

2024-20245

Orchestra Handbook



Roswell High School

Dr. Annalisa Chang, Director

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

My name is Annalisa Chang and I will be serving as the Orchestra Director at Roswell High School for the upcoming school year! I am very excited to be here, and I think we are going to have a wonderful year!

My reason for giving you this handbook is to make sure that each parent/guardian/student is aware of all that is going on within the strings program at your school throughout this year. This also serves as the syllabus for the class! Please take the time to thoroughly read through this handbook, as it has information concerning classroom procedures, grading policies, the concert schedule, concert dress code, and other important information.

Please retain this handbook should you have any questions or concerns about our upcoming year. **Always feel free to contact me as needed.** I will also do my best to be in clear contact with you as students and parents about student progress and any concerns that may arise.

Parents and guardians, the success your child enjoys in orchestra is largely due to your support. Encourage your child to practice at home and see to it that they are prepared and punctual for rehearsals and performances. Support your child's music study by enthusiastically attending as many performances as possible and frequently ask them questions about what they are learning. **You are their most important audience.** You are who they look for in a crowd. Your attendance means more to them than you might expect.

I hope all of you had a restful and enjoyable summer and are ready to make music! I wish a very special welcome to all the students who are new to our school and I also very much look forward to getting to know each of the returning students.

All dates and information will be stored in multiple places- Canvas, our website, and our social media! Please check in often!

Let's make it a great year! ☺

Dr. Annalisa Chang
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<https://www.roswellorchestra.org/>

Facebook: @roswellhighorch

Instagram: @orchestra_rhs

X (Twitter): @orchestrarhs

470-254-4500 (RHS Orchestra)

Orchestra Description

The objective of the orchestra program at this school is to develop the musical ability and success of each student and achieve a high level of musicianship as an ensemble. There will be an emphasis on each student's personal responsibility to work toward the fulfillment of both personal and group goals. The orchestra class will develop solid orchestral techniques for each student and expose students to a broad range of music.

Also, in order to provide students with a well-rounded music education, the orchestra class will spend time on various topics, including music theory, music history, and cross-curricular connections.

Materials Needed FOR EVERY Class

- *Properly sized instrument (including case & bow!)
- * Rosin, cleaning cloth (an old T-Shirt is perfect for this!)
- *Shoulder rest (vln/vla)
- *Rock stop (cello/bass)
- *Music folder with class music/worksheets
- *PENCIL—NOT PEN!
- *Folding Music Stand (do not bring to school, these are needed for home use!)
- *Violinists and Violists: if you would like to keep your instrument at school in 241, you need to bring a combination lock (NO KEYS!)

RHS Instrument Rentals

RHS has a *limited number* of school-owned instruments. Students using a school-owned cello/bass instrument or use a violin/viola shall complete a Fulton County loan contract, have parental consent, and pay a nonrefundable usage fee of \$50.00 per school year, plus \$50.00 over the Summer (this is about what it costs to rent an instrument *PER MONTH* from a music store).

Repairs and maintenance will be your responsibility with school instruments. Instruments will be checked in and inspected at the end of the school year. Any extensive damage to a school-owned instrument will be billed to the student. Lost instruments must be replaced by the student who checked the instrument out. Payments for school rentals are through OSP.

How to be SUCCESSFUL in Orchestra

1. **Be on time.** Be in your seat, ready to warm-up at the start of class.
2. **Be prepared.** Have your instrument, music, and a pencil with you for every class.
3. **Be attentive.** Give Dr. Chang and your peers your full attention at all times.
4. **Be respectful.** Respect yourself and others. (This includes not playing/talking when Dr. Chang is talking)
5. **Vandalism is a criminal act, punishable by law.** Report vandalism immediately, no matter how small. Please be respectful of the equipment and our space.
6. **NEVER leave money or other valuables unattended in the Orchestra Room.** We cannot be responsible for your personal belongings.
7. **Be positive.** Your success in this class, and in life, is up to you. If you believe you can, you will. 😊

Consequences

- 1st Time: Non-Verbal Warning
- 2nd Time: Verbal Warning
- 3rd Time: Conversation with Dr. Chang after class
- 4th Time: Call Home/Other disciplinary action if needed.

