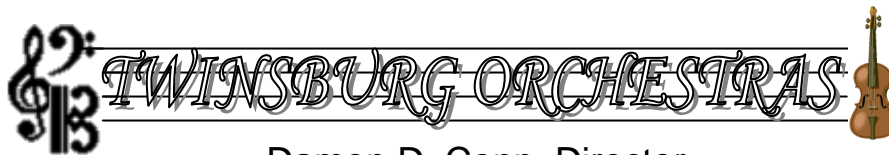


TWINSBURG ORCHESTRAS



THS STUDENT HANDBOOK
2015 - 2016



Damon D. Conn, Director
Twinsburg High School
10084 Ravenna Rd Twinsburg, OH 44087
(330) 486-2330

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2015 – 2016 school year! I trust that you have had a wonderful summer break and that you are looking forward to a productive year together. I would like to take this opportunity to give you an overview of what we hope to accomplish during the school year, our rules, and our grading procedures. I have already covered and reviewed these with the students. Please take time to read through these policies in this handbook and keep it for future reference. Please sign the bottom copy and return it to school. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to address them at this time. You may also call me at Twinsburg High School at 330-486-2330 or email (best option) dconn@twinsburg.12.oh.us. If I am unavailable at the time you call, please leave your name, number where you can be reached, and purpose for your call. I will return your call as soon as possible.

I am excited to be working with you and look forward to new musical experiences for our orchestra program.

Sincerely,

Damon D. Conn
Orchestra Instructor

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the orchestra program is to develop musical independence in our students and encourage life-long musical experiences.

PHILOSOPHICAL BELIEFS

Because music is an integral part of every society, we believe that all students have the right to formal musical training as part of their total educational program. Through music education, students gain an awareness of historical and cultural heritage, as well as how to perceive, create and value good music.

GRADING PROCEDURES

GRADE:

30% = CONCERTS

10% = WRITTEN QUIZZES

30% = PLAYING TESTS

30% = DAILY GRADE

INSTRUMENT, MUSIC, SHOULDER REST, PROPER
POSTURE AND BOW GRIP, FOCUS ON LESSON,
IMPROVEMENT

*Fingernails must be kept short to demonstrate proper posture and tone.

ORCHESTRA GOALS

1. Further refine their use of vibrato.
2. Adjust tone by adjusting the speed and weight of the bow.
3. Demonstrate tremolo, trills, double stops, and advanced bowing techniques.
4. Perform the remaining major and minor scales (natural, harmonic and melodic minors) and a two octave chromatic scale.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in the upper positions.
6. Tune their instruments by perfect intervals (5ths) or by harmonics.
7. Identify intervals aurally and by sight.
8. Demonstrate an ability to identify orchestral music by style period and name representative composers.
9. Broaden and define their music vocabulary.
10. Read and perform more complex rhythms by sight.
11. Read and perform moderately difficult orchestral repertoire.

ORCHESTRA UNITS

1st Nine Weeks: Intervals m2 through octave – written

B major scale 2 octave

F sharp major scale 2 octave

C sharp major scale 2 octave

Aural intervals m2 through octave

Sight reading and rehearsal of new music

D flat major scale 2 octave

Major triads – written

G flat major scale 2 octave

Minor triads – written

C flat major scale 2 octave

Refine performance skills – fall concert

ORCHESTRA UNITS (CONTINUED)

2nd Nine Weeks:

Continue Tuning and basic sight reading concepts
Tuning and basic sight reading concepts
Ensemble Skills
2 octave scales up to 4 sharps and 4 flats
Sight reading and rehearsal of new music
Natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales written
Tone production
Triple stops and Double stops
Spiccato, Detache, and Martele bow strokes
Refine vibrato and performance skills – holiday concert

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS/EXTRA HELP

Occasionally we will need to have one or more after school rehearsals prior to a performance. After school rehearsals may be necessary for whole group performance. These rehearsals will take place on Mondays from 2:15 to 3:30 in the orchestra room at THS. A letter will be sent home to inform parents and students if and when rehearsals will be scheduled. Attendance is required unless excused by Mr. Conn prior to the rehearsal. This will also serve as a time when students can receive extra help or instruction.

