



Doctors Charter School of Miami Shores

11301 NW 5th Avenue • Miami Shores, FL 33168 Phone (305)754-2381 • Fax (305)751-5833

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Doctors Charter School of Miami Shores Orchestra program! This handbook has been written to familiarize you with the many aspects of the music program and to ensure an enjoyable and educationally rewarding musical experience. I realize you are overwhelmed with reading material at the beginning of the year, but PLEASE take the time to read this handbook. After you have read the syllabus, sign the last page, detach it, and have your child follow the directions in canvas for submitting as an assignment for a grade. Students will be held accountable for the information contained in this handbook, so please keep it for future reference. It is also located in canvas.

Orchestra is an ELECTIVE and SELECTIVE course. You're enrolling in a band or orchestra course suggests your willingness to stick with the information and guidelines set forth in this handbook. Music involves learning math concepts and applying them in the reading of rhythm, learning a new system of notation, developing fine motor skills, developing the ability to hear in a discriminating manner, and becoming sensitive: to the sound we make, to the sounds others make, and to the demands of the music. It requires cooperation with a large team of musicians working together toward a common goal: the manifestation of the printed music into sound. It requires extra practice at home, extra rehearsals and performances.

The orchestra program at Doctors Charter School is comprised of very special students. They are willing to give of their time to an organization that brings pride and recognition to our school and community. The music program strives to develop skills and provide learning experiences for the students that will be useful in any life endeavor. Students will also acquire a very enjoyable leisure activity performing in amateur or semi-professional groups. Future membership in college or community ensembles can also be very rewarding.

I hope your membership in the Doctors Charter School Orchestra Program will be both rewarding and productive. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Salvatore Vinciguerra

Director of Music, Fine Arts Department Chair

Vinciguerras@DoctorsCharterSchool.org

www.VinciMusic.com

Office Hours - Tuesday & Thursday - 2:45-3:45p.m.

Standards for Music Education: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5423/urlt/0809-music.pdf>

Course Description: The orchestra program at Doctors Charter School is designed to foster playing either the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Lessons are developed sequentially with music theory, appreciation, and history. Students will develop how they listen through ear training, singing, and other musical techniques that develop their instrumental music education.

Orchestra Rules & Regulations

Music is fun and exciting to learn, but it requires hard work, dedication and discipline. The Orchestra classes are a very important part of the curriculum at Doctors Charter School. As a member of these classes you have a responsibility to do your job well and to represent our school well at functions. In order to fully benefit from this class, your responsibilities are to be prepared and to be an active participant.

Please make sure you understand the rules for classroom behavior. Let's work together to make this a great year for all of us!

1. **COME TO CLASS ON TIME.** On time means that you are in your seat and ready to begin rehearsal three minutes after the tardy bell rings. Once class begins, students should not talk or leave their seats without permission.
2. **COME TO CLASS PREPARED.** This means that you should have your instrument, music, pencil and accessories every day. Your grade will be lowered each day for consistent unpreparedness.
3. **BE ATTENTIVE.** This means for you to listen to all instructions, even when they are being directed to another section. If you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be called upon.
4. **ABSOLUTELY NO EATING, DRINKING, GUM CHEWING, GROOMING, OR WEARING OF HATS WILL BE PERMITTED DURING CLASS.**
5. **DO NOT** handle or use any instrument that does not belong to you.
6. At the prescribed signal or when the conductor gets on the podium, all warmups and playing will stop immediately. This is a sign of respect.
7. **DO NOT** play out of turn.
8. **ABSOLUTELY NO STUDYING FOR ANOTHER SUBJECT DURING CLASS.**
9. At the closure of class, the rehearsal room should be kept clean and orderly. Store your instrument in the assigned place provided for it. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT ABOUT THE SCHOOL BUILDING. ALL PERSONALLY OWNED INSTRUMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN HOME EVERY DAY.**
10. **THE BELL DOES NOT DISMISS YOU!** Your teacher dismisses you, so stay in your seat until you are dismissed.

Consequences

Include the following: Verbal warnings, classroom consequences (detention etc.) parent notification by email or phone call, office referral, and transfer out of the music program. Dr. Vinciguerra will remove students from the classroom if they disrupt the musical learning environment. If students would like to speak with Dr. Vinciguerra regarding disciplinary referrals they must speak to him before or after school.

Grading Policy

Members of the Doctor's Charter School Band/Orchestra will be assigned grades as per the Doctor's Charter School grading policy. Students will receive at least **two** grades per week. The first grade will be based on an assessment of general assignments. It could be derived from either written material or performance of musical material. The second grade will be based on the student's **participation** in class, and performances in and out of school. (This is a weekly grade that consists of your class participation and performance throughout the entire week.)

I am aware of students who have less experience than other class members. It is an easy task to recognize a student who has prepared himself/herself from those who have not. Students with less experience do have the opportunity to make high grades if proper evidence of practice and preparation is evident. This assessment is designed to encourage students to set musical goals and reach them.

At the beginning of each quarter students will be given a syllabus for the class. It will contain the grading outline and important dates for the quarter. The grade outline below refers only to the first quarter. Please refer to your student handbook on school rules and other procedures.