***Due to the value of our instruments, the consumption of food, drinks (without a cap), or gum in class will not be allowed. ***

Attendance/Tardies

Attendance will be taken at the start of class. The attendance and tardy policy will be Roswell High School attendance policy. As you know, orchestra is an ensemble. We only work when everyone is present. Please make it a point to be at every rehearsal and concert.

Grade Scale and Points

90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
Below 60 F

Grades will be distributed as follows:

Major: 55%
Minor: 35%
Practice: 10%

Class Participation

Class participation is a large part of playing in an orchestra. When a student misses class, there is no way to fully recreate what was learned during the missed rehearsal. Successful rehearsals as an ensemble depend on having all musicians in rehearsal whenever possible.

Students who forget their instruments/music will be given an alternate assignment during class. This will involve taking notes and still being an active participant during the class period. If this assignment is not completed during class, it will become homework. The summary must be turned in at the start of the following class in order to receive credit. (If forgetting his/her instrument/music at home becomes a habit for a student, Dr. Chang will find an alternate solution with the assistance of a parent/guardian).

Performances/Dress Rehearsals

Orchestra is a co-curricular **academic** class. Performances are considered extensions of the classroom, and each member is expected to be in attendance with their music and instrument, **wearing the proper attire**. This is part of the student's grade. Each concert is worth 200 points. Each dress rehearsal is worth 100 points.

Excused absences from a dress rehearsal/performance will be decided by Dr. Chang on a case-by-case basis. The only possible excused absences involve student illness or a family emergency. Due to the fact that concerts are scheduled with advance notice, please do your best to mark your calendar and schedule family trips/events around the concerts/dress rehearsals! ***Unexcused absences will result in 0 points for the missed dress rehearsal/performance. This will negatively impact your student's grade!***

Concert Attire

Concert Attire is *mandatory*. Students must come dressed in their concert uniforms for concerts. This includes all parts of the uniform!

Black concert dress
Black, **closed toe** shoes
Black hose or knee highs

Black Tux outfit – Jacket, trousers, bow tie, cummerbund, cuff links, studs, white formal shirt
Black socks
Black dress shoes

Please see notice and fitting instructions for ordering uniforms and deadlines with Southeastern Performance Apparel.

Homework/Practice Time

Just like any other class at school, the orchestra has work that must be completed beyond school time. Students will be assigned specific practice assignments in Canvas. While I do not assign practice journals, I will be checking for individual as well as group progress at various times during the week. Written homework may be assigned from time to time, in which case I will also assign a due date. If the student does not have their assignment, they will have **2 days** to get it in for partial credit (-5 pts. per day late).

I recommend that the students practice each night for at least 45 minutes. If the student is planning on auditioning for All-District, All-State, or Fulton County Honor Orchestra, I recommend no less than 1 hour of practice per night.

NOTE TO PARENTS: Please make sure that your child is practicing! The ensemble is only as good as our weakest player! Every member of the ensemble has something valuable to contribute!

Playing/Written Quizzes

From time to time, there will be playing and/or written quizzes placed in the schedule. Students will be notified about the majority of these quizzes at least a week in advance. Dr. Chang reserves the right to have pop quizzes at a time of her choosing.

Grading Quizzes

Grading of playing quizzes (and chair auditions) will use the following criteria:

1. Musical/Technical--Learning the required music with regard to:

Correct Fingerings	Bowings
Rhythm	Interpretation
Pitch	Tone (Quality of Sound)
Articulation	Dynamics

2. Posture/Position--Playing the music with proper technique with regard to:

- A. Proper posture--sitting up straight on the front half of the seat with feet flat on the floor, violins and violas with instrument parallel to the floor, cellos and basses with left elbow parallel to the floor.
- B. Left hand fingers on their tips while maintaining a straight line from knuckle to elbow.