ORCHESTRA SEATING

Seating in orchestra is determined by audition. Students will audition for their seat at the beginning of the school year and again after holiday break. All auditions will be video taped and will not be graded. Music is selected by the instructors and given to the students one week before the audition. All seats in orchestra will be rotated at the discretion of Mr. Conn with the exception of leadership chairs. Leadership chairs will be selected after auditions. The instructor's decisions are final and non-negotiable. Please remember that orchestra requires teamwork. There are no unimportant seats in orchestra.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Concert performances are required for orchestra. These performances are necessary to evaluate the students' skills practiced in class. Excused absences include illness and family emergencies. Please check all the performance dates carefully and notify Mr. Conn if there are any conflicts. An excused absence will be made up by completing an alternative project assigned by Mr. Conn. All other absences will be considered unexcused and a zero will be recorded.

CONCERT DRESS

Ladies:

Black floor-length dress (school)
Black dress shoes (student provides)
Black nylons (student provides)

Gentlemen:

Black tuxedo coat and pants (school)
White tuxedo shirt (student provides)
Black bow tie and cummerbund (school)
Black dress shoes (student provides)
Black socks (student provides)

***Students without proper concert attire will not be permitted to perform**

INSTRUMENTS

Students are required to have an instrument for orchestra. Instruments can be rented or purchased from a music store/dealer. It is recommended that fractional size instruments be rented until students are ready for full size instruments. Students grow at different rates and may change different sizes quickly. Instruments may be purchased once a student is ready for a full size. Cello and String Bass students are provided instruments to use at school and must have their own instrument at home to practice. Mr. Conn and Twinsburg City Schools are not affiliated with any music store or dealer. Please contact the store or dealer with any questions regarding purchases or rentals. Please do not return instruments at the end of the year unless leaving the program. Students are expected practice over the summer and are encouraged to participate in summer music activities (i.e. private lessons, summer orchestras, camps). Please do not return rental instruments to the school or Mr. Conn. Here is a list of some instrument dealers:

Roger A. Stearns Violins
10341 Middlebranch Ave. NE
Hartville, Ohio 44632
330-877-8584

Cleveland Violins
2917 Mayfield Road
Cleveland Hts, Ohio
216-932-9310

Rettig Music
26469 Center Ridge Rd.
Westlake Commons Plaza
440-808-0900

Studio Strings
118 Main St.
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281
330-336-1644

Terry Carlin
2026 Murray Hill Road
Suite #206
Cleveland, Ohio
216-791-2440

Baroque Violin Shop
1038 W. North Bend Rd.
Cincinnati , OH 45224
(513) 541-2000

The Loft Violin Shop
4604 N. High Street
Columbus , Ohio
(614) 267-7221

Peter Zaret Violins
5767 Mayfield Rd
Cleveland, Ohio
440-461-1411

Beware of purchasing instruments from pawn shops or off of the internet! Be sure to check with Mr. Conn to be sure you are purchasing a **quality** instrument. You get what you pay for.

PRACTICE/HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned in orchestra. Students daily homework is to practice their instrument 20 to 30 minutes daily. Some students may need to practice more to achieve their goals. **Instruments should never be left at school. Twinsburg City Schools and Mr. Conn are not responsible for any instrument left at school.**

STRINGS AND BOWS

ALL ORCHESTRA STUDENTS SHOULD CHANGE THEIR STRINGS AT LEAST ONCE PER YEAR. STUDENTS SHOULD **AVOID** STEEL STRING SETS SUCH AS RED LABEL AND D'ADDARIO PRELUDE.

BOW HAIR SHOULD ALSO BE REPLACED AT LEAST ONCE PER YEAR. DO NOT USE SYNTHETIC HAIR, PLEASE REPLACE WITH HORSE HAIR. THIS IS DONE AT THE REPAIR SHOP.

STUDENTS SHOULD USE CARBON FIBER OR PERNAMBUCO WOOD BOWS. JON PAUL AND CODA BOWS ARE HIGHLEY RECOMMENDED. **AVOID** FIBERGLASS GLASSER AND BRAZIL WOOD BOWS.

Here are some recommendations of strings to purchase.

