

# Seminole High School Orchestra Handbook 2017-2018

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**Orchestra Website:**

[www.SeminoleHSOrchestra.weebly.com](http://www.SeminoleHSOrchestra.weebly.com)

## **Orchestra Officers**

President - Anastasia Schluderberg

Vice-President - Jay Overlin

Secretary - Christina Joseph

Asst. Secretary - Daisy Wright

Quartermaster - Jonathan Smith

Webmaster/Historian - Chelsey Garrett

## **Welcome to the 2017-2018 Seminole High Orchestra!**

Membership in an orchestra is a unique musical experience. To ensure the success of the orchestra, certain rules, expectations, and areas of responsibility must be set. This handbook outlines these areas and will aid in the students' personal reward and satisfaction in participating in the orchestra program. Located on the last page of the handbook is the Orchestra Contract. Please sign, date, and return the contract to the Mr. Harris. Please read though this handbook carefully and mark all important dates on your calendar.

## **GRADES**

Orchestra is a performance ensemble that relies entirely on the participation of its members for success. Your grade in orchestra will be based on participation in rehearsals and performances, as well as scores on playing tests. Homework in orchestra is practicing your parts so you can play them accurately and confidently in rehearsal, as well as practicing scales and other fundamentals.

### **50% In-Class Rehearsal Participation**

Focused, energetic participation is expected in every rehearsal. We ARE what we habitually DO. Points will be deducted for inappropriate rehearsal technique (tardy, phone out, excessive talking, not having instrument or music, off-task behavior, etc...) or failure to follow class rules.

### **25% Extra-Curricular Rehearsal & Performance Participation**

Attendance at extra-curricular rehearsals and performances is required. Each student will earn a grade for each concert. The opportunity to make up a performance will only be allowed if the absence is for an excused reason (illness, death in the family, other reason approved by the Orchestra Director). If the absence is excused, the student will be given a make-up assignment (usually performing the concert for the orchestra director after school). If the absence is not excused, the student will receive a zero for the performance. Always check the orchestra calendar, white board, and website ([www.seminolehsorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.seminolehsorchestra.weebly.com)) for orchestra dates.

### **25% Playing Tests**

You will have a playing test periodically. A SUPERIOR performance requires preparation from all players. Playing tests will be on the concert music and or techniques. Prior to a performance, the students' chair placement will be at least partly determined by these playing tests. It is the students' responsibility to set up a time to make up any missed playing tests.

## **ENSEMBLE FEE**

There is a \$50 ensemble fee required of each Orchestra member. This will provide needed funds for sheet music supplies, and other expenses. The ensemble fee is due the first week of school. Pay at our ecommerce website: [www.warhawk-shop.myshopify.com](http://www.warhawk-shop.myshopify.com). To be waived from the ensemble fee, students must present a copy of a federal assistance letter (free lunch eligible).

## EQUIPMENT

### Sheet Music

Each student is to provide a 1-inch **black** 3-ring binder with at least 10 clear page protectors to be used in class and for concerts.

- If you are absent when the music is passed out, it is your responsibility to pick it up after class or after school.
- This folder is to go home with you to practice and be brought to school each day.
- All music needs to be at **every rehearsal** at all times. Do not expect your stand partner to bring it.
- Always write bowings, fingerings, accidentals, etc. in your music. This means you will need to get in the habit of removing your sheet music from the page protectors every time that music is rehearsed.
- Please be prepared for folder checks at any time. Some will be announced; others will not.

### Instrument

The school owns a limited number of instruments, mostly cellos and basses, for student rental. The cost of rental is \$60 for the school year. Checks payable to "Seminole High School". If you have a federal letter for food stamps or free lunch, copy the letter and turn it in to Mr. Harris for free instrument rental. Once rented, the school instrument becomes the responsibility of the student for proper care, maintenance, and protection. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense. String instruments are delicate and subject to such influences as temperature, humidity and careless handling.

