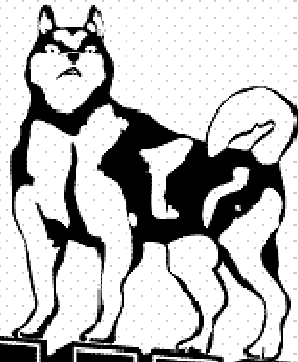


NAPERVILLE NORTH



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Orchestra

2009-2010

Dana Green, Director

District 203 Vision Statement

Building a Passion for Lifelong Learning

The school district's mission is to graduate students who think critically, solve problems, make decisions, and have the skills necessary for productive citizenship and lifelong learning by providing excellent, comprehensive programs and services in partnership with the community.

Instructional Philosophy

The highest human aspirations are presented through music as an art form. Music is experienced through sensitive perception and reaction. Orchestra study at Naperville North High School provides opportunities for producing, analyzing, conceptualizing, and evaluating music with the expectation that students will develop a personal sense of value for music in their lives.

Instructional Goals

1. to present and encourage string performance at Naperville North High School
2. to study and perform symphonic and string orchestra literature representing diverse musical styles and genres
3. to provide for individual student growth through organizing, performing, and describing orchestral music
4. to represent Naperville North High School through music events at the local, district, and state levels, and
5. to encourage string performance by students in district schools sending students to Naperville North High School

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Orchestras!

Note to Students

Hi! This is a guide for our year together in orchestra. **Read** and **remember** this information. **Share it with your parents** so they know what we are all about.

At present, we have three curricular orchestral ensembles: Concert Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Symphonic Orchestra. The Renaissance Music Project is a Co-curricular ensemble that meets weekly.

Throughout the year we shall receive various visiting guest artists to bolster technical proficiency, repertoire preparation, and general musicianship. Your participation is the key to open the door to a successful year and a stronger orchestra program at Naperville North. Careful listening in rehearsal, good preparation of assignments, and prompt attention to the details of orchestra membership will help us reach the excellence we all want. **My best wishes** to all as we work together toward that goal.

Note to Parents

Welcome to a new and exciting year at NNHS. Our excellent facilities filled with new students and a large number of returning students in our program are tangible signs of the vitality of NNHS orchestras, due, in many respects, to the support of parents through the years. Good music programs do not grow overnight, but they can disappear quickly without strong parental support. With your collaboration the orchestral program can continue to grow into the exciting and vibrant organization the students deserve.

My thanks to you for helping make this a special year for our orchestras!

Dana Green, Orchestra Director
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Phone: (630)420-7820

The Orchestra Program at Present...

...at Naperville North High School consists of three courses of study and three extra-curricular ensembles

Courses of study:

All courses include solo, small ensemble, string orchestra, and full symphony orchestra playing opportunities. All string students perform many concerts each year in various groups. All of these performances, both during and outside of the school day, are considered part of the course requirements and attendance is expected at the performances of the student's ensemble.

Extra-curricular Ensemble

At Naperville North there are three string based ensembles that rehearse outside of school.

-The Renaissance Music Project works collaboratively with the band and choir in the study of music from the renaissance. Some of the most beautiful music in the Western tradition comes from this time period. The season culminates with the Renaissance Music Concert in December.

-The Bluegrass Fiddlers focus on American folk music and is the only non-audition extracurricular group. It is an inclusive ensemble full of exciting performance opportunities.

-The Bella Corda Ensemble is an advanced string group that focuses on music from the Romantic era. To participate in this ensemble an audition is required. This group travels frequently to colleges and universities to workshop with professors and present new repertoire.

Equipment and Facilities

School provided instruments include violoncelli, and basses. All performance ensemble music students pay a yearly \$75 music fee which contributes to the upkeep of instruments and helps to purchase curricular items for all music students in the department.

Orchestra lockers are accessible whenever the building is open. Nearly every upper string student can be issued an orchestra locker which must be locked at all times. Violoncello and bass instruments are locked in the lockers located inside and outside of the orchestra/choir room.

Instrument condition Instruments are to be maintained in excellent condition. If there are problems with pegs, strings, bow hair, or any other part of the instrument and bow, these should be taken care of before rehearsals. Students are always expected to have basic supplies-rosin, strings, mutes, peg compound-at hand.

Music facilities We are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to rehearse and perform in very fine facilities. Abuse and/or thoughtless mistreatment of school or privately owned property ARE NOT TO BE TOLERATED.
TO THIS END, GUM CHEWING AND FOOD CONSUMPTION IS OFF LIMITS IN THE MUSIC WING.

