



**Roswell High School Orchestras
Student and Parent Handbook
2025-2026**

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Orchestra Description

The objective of the orchestra program at Roswell High School is to develop the musical abilities of each student and to 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. Students will develop solid orchestral technique through a broad range of music. To provide students with a well-rounded music education, the orchestra classes will also spend time on various topics-- including music theory, music history, and cross-curricular connections.

We have 4 Orchestras at Roswell: Concert Orchestra (Beginning), Sinfonia (Intermediate), Philharmonic (Advanced), and Chamber (Mastery).

How to Be Successful in Orchestra

1. Be on time. Be in your seat, ready to tune 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
5. Be positive. Your success in this class, and in life, is up to you. If you believe you can, you will.

Materials Needed

1. Properly sized instrument (with all 4 strings and a bow)
2. Rosin and cleaning cloth (an old T-shirt works fine for this!)
3. Shoulder Rests (violin/viola) or rock stop (bass/cello)
4. A folder with your music
5. A pencil (NOT PEN)
6. Your FCS Device (to record your playing tests at home)

Classroom Procedures

1. All backpacks and belongings should be stored in a cubby or your instrument locker.
2. Enter the room, unpack, and begin tuning as soon as possible.
3. Attendance will be taken after the bell, students not in their seats with their instruments will be marked tardy. The RHS tardy and attendance policy will be followed and enforced.
4. No food or drinks in the orchestra classroom while instruments are out. Water in a bottle with a lid is OK and may be kept at your seat.
5. Students are expected to follow and adhere to all RHS and FCS policies while in the orchestra classroom and while we are performing off campus. Any students found not following RHS or FCS policies will be subject to disciplinary action.

Concert Rehearsal and Attendance Policies

Orchestra performances are CO-CURRICULAR not extracurricular. Therefore, attendance at all concerts and dress rehearsals is expected and required. Concert dates were sent home at the end of last year and can be found on Canvas, our RHS

Orchestra Website, and the RHS Orchestra Instagram page. I understand that life circumstances will arise, absences will be excused at the discretion of the Director (illness, emergency, etc.). Students who miss dress rehearsals or concerts will be expected to complete an alternative assignment (Concerts and Dress Rehearsals are Major Grades). Students are expected to make arrangements with employers, coaches, clubs, etc. ahead of time—again, this is for a CLASS and performance is a graded assignment.

Students will have at minimum: 1 fall concert, 1 winter concert, LGPE, 1 spring concert
Additional performances will occur for Chamber Orchestra students. These performances are NOT optional.

Uniforms

Students have 2 options for uniforms—these are **REQUIRED**. If you need to purchase a gently used dress or tux, please let Dr. Chang know! We use the same gown as band and chorus, so you may also be able to obtain a uniform from a friend or family member!

1. **Black gown** (Gavotta Dress- Southeastern Performance Apparel). We will place a group order in August. If you miss the deadline, you will be expected to purchase the gown on your own (the cost goes up as does the cost of shipping).
2. **Black tuxedo**. The tuxedo can be purchased through Southeastern Performance Apparel (full tuxedo ensemble: white tux shirt with wing collar, black bowtie and black cummerbund), or you may purchase a tuxedo on your own.
3. **Black dress shoes**—no sneakers. Black socks. If you are wondering if your shoes are acceptable, bring in a picture to show Dr. Chang before the concert!

Grading Policy

A 90 and Above	P/F Pass or Fail
B 80-89	NG No grade
C 70-79	I Incomplete
F 69 and Below	CR Credit
W/(1-100) Withdrawn	NC Non-Credit

Each 9 weeks students will have at minimum: 2 Majors (55%), 3 minors (35%), 3 practice (10%)

Examples of Majors: Concerts, Dress Rehearsals, Large section playing tests

Examples of Minors: Scale tests, in class playing tests, short excerpt playing tests

Examples of Practices: in-class check-ups, in-class rehearsals, in-class posture checks

Grading of playing tests will follow the rubrics on canvas. Students will be able to re-submit any playing test for a higher grade up until the concert dress rehearsal.