It is preferable to own your own instrument. It is essential to obtain a QUALITY INSTRUMENT. DO NOT BUY A CHEAP INSTRUMENT. YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR! To be used in the SHS orchestra, an instrument must have a natural wood finish (not painted a particular color). The following online sites and local stores are available to assist you:

The Violin Shop, Tampa	(813) 288-8215	<a href="http://www.violinshoptampa.com">www.violinshoptampa.com</a>
Shar Music (online)		<a href="http://www.sharmusic.com">www.sharmusic.com</a>
Southwest Strings (online)		<a href="http://www.swstrings.com">www.swstrings.com</a>
Seminole Music	(727) 391-3892	<a href="https://www.seminolemusic.com/">https://www.seminolemusic.com/</a>
Bringe Music	(727) 822-3460	<a href="https://www.bringemusic.com/">https://www.bringemusic.com/</a>
Sam Ash Music	(727) 725-8062	<a href="http://www.samashmusic.com">www.samashmusic.com</a>

### Playing condition of your instrument should always be top quality.

- Strings should be changed at least once a year
- bow hair should be changed once a year, depending on usage.

### Instrument Care

- Clean your instrument often. Rosin dust builds up quickly.
- Keep the instrument away from excessive heat or cold. Never leave in a hot car!
- Place a cloth over the top of the violin/viola before closing the case. Old cotton T-shirt material is good for this.
- Always keep the instrument in the case away from "curious hands" when not in use.
- Do not permit others to play your instrument unless they are experienced string players.
- Cellos and basses make sure soft case is on the correct way: Big pockets in the back, zippers around the end pin (NOT OVER!) so the end pin is sticking out.
- Do NOT put cello and bass bows in sound holes!
- Instruments must NEVER be placed on their bridge.
- **DO NOT** attempt to make any repairs on the instrument without consulting your teacher first.
- When changing strings, only change one string at a time.
- Cellos and basses must ALWAYS put their endpins in when they put their instrument away.
- All cello and bass students carry the instrument with the endpin facing the floor. NEVER drag your cello or bass on the ground!
- Violins and violas always store your instrument in its case when it's not in use, with latches and/or zipper secured. Basses and cellos do not need to put on their soft case but should use the soft cases for transportation to concerts.
- Never force the case closed. Always check to see if anything is out of place inside—like a shoulder rest or rosin.
- Write down the instrument's serial number and keep this in a safe place.

## **Bow Care**

- *Tighten* your bow only the width of your pinky finger (violin/viola) or index finger (cello/bass).
- Rosin the bow each time you play. It only takes four strokes. Do not “over-rosin”.
- Basses have their own rosin. Bass players must not use violin/viola/cello rosin. Bass players only rosin in one direction.
- *Loosen* the bow when you are finished playing.
- Never touch the bow hair with your hands. Oil from your skin contributes to poor sound and deterioration of the bow hair.
- The tip of the bow is fragile. Breakage can occur if dropped or otherwise misused.

## **Supplies**

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIES FOR ORCHESTRA. These are available from our local music store or ordered from the websites above. Please have all of these by the second week of school. Label all these with your name.

- A music stand (for practicing at home)
- Shoulder rest for violins and violas. Kun and Everest brands are best.
- Rosin (bass rosin is different from violin, viola, and cello)
- Metronome & Tuner App
- Rock stop for cello and bass
- Sharpened pencil on your music stand every day
- A **black**, 1-inch, 3-ring binder & one package of 5 dividers.
- Cleaning cloth (for wiping strings and fingerboard after each use)
- Extra set of strings. An extra set of pre-selected string should be kept in your case at all times.
- Label your case with name, address and phone number. In addition, attach a colorful key chain, ribbon, or string to your case to make it easy to identify.

## **PERFORMANCE DRESS**

The way we look in performance is very important to the impression we make as a performing ensemble. All students must conform to the orchestra dress/uniform code for concerts. All concert wear must be clean and pressed. Shoes must be clean.

Boys: Black long socks and black dress shoes (you provide)  
Black tux pants (order through the orchestra)  
White tux shirt (order through the orchestra)  
Black bow tie and cummerbund (order through the orchestra)  
Black tux jacket (order through the orchestra)

Girls: Orchestra long black dress (order through the orchestra)  
Black socks or hose (you provide)  
Black close-toed shoes (you provide)  
Pearl necklace (order through the orchestra)

We will be wearing an orchestra T-shirt with blue jeans for “casual” performances. Rays games require khaki long slacks. Students will be required to purchase the orchestra T-shirt. Information will be coming soon.