Concert Dress

The purpose of a dress code is to create a professional and uniform look within the ensemble. Students not following the dress code may be denied the opportunity to perform, resulting in an unexcused absence from a performance. (See *Grading Policies*)

Concert Orchestra

Girls: Orchestra Dress, Black Shoes

Boys: White tux shirt, Black dress/ tux pants, Black socks, Black shoes, Black cummerbund and bow tie

Chamber Orchestra

Girls: Orchestra Dress, Black Shoes

Boys: White tux shirt, Black tux pants, jacket, Black socks, Black shoes, Black cummerbund and bow tie

Symphonic Orchestra

Girls: Orchestra Dress, Black Shoes

Boys: White tux shirt, Black tux pants, jacket, Black socks, Black shoes, Black cummerbund and bow tie

Music

Music and music folders are issued for rehearsal, practice, and performance. If music is lost or damaged, duplicate parts are issued if available and a replacement fee will be assessed. Music may be taken home to practice but should not be folded or otherwise damaged. All markings in music should be in pencil. Music and music folders are to be returned to the folder cabinet at the end of rehearsals.

Orchestra Procedures

Rehearsals include four routines:

(1) intonation drills with an assigned weekly scale; (2) warm-up and assigned technique, etudes or other practice aids; (3) rehearsing/reading of orchestral music; and (4) occasional student-run sectionals held to work on concert music or other assigned lessons.

It is the expectation of the director that each student will contribute to rehearsal each day. This means that each student is not only in their seat with an operational instrument when the bell rings, but also attentive and actively engaged in the rehearsal. Each student will receive a grade for their **Individual Daily Contribution**. (See *Grading Policies*)

The major performance schedule Mark your family calendar at home! It is the responsibility of orchestra members to reserve these times: participation is a major component in orchestra membership and in the director's evaluation of each orchestra member's work. The success of the orchestra depends upon every member performing for all concerts.

Auditions take place at the beginning of each semester for parts and chairs. Auditions consist of a combination of prepared scales, prepared music, and sight reading. The director uses auditions to become better acquainted with orchestra members and their playing. Orchestra members use auditions to gain practical experience in auditioning; a common procedure for all musicians! Audition times are assigned based on individual class schedules.

Grading Policies

Performances: 30% of Final Grade

Attendance for performances is **ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED**. You will only be excused from a performance in the event of illness or family emergency. The excuse will not be applied to your grade until Mr. Green has received a hand-written letter of explanation from a parent or guardian. (A personal conference with your parent would also be acceptable in this case.) Please keep in mind that a family emergency is an unplanned and/or unpleasant family crisis, such as a death or impending death in the family. (A Justin Timberlake concert is NOT considered a family emergency!) Please work out all transportation issues in advance; "I didn't have a ride" will **NOT** be accepted as an excused absence. Extra-curricular conflict with these curricular events must be worked out in advance. It is **your** responsibility to inform your coach or sponsor of your impending absence at the beginning of the season, rather than the week before. Please keep in mind that you are expected to work out these conflicts even if an extra-curricular event has been rescheduled at the last minute. Failure to do so could result in an unexcused absence, which could have a serious impact on your final grade.

Please note that *if your absence is excused, you will still be expected to make up the performance credit* with the **Alternate Performance Assessment** (see attached.)

Individual Daily Contribution: 25% of Final Grade

Each student will be graded on their preparation for the class, their participation in the class, and their contribution to the class. This grade can be affected by a number of factors, including the following:

- Bringing your instrument to class in working order
- Bringing your pencil to class
- Bringing your music to class
- Remaining on-task during class, using professional posture at all times
- Showing respect to your fellow musicians

Musicianship Credits: 25% of Final Grade

Students are required to earn 1 musicianship credits per quarter.

Credits can be earned by:

- writing program notes or an in-person class report about music performed by the orchestras in concert. Notes would be a minimum of 2 double-spaced, typewritten pages in length. A report would include an audio recording and/or video slide clip or illustration and would not exceed 6 minutes in length. Topics and reporting dates must be approved at least one week prior to the due date.
- helping set up chairs and stands before a concert. Use signup sheet in orchestra room (limited spots available).
- playing for district/school event. Use signup sheet in orchestra room (limited spots available).

Concert Report: 10% of Final Grade

- attending a musical performance and completing a 1 page concert evaluation form. Reports must be 1 page in length, 12 point font, and 1 inch margins.

Final Exam/ Midterm Exam: 10% of Final Grade

At the end of the semester you will be given a final exam that assesses your knowledge of music theory. The material you are responsible for is drawn from class discussions and theory assignments. The exams consist of:

- Major and Minor Scale Construction
- Rhythm Diagramming
- Meter identification
- Aural Dictation
- Clef Proficiency
- String and general musical knowledge

Concerts and Other Performances

All school rules are in effect at *any* school function. This includes after-school rehearsals, concerts and any field trips or concert band festivals. Always remember that while “on the road,” you are an ambassador for Naperville North High School; people will judge our entire school community on your actions and attitudes.

