self-control is considered disrespectful behavior.
 - Unexcused absences negatively affect the rest of the group and are another example of disrespectful behavior.