## **PRACTICE**

Regular practice is necessary to ensure musical growth, development, and enjoyment. Playing an instrument requires coordinated muscle development just like athletics. These muscles need regular exercise to stay in shape. Each person in the orchestra should practice a minimum of 20 minutes per day -- every day. Consistency is the key to success. It is much better to practice a little every day than a lot just one day a week. Individual home practice is an integral part of any musician’s learning process. It is very important to our orchestra that effort is being made by each student for learning individual parts outside of the classroom. Class time and rehearsals are to not to be used as an individual practice session, but as a time for working out ensemble concerns. Students should plan to take their instrument home every night to practice, or make arrangements with Mr. Harris for practicing after school in the orchestra room.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private lessons are strongly recommended for all orchestra members. Those students who take private lessons and practice regularly will excel in their playing and find greater satisfaction in their music. Students who study privately show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the orchestra. This is the truest, quickest, and most

efficient path to success and satisfaction in playing your instrument. Private lessons also increase the chances of success for events such as All-County Orchestra, section leader positions, solo and ensemble performance, college auditions, and scholarships. A list of qualified private instructors is on the orchestra website: <http://seminolehsorchestra.weebly.com/improving-on-my-instrument.html>

## **REHEARSAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **Characteristics of a Great Rehearsal**

1. Be in your seat with instrument and music by 3 minutes after the scheduled starting time of class. If not, you are tardy.
2. All students are expected to have their instrument, a pencil, sheet music every day.
3. All fingernails must be cut short enough to allow for proper playing position.
4. All instrument cases will be placed under your chair or along the back wall during class. They MUST be out of the way of the teacher's walking space.
5. Read all board announcements.
6. No foods, drink, or gum in class, unless approved by Mr. Harris. Water bottles are allowed.
7. Cell phones are ONLY to be used for tuning. Otherwise, they MUST be put away, NOT on the music stand. Cell phones that are out will be collected and sent to "cell phone jail" initially for the period and then, with repeated offenses, until the end of the school day.
8. All students will remain in their seats throughout the entire rehearsal until dismissal.
9. EMERGENCY restroom privileges will be one person at a time, but only when your section is not engaged in an activity (not during tuning or active rehearsing). Go to the A wing restrooms. Make it a habit to use the restrooms before rehearsal.
10. Tuning (at 3 minutes after the tardy bell) signals the beginning of rehearsal. Violin/viola/cello can tune softly. Tune on an up bow. Basses must tune loud to get true pitch. Allow individual sections to tune without noise or unnecessary conversation
11. Be responsible for developing an awesome work ethic. Work hard and put everything you have into every rehearsal.
12. No talking or disruptions in rehearsal. Instrument "noodling" is counterproductive and interferes with valuable rehearsal time. Shhhh....
13. If your section is not being worked with, shadow bow and silently finger.
14. If you have a question or concern, raise your hand. If it is an individual concern, please handle it after rehearsal. This takes great maturity to discern what is an individual concern and what concerns the entire group.
15. Mark specific instructions in your music wherever the conductor gives them.
16. Stand partners are responsible for relaying information and giving new music to absent musicians at the next rehearsal.
17. Be courteous and attentive to the person in front of the group, whether director, officer, or visitor.
18. Please do not pack up until you are dismissed.
19. Everything must be put away at the end of each rehearsal. All students will be responsible for returning music stands to the back corner of the rehearsal room and moving chairs as required.
20. While packing up, If you see trash, PICK IT UP.
21. Respect each other's belongings and equipment as well as school equipment.
22. All Instruments must be stored properly when not in use. Music can be stored in the file cabinet to the right side.
23. The instrument storage room is to be kept clean from clutter, litter and personal items.
24. "Professionals make mistakes, amateurs make excuses"
25. "Pretend like you are always wrong"

### **SECTIONAL REHEARSALS**

Sectionals are extremely important to the success of the entire orchestra. The purpose of sectionals are to:

- Assist in forming a cohesive and positive section of the orchestra
- Help with technical passages that are unique to that section of the orchestra
- Establish section bowings, fingerings, and particular techniques
- Save immeasurable time in the orchestra rehearsal

Please make good use of sectional time and listen to the section leader. The director and section leader will set goals for sectionals. Try your best to meet these goals.

### **MPA**

MPA (Music Performance Assessment) is an important and required part of being a member of the SHS orchestra. We will obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as an orchestra. Solo and Ensemble MPA is in

February and Concert MPA is in March. If we earn a superior rating, we are eligible to go on to the State MPA in April. A great deal of time, work, and commitment are required to produce an outstanding MPA performance.