Ensemble members will usually experience their concerts as both performer and as audience member for another ensemble. Before or after their performance, ensemble members will sit in an assigned area of the auditorium to listen and support their fellow musicians. As an audience member, each student is to give a performing ensemble their full attention.

Leadership Activities

Orchestra Council The Council includes the elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and Stage Manager. Officers are elected in the spring/fall for the year with specific responsibilities. The council represents the orchestras in organizing fundraising and activities for Orchestra Club, and serves as a policy-making board for the orchestra in conjunction with the director. [Officers receive 1 Musicianship unit each semester for completed responsibilities.]

Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required for participation in the instrumental program at Naperville North, but are *strongly* recommended. Weekly private lessons can be set up with individual instructors, some of whom teach in the building during the school day. These instructors are available to give lessons during your study hall period, your lunch period, during orchestra, or outside of the school day.

A number of private instructors utilize the school studio space to teach lessons during the school day. This makes lessons convenient and safe, as each instructor is employed by District 203 and subjected to a background check. These instructors will be available for eight lessons each quarter, at a rate of \$160.00 for the quarter. Because these instructors are employees of District 203, there are strict guidelines regarding compensation.

Payment must be in the form of a check made out to NCUSD 203, and must be remitted to Mr. Green by the third week of the quarter. (Please include the name of the private instructor as a memo on the check.) Failure to follow this procedure could result in the permanent dismissal by your private teacher. Also note that this procedure must be followed even if your lesson is scheduled after normal school hours.

If you are absent from school on the day of your lesson, you are responsible for scheduling a make-up lesson with the instructors. Lessons missed by private instructors will be made up accordingly.

NAPERVILLE NORTH ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| September 30 th | Collage Concert/Pictures |
| October 6 th | IMEA Auditions |
| October 7 th | ISU Symphony Visit |
| October 15 th | Northside Orchestra Festival |
| October 30 th | Movie Night |
| November 1 st | IMEA District |
| December 5 th | Renaissance Concert |
| December 6 th | Renaissance Concert |
| December 9 th | Winter Concert |
| January 27 th | IMEA All-State |
| January 28 th | IMEA All-State |
| January 29 th | IMEA All-State |
| January 30 th | IMEA All-State |
| February 25 th | Spring Musical |
| February 26 th | Spring Musical |
| February 27 th | String Festival @ U of I |
| February 27 th | Spring Musical |
| February 28 th | Spring Musical |
| March 10 th | Concert at Wentz Hall |
| March 26 th | Spring Break |
| April 5 th | Orchestra Auditions |
| May 13 th | Spring Concert |
| May 27 th | Classes End |

*It is the student's responsibility to identify scheduling conflicts and to notify the director with at least 14 days notice.

Alternate Performance Assessment

NNHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

If you have been assigned this project, it is because you have missed a required performance. You now have the opportunity to make up these points by completing a research paper on a composer of one of the pieces that you've had the opportunity to perform during *this year*. Please keep in mind that *you need to be able to find at least one book on this composer*, and it will be easier to find information on an older (or dead) composer. Also keep in mind that there is more written about certain composers because of their greater historical significance. Film composers will not be accepted as a valid topic choice, as they are usually paid to plagiarize other composers.

Sources must include the following:

- At least one Internet site (preferably the artist's official site or that of their publisher.)
- As many periodical sources as desired
- CD liner notes (optional)
- At least one book about the artist

The body of the paper must include the following:

- An Introduction and Conclusion
- A thorough biographical sketch of the composer in question
- A brief description and analysis of at least one major work by the composer in question
- Don't forget to give credit to your sources with a **Bibliography** page, and to credit any quotations with a **Works Cited** page.

The final product of this project will be a paper, (5 pages minimum, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced.) This paper must be turned in *before* semester exams begin in order for you to receive credit for the missed performance. Failure to turn in the project by this date will be the same as missing the concert... you will receive a zero in the "performance" category, which constitutes approximately 30% of your quarter grade.

NAPERVILLE NORTH MUSIC DEPARTMENT

DATE _____

NAME OF PARENT/ GUARDIAN _____

NAME OF STUDENT _____

PHONE _____

STUDENT EMAIL _____

PARENT EMAIL _____

GRADE _____

INSTRUMENT _____

It is understood that the student and the parents:

- Have read and understood all of the materials
- Agree to have your child attend all the required events

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM BY:

Monday, the 24th

(Parent or Guardian Signature)

(Student's Signature)