Instrument Expectations and Guidelines

1. As a member of the orchestra, each student is expected to have their own instrument. We have a limited number of instruments available for rental through the school for \$50 for the school year.
2. Every member should have all 4 strings on their instrument and a bow with good hair. All students (even students renting school instruments) are responsible for making sure their instrument is in good playing condition.
3. Cello and Bass students do not need to bring their personal instruments to class everyday but are encouraged to bring their home instruments to concerts.
4. All students should have a tag on their case with their name on it. Many of the cases look the same and it is easy to get things confused.
5. No instrument should be in a locker out of the case.
6. **Students who do not follow rental agreement rules will lose the privilege to rent an instrument from RHS. Any repairs due to intentional damage to ANY RHS instrument will be the financial responsibility of the student.**
7. Students are NOT to play instruments not assigned to them.
8. Payments for rentals are made through OSP.

Outside Playing Opportunities

Students who would like to progress at a more rapid rate are encouraged to secure a private instructor on their instrument. A list of available private instructors is available from Dr. Chang. Private lessons also increase the chances of success for events such as Solo and Ensemble Performance Evaluation, All-State Honor events, section leader positions, college scholarships, etc.

Students are also encouraged to participate in outside orchestra opportunities: Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Roswell Music Jam, Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, etc.

Student Leadership

Our program relies on student leaders to help facilitate concerts, ensemble events, etc. Students may apply to be an officer in training in the winter of their freshman year.

Letters

Students will earn merit points for participation in various events. Students may earn a letter for participation in Orchestra events. 30 merits earn a letter (or bar if letter already earned), 40 merits earn a star in addition to the letter or bar. Merit Points can be tracked in Canvas.

FCS policy around cell phone/personal devices (18f.II Prohibited Use of Personal Communication Devices (PCD) during school day)

For students in grades 9 – 12, use of personal communication devices (cell phones, personal laptops, Apple watches) is prohibited during instructional time. Instructional time is defined as the beginning bell of a period to ending bell. Failure to put away a PCD when classroom instruction begins can result in the device being confiscated for the remainder of the day and/or other disciplinary actions.

FCS devices

All students at RHS will be issued a FCS device for use during the school day. Students will be able to use their FCS issued device when deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher. All unit assessments along with state and national assessments must be taken on the FCS issued device. Failure to have the FCS device will result in an inability to participate in class activities and can delay a student in completing assignments and assessments.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Majors

If a student plagiarizes on a major assessment, that student may recover the grade received under the normal recovery policy, with the highest grade earned being capped at “75.” The cheating/plagiarism incident is an Honor Code infraction, and repeat offenders can be subject to disciplinary action.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Minors

If a student plagiarizes on a minor or practice assessment, the student will earn a zero. Minor and practice assessments are not recoverable.

Recovery

Students will have one (1) opportunity to redo/retake each major assessment. Eligibility for a redo/retake is for students who receive a 75 or below on a specific major assessment. Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a redo/retake no higher than 75. Student redo/retakes must be completed before the next major assessment is given or five (5) school days before the end of a marking period if there is not another major assessment given (exceptions can be made for students who have excused absences during this five-day window). Cumulative Final Exams are NOT eligible for recovery.

RHS Late Work Policy

When turning in late minor and/or practice assignments, students will incur a 25% penalty. This 25% late penalty will apply to any late work ranging from one day after the specified due date until the date of the corresponding unit test or assessment. After the corresponding unit test or assessment date, no late work for that unit will be accepted. Zeros will be entered into the gradebook if a student fails to turn in a late/missing assignment or assessment.

Responsible AI Use

Students are encouraged to use AI tools responsibly in this course with teacher permission to assist with their learning and assignments. AI can serve as an aid to enhance understanding and interaction with course content, within the boundaries of academic integrity. All AI-generated content must be accurately cited, and students are responsible for the 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. 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.

Final Exams and Exemptions

Cumulative final exams will be given in all academic courses and counted in the major category. They will not count as one of the minimum required major assessments and are not recoverable. At RHS, a student may exempt up to 2 final exams each semester if he/she meets the following criteria: has a 75% or better in the course, has attended 90% of days in that course, and has had no more than 3 days of ISS, and no days of OSS.

Elective courses will administer “gradable experiences” which can count in the major or minor category as deemed appropriate by the instructor. The gradable experience will not count as one of the minimum required minor assessments.