### **PERFORMANCE TRIPS**

We will take various performance trips during this school year. We may attend a Florida Orchestra concert, and perform prior to the concert. We may take a special Spring Trip and even perform the Star Spangled Banner for a Rays baseball game. Our Chamber Orchestra may also perform for community, service club, and other events.

### **CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

The SHS Chamber Orchestra is a prestigious group for motivated and talented students who wish to rehearse and perform challenging music outside of the regular school day. Membership in the Chamber Orchestra is by audition and is limited to 12 members. Members must commit to the rehearsal and performance schedule for the entire school year. Those who have other commitments that would keep them from full participation in the Chamber Orchestra should not audition.

### **CONCERT ETIQUETTE** \*\*Remember that you are representing your school\*\*

- **Cell phones/electronic devices are not allowed on stage.**
- Refrain from talking. This includes whispering during the music.
- Be careful of extra noise onstage. Talking between numbers, page turns, foot tapping, or loud sighs are noticed by the audience.
- No food, drink, gum or candy on stage.
- Show respectful attention to others when you are not playing. This includes choosing not to react to mistakes that may occur. You can significantly enhance the audience perception of a performance by watching and listening attentively.
- Do not move at the end of a movement or piece until the conductor has “released” or relaxed his/her composure.

### **FUNDRAISING**

While the school system provides us with some funds for music, instruments, supplies and transportation costs, we need more money than the school can provide. Fundraising and/or donated funds help to provide money for scholarships, awards, social activities, etc. We encourage all students to participate in these events.

### **ORCHESTRA OFFICERS**

Orchestra officers will be elected by the orchestra members and confirmed by the director. Officers should set an example with their actions and assist with the planning and organization of the orchestra. They will assist the orchestra by helping to select fundraisers, planning social activities, aiding with instrument and music checkout and assisting the director and chaperones on trips. All officers are expected to be leaders in the orchestra by attending all social events and trips.

#### President

- Acts as student representative of the Orchestra for all necessary functions.
- Is in charge of rehearsal (assist the substitute) in the absence of Director.
- Coordinates all student officers.
- Assists director in organizing and maintaining string instruments.
- Helps enforce all rules and maintain order.
- Makes all necessary announcements.

#### Vice President

- Assists the President with all responsibilities and activities.
- Organizes Orchestra social activities.
- Assists with ordering of awards
- Acts in the President's place in the President's absence.

#### Secretary

- Takes rehearsal attendance.
- Keeps members informed of any schedule changes and upcoming events.
- Organizes and files the Orchestra music library.
- Makes all photocopies.
- Passes out all materials.

#### Webmaster/Historian

- Pictures, camera, PowerPoint presentation(s) of Orchestra events
- Makes an Orchestra yearbook

- Maintains the Orchestra website

### Section Leaders

- Section leaders will be announced after the first major playing test of the year. Anyone who is assigned to be section leader, but does not wish to take on the responsibility, must tell Mr. Harris right away.
- Charged with leading his/her section by example during rehearsals and performances
- Responsible for communicating changes and other information pertaining to the music to other section members
- Prepared to help decide upon and communicate bowings and fingerings to your section
- Make sure the instructions of the conductor are acknowledged, understood, and carried out by every person in the section
- Make sure the section is together — rhythmically, stylistically and musically
- Check to see that every member of the section writes all necessary markings into the parts
- Are sensitive to the limitations of his/her section and make sure members do whatever it takes to get the correct musical product, including simplifying the part if necessary and working with members of the section after school
- Provide visible cues so that the entire section can clearly see the bowing, style of bow, placement of bow, approach of the musical entrance so the section can play as one

### **AWARDS**

Each year members of the each of the orchestras are recognized for outstanding achievement during the year. Awards presented at the end of the year include

- Motivation Award “Turn Around Student of the Year”
- The Passion to Succeed Award “Passion is the Spark that Illuminates Your Path to Success and Creates Masterpieces Along the Way”
- The True Star Award “True Stars Rise to the Top Not by Chance but through Purpose and Passion”
- The True Leader Award “A True Leader has the Confidence to Make Tough Decisions, and the Compassion to Listen to the Needs of Others”
- 4-Year Senior Award for participation in the SHS Orchestra all four years
- Outstanding Orchestra Award (given at SHS awards ceremony)
- The Director’s Award for Outstanding Musicianship and Leadership