VIOLIN – A D G Strings should be aluminum or silver wrapped with a perlon or synthetic core (not steel). E strings can be steel or plated.

Thomastik Dominant (medium weight)

be sure to get a #129 E string (steel) SET DT129E

Pirastro Gold E string is an excellent choice for just a great E

D'Addario Pro Arte

Super-Sensitive Octava (medium)

**VIOLA – be sure to know the size of your viola in inches from bout to bout
Strings should be aluminum or silver wrapped with a perlon or synthetic core.**

Professional violists and advanced students sometimes prefer Larsen A Strings

D'Addario Pro Arte

Thomastik Dominant (medium weight)

Super-Sensitive Octava (medium)

CELLO BASS

Larsen A + D (medium) D'Addario Helicore (medium) SET

Thomastik Spirocore G + C (medium) Corelli Ropecore (Forte or Medium) SET

D'Addario Helicore (medium) SET

Pirastro Chromcor SET

RULES FOR ORCHESTRA UNIFORMS

1. All parts of the uniform must be kept together on a hanger and in the garment bag. Pieces and parts should not be found lying on the floor, music stands, or clothing rack.*
2. No necklaces, bracelets, dangling earrings, or rings are to be worn while wearing uniforms.
3. No alterations are to be made to the dress.*
4. If your dress/pants need to be hemmed, please let the uniform assistant know so they can fit you for the hem. Parents can hem dresses/pants, but DO NOT cut the fabric!*
5. No safety pins are to be used on dresses for any reason.*
6. When your uniform is issued to you, make sure there are no holes, snags, or markings on any parts of the uniform. If there is, let Mr. Conn or the uniform assistant know so you won't be charged for damages at the end of the semester.*
7. If you wish to clean your own uniform, please have tuxes dry-cleaned and dresses washed (delicate) and line dried.
8. A \$10 cleaning fee will be collected before you will be issued a uniform. Checks can be made payable to the **Twinsburg Orchestra Boosters**.
9. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN UNIFORM!**

* If these rules are broken the responsible party will be charged a fee depending on the damage, which may include paying for the uniform in full.

ORCHESTRA OFFICERS

Orchestra officers are elected by their peers in May of the spring semester. Students running for office must be enrolled in orchestra for the entire year (both semesters) and maintain an A or B average in orchestra. The office of President and Vice – President is open to Seniors; the office of Secretary and Treasurer is open to Juniors and Seniors; Publicist is open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.

2015-2016 ORCHESTRA OFFICERS

Sara Hart – President
Luke Wardell – Treasurer
Zachary Dobrski – Publicist

Sommer Albert – Vice President
Caleb Callahan - Secretary
Tyra Teague- Music Librarian



CLASS RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Students should show respect towards their teacher, guests, and peers. Do not talk, pluck, or play without permission.
2. Students should not touch or play others instruments.
3. All students should have a pencil, music, and instrument in class every day.
4. NEVER play the piano without permission. To prevent possible injuries, never move, lean or sit on the piano.
5. Absolutely no gum, candy, or drinks in class.
6. Students should stay out of the office and instrument storage room unless given permission by the directors.
7. Students should be in their seats ready to play no later than two minutes after tardy bell.
8. Class will be dismissed when all chairs and stands are straight and in their proper places. No trash will be left in the room.
9. Take proper care in packing and unpacking your instrument. Cases will be put on the floor and against the wall. Do not leave cases where people will trip over them.
10. No cell phones in class!! All school rules and policies apply!

CONSEQUENCES

- 1st Offense – Verbal warning
- 2nd Offense – Reflective paper (1 page)
- 3rd Offense – Phone call home to parents/Detention
- 4th Offense – Parent/Teacher conference
- 5th Offense – Referral to office

I have read the expectations and procedures and understand my child's responsibilities.
I have also made note of the performance dates.

student name

date

parent signature

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Name -

Parent's Name -

Parent’s E-mail -

Mailing Address -

City, State, Zip -

Phone Number -

Grade -

Instrument -

Manufacturer -

Serial Number -

School Issued (Yes or No) -

Schedule -
Block

Blue/White
Subject

Blue/White
Teacher

1

2

3

4