Academic Grade

Participation – 35%

Performance – 25%

Written/Playing tests and quizzes – 20%

Practice Chart – 20%

Total points – 100%

Grading Scale

90- 100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

0-59 F

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION** – Students should have their instrument every day. If the instrument is being repaired a receipt of repair should be presented to the teacher. **PERSONAL BAND/ ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS SHOULD BE TAKEN HOME EVERY DAY. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT IN THE EQUIPMENT ROOM. TAKE YOUR INSTRUMENT HOME AND PRACTICE!**
2. **PERFORMANCE** - Performance grades may include performance of required major minor and chromatic scales, performance of music, required concerts, solos and ensemble festival and/or assigned musical exercises.
3. **TESTS AND QUIZZES** Tests and quizzes will be designated. Questions dealing with terminology, musical symbols, and rhythms will be given. Students will have adequate time to prepare. Materials for playing tests are given in advance. Students will be required to perform their playing test individually during the class. On occasion these tests are used for chair placement. Chair placement in each section is at the director's discretion.
4. **FOLDERS** Each student will create a folder containing selected personal works. Included in the folder may be the following: written essays, self/peer evaluations, orchestra handbook, quizzes, tests, handouts and other learning materials.
5. **PRACTICE LOGS** Students are expected to practice a minimum of 120 minutes each week. The log must be signed by a parent or guardian and will be checked periodically by the teacher.

PRACTICE LOG SCALE

120 min. & UP A

90 – 119 B

60 – 89 C

30 – 59 D

0 – 29 F

PLEASE NOTE Concerts are **mandatory** events for all students. If you miss a performance that is unexcused or by giving improper notification prior to the performance will result in receiving a 0 for 25% of the quarter grade. Points will be deducted from your participation grade if you are inconsistently prepared or become a discipline problem.

MAKEUP WORK Students will not be allowed to make-up work (participation, class work, Quizzes etc.) if their absence or tardy was determined by the school as unsatisfactory. All assignments must be made-up within seven school days. If work is not made-up within this time frame the student will receive a 0 for that grade.

Orchestra Awards

At the end of the year, awards will be given out to students. Either an awards ceremony or music banquet will take place. During the event students will receive certificates, pins, trophies, plaques and medals, which will be presented to those who have worked for their achievements in music.

Uniforms

Band/Orchestra uniforms must be worn only for formal performances. All uniforms should be washed and pressed for an acceptable appearance. Shoes should be polished before each performance.

Formal Uniform

Girls

Solid, **White** dress blouse.

Solid **Black** dress skirts or black dress pants.

* Blouses must have sleeves on them.

** All Dresses and Skirts should come down past your knee.

Black socks and/or skin colored stockings

Dress shoes - no sneakers or sandals

Guys

Solid white long sleeve shirt

Solid black dress pants

Black socks

Black dress shoes - no sneakers

Casual Uniform

Girls and Guys

School Uniform Shirt– preferably everyone wearing the same color shirt.

Casual shoes sneakers

After/Before School Rehearsals

It is necessary that all students attend rehearsals at the prescribed dates and times. These extra rehearsals are needed to prepare and improve the quality of our performances. There will be various performances this year at festivals and competitions in the state of Florida. There might also be a possibility of a performance out of state so your cooperation in regards to practice and performance are extremely necessary.

Eligibility for Out-Of-Town Trips

To be eligible to perform in festivals, out of town trips, and other performances a student must demonstrate the ability to perform his/her part. Each student must maintain at least a “C” average and a “B” average in conduct to be able to participate in extracurricular activities. Financial obligations to the school and the music program must be met for a student to participate in off campus, extracurricular activities. (Please see your student handbook for further information.)

Band/Orchestra Instruments

Dr. Vinciguerra will determine the suitability of musical instruments for each student. This is to ensure that the ensemble is properly balanced for performance as an ensemble. Band students should note that Dr. Vinciguerra will hand select 2-3 students in beginning band for percussion (drums) and electric string bass.

*****Students must try to acquire a musical instrument and supplies for the instrument on their own. Please ask questions before purchasing or renting an instrument from a music store or online retailer.**

What Do I Need For Orchestra?

Welcome to the Doctors Charter School Orchestra Program! The following is a list of items you will need to purchase for orchestra class. A list of local music dealers and websites is provided on the bottom of this handout.

1. An orchestra instrument Please purchase or rent your instrument at a local music dealer.
2. "Essential Elements for Strings" Beginning Orchestra – Book 1

Advanced Orchestra – Book 2 (BLUE) *and* "All For Strings Book 3"

3. Rosin – Dark
4. A folder – Three ring binder with page protectors
5. Pencil
6. Music stand – for use at home only.
7. Extra Set of Strings

Please see the list below for each specific instrument.

Violins/Violas – Shoulder rests

Cello/Basses – Rock Stops

Extras Supplies - Performance/Practice mutes, metronome, chromatic tuner, pitch pipe, manuscript paper

***The following are music stores where you can purchase items:

1. Sam Ash Music – Miami – (786)331-9668, Hialeah – (305)628-3510
www.samash.com
2. Space Music – North Miami – (305)981-8945
3. Allegro Music Center – Coral Gables – (305)740-9400
4. Woodwind and Brasswind – (800)3485003
www.wbw.com
5. Southwest Strings – www.swstrings.com
6. Miami Strings - 786-322-6891

Music Assessment

Students will be assessed the following:

1. All students who are enrolled in a music class will be assessed \$4.00 as a donation to help pay for the cost of music and other materials needed for the class.

Instrument Assessment- \$6.00 as a donation.

1. Doctors Charter School has a limited amount of musical instruments to rent to students. Students who are on free and reduced lunch will have first priority over these instruments. Instrument rental is on a first come first serve basis or by assignment by the music director.

*****Please make sure that assessments are paid before the required due date. Students can pay these assessments by either cash, check or money order. If you write a check out, please write it out to Doctors Charter School, write your child's name in the memo area and put the check in an envelope.**

Discovery, Citizenship, Scholarship
Doctors Charter School
www.doctorscharterschool.org