### **PARENTS - PLEASE READ**

What to do:

- Check the Orchestra website [SeminoleHSOrchestra.weebly.com](http://SeminoleHSOrchestra.weebly.com) and Focus often for updated information and grades
- Remind your child to bring their instrument, music, and other materials to class every day
- Make sure their instrument is well maintained
- Encourage them to perform for family and friends
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly
- Expose your student to a wide variety of musical experiences, including concerts and recitals
- Encourage your child to make a commitment to their music studies
- Commit to participating in all orchestra fundraisers
- Attend every concert with enthusiasm!

Encourage quality practicing

- Providing a music stand in a quiet place for your student to practice
- Assist with scheduling a daily practice time, minimum 20 minutes or more per day.
- Praise your students’s efforts and achievements

What to avoid

- Using practice as a punishment
- Insisting your child perform for others if he/she doesn’t feel comfortable
- Ridiculing or making fun of mistakes

**SEMINOLE HIGH ORCHESTRA CALENDAR \*2017-2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Call Time</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Who?</b>
<b>First week of school</b>	<b>Handbook Contracts Due Books and supplies purchased \$50 ensemble fee paid</b>	---	<b>Class Pd</b>	<b>SHS</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>September 5-22</b>	<b>Fall Fundraiser</b>	---	--	--	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>September 22</b>	<b>Chamber Orchestra auditions</b>	---	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Chorus Room</b>	<b>those who want to try out</b>
<b>After school starting October (day TBA)</b>	<b>Chamber orchestra rehearsals</b>	---	<b>2:00-3:30 pm</b>	<b>Chorus Room</b>	<b>Chamber Orchestra</b>
<b>October 7</b>	<b>Bellaire Bluffs community performance</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Chamber orchestra</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>Fall Concert</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>SHS Auditorium</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>All-County Orchestra Auditions</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>those who want to try out</b>
<b>November TBA</b>	<b>NHS Inductions</b>	<b>5:45 pm</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>SHS Auditorium</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>December 12</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>SHS Auditorium</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>February 16-17</b>	<b>FOA Solo &amp; Ens. MPA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Gibbs HS</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>February 27</b>	<b>Pre-MPA Concert</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>SHS Auditorium</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>March 8-9</b>	<b>FOA Concert MPA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Dunedin HS</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>April 3-18</b>	<b>Spring Fundraiser</b>	---	--	--	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>SHS Auditorium</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>May TBA</b>	<b>Senior Awards Ceremony</b>	---	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>SHS Auditorium</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>
<b>May TBA</b>	<b>Spring Trip</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>All Orchestra</b>

*When other performances and events arise, you will be informed as soon as possible.*

In lieu of e-sign on [www.seminolehsorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.seminolehsorchestra.weebly.com), please print, sign, and return:

**SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA CONTRACT**

\$50 ens. fee pd. \_\_\_\_\_

As a member of the Seminole High Orchestra, I have read the Seminole High School Orchestra Handbook for 2017-2018 and will abide by all policies therein. I will assume the obligations and responsibilities and do my best to accomplish the objectives and follow the principles, rules and regulations. I realize that I am required to attend all orchestra activities.

As parent/guardian of this child, I/we understand the rules and regulations that our child is expected to follow.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (PRINT CLEARLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (PRINT CLEARLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email (PRINT CLEARLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent (PRINT CLEARLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email (PRINT CLEARLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent (PRINT CLEARLY)

I am available to assist in the following ways:

\_\_\_\_ Organizing and supervising fund raising projects

\_\_\_\_ Assisting during the school day with fund raising projects

\_\_\_\_ Making phone calls

\_\_\_\_ Organizing recreational and social events

\_\_\_\_ Provide assistance implementing an orchestra T-shirt

\_\_\_\_ Coordinating the receptions for concerts

\_\_\_\_ Assisting with the receptions for concerts

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in more information about obtaining an instrument for my child. Please call me during the day at \_\_\_\_\_ (Daytime Ph. #).

Detach this contract from your handbook and return it, completed, to Mr. Harris by the first week of school. This will be your first grade of the year!