C. Right hand fingers relaxed on the bow with curved thumb and curved pinkie (upper strings)/relaxed pinky (cellos/basses).

Academic Integrity

There is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy in place for academic dishonesty. If your student is caught cheating, this includes plagiarism, they will immediately receive a grade of 0 for the assignment/quiz/test and disciplinary action will be handled by the administration.

Artificial Intelligence

Limited AI Use with Teacher Permission: In this course, the use of generative AI tools is permitted only with explicit teacher approval for specific assignments. AI can serve as an aid to enhance understanding and interaction with course content, within the boundaries of academic integrity. If AI tools are used, all AI-generated content must be accurately cited, and students are responsible for the integrity and correctness of their submissions, including any content derived from AI tools. It is essential to critically evaluate AI outputs to ensure they meet academic standards. Unauthorized use of generative AI, without proper citation, is considered a violation of the Fulton County Schools Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Private Lessons

Private lessons provide students with a level individual instruction that cannot be given during orchestra rehearsals. Any student wishing to take private lessons should contact Dr. Chang for more information.

Outside Opportunities

Students will be given the opportunity to audition for All-State Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Metropolitan Symphony Youth Orchestra, Solo & Ensemble, etc... I encourage you to audition for something outside of school so that you are able to perform with other musicians in the area!

Parental Support

There are a number of ways that parents can support their student's achievement in orchestra. These are suggestions for parents to help your student succeed.

I encourage all parents to join the RHS Orchestra Booster Club! This is not required for participation, but the boosters help us maintain our program! More information about the boosters will be sent home separately.

1. Show your student that you think orchestra is a priority. Your attendance at orchestra concerts and other orchestra events, and your involvement will show your student that you believe their musical achievement is valuable and worthy of support.

2. Stay informed of orchestra events and assignments. Be sure to read periodic notices given to students in class. It is the student's responsibility to be at required events and

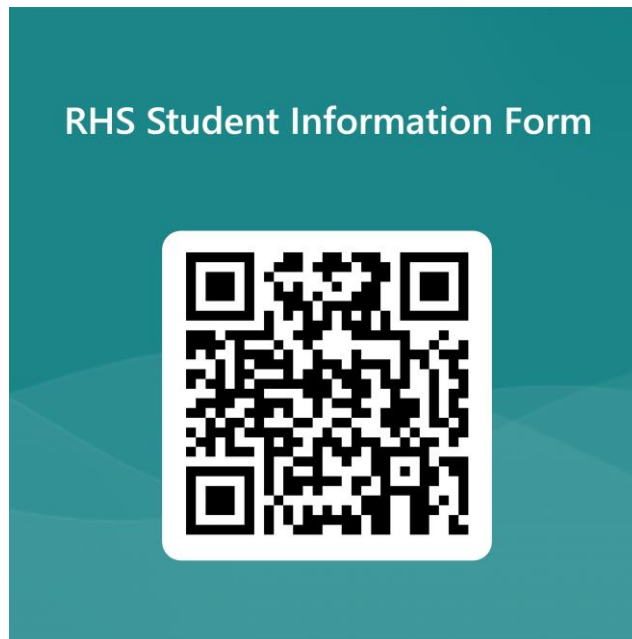
turn in assignments on time, but the parents' awareness of these requirements is a great asset to the student.

3. Encourage your student to practice regularly and participate in musical events.

Be sure that your student practices regularly. Help them find ways to use their time wisely and fit practice into their schedule. Remind them to practice whatever music they are responsible for in class or on their next performance quiz. Keep an eye out for information on performance opportunities outside of the class requirements and encourage your student to participate. Encourage your student to attend musical performances by other groups. Also, consider getting private lessons for your student.

****Please use the QR code to fill out the Student Information Form as well as the Student/Parent Agreement****

<https://forms.office.com/r/mxd1iUi7Ed>



Please fill this out no later than Wednesday, August 7