



## FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Director: Sarah Payne

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[www.fdhsorchestra.com](http://www.fdhsorchestra.com)

Why be a part of the FDHS Orchestra program?

Music does more than just make sounds, it changes the way we think and act. The skills your child will learn in music will help them be successful on the stage, in the classroom, and for the rest of their lives.

70% OF ADMISSIONS OFFICERS OF THE NATION'S MAJOR UNIVERSITIES SAY HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS ARE SIGNIFICANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADMISSION

107: POINTS SCORED HIGHER ON THE SAT FOR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN PUBLIC SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS ACCORDING TO THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION BOARD.

66% LEWIS THOMAS, PHYSICIAN AND BIOLOGIST, FOUND THAT MUSIC MAJORS COMPRISE THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ACCEPTED MEDICAL STUDENTS.

**Social:** Participating in musical groups promotes self confidence, team work, social skills, social networking, a sense of belonging, self-discipline, a sense of accomplishment, cooperation, responsibility, commitment, mutual support, and friendships.

**Emotional:** Music provides a creative outlet and a break from the routine and rigor of the traditional school day. Students in music are among the highest academic performers and still report less stress and tension than their non-musical counterparts.

**Academic:** Research has found that learning music facilitates learning other subjects and enhances skills that children inevitably use in other areas including language development, spatial-temporal skills, pattern recognition, critical thinking, and so much more.

## FDHS Orchestras FAQ

1. **Can I still be in sports/athletics if I participate in orchestra?** Yes! Orchestra is a class, and just like in middle school, we have a few evening concerts throughout the year. However, we work with the athletes to avoid conflicts. We have many members of the football, basketball, soccer teams and cheer squad, and more in our orchestra.
2. **Will Orchestra conflict with my Academy Requirements?** No! We work with the counselors every summer to ensure that orchestra/band/choir does not conflict with Academy required classes. In the rare situation where a conflict does arise, we work with the student/parent to decide the best solution. Currently,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our orchestra students are in Pre-Med!
3. **I'm worried that I won't have time to practice and keep up with my academics.** This is a very common concern. We do not require students to submit practice cards/logs, but we do have playing tests. However, these playing tests are assigned at the beginning of each concert cycle, and are not due until a few days before the concert. You'll be able to practice and submit the playing tests at your leisure. We also allow students to come and practice during Advisory and after-school. Did you know that over 90% of our orchestra students are enrolled in 2 or more AP classes? Also, over 90% of our orchestra students have a 3.5 GPA or higher.
4. **What other opportunities are there?** Tons! We have a Fiddle Club (aka North Star Orchestra), Mentoring at Crawford Middle and EJ Hayes Middle, KY All-State Orchestra auditions, Solo & Ensemble, and much more!
5. **Will there be after-school rehearsals/requirements?** Just like middle school, we have evening concerts (typically 4-5 a year). Very rarely, we'll have a few after-school rehearsals, but we communicate these well in advance. Some activities are on the weekend (such as Solo & Ensemble and All-State auditions), but these are optional.
6. **How do I get an instrument?** For high school students, we really recommend that each student purchase an intermediate-advanced level instrument. These are typically more expensive than your \$60 amazon instrument (roughly around \$1200-\$2400). We know that not everyone can afford to purchase such an expensive instrument, so we do have intermediate-advanced level school instruments available for rental. PLEASE do not purchase an instrument without consulting your director first!!
7. **Does Orchestra fulfill my Arts & Humanities credits?** Yes; you must participate in orchestra for at least 2 years in High School (and receive a passing grade) to complete your Arts & Humanities credits.

## Frederick Douglass High School Orchestra Requirements

**Concert Orchestra (General Orchestra):** A leisurely paced orchestra for students wishing to refine basic and intermediate techniques and skills. Few additional after school and evening rehearsals, as well as participation in concerts and competitions. Recommended for all grade levels and students who have been playing for three years or less.

**Symphonic Orchestra (Adv. Symphonic):** Orchestra that focuses primarily on advanced string ensemble literature and developing student's technique and ability for later participation in the Chamber Orchestra. Additional evening and after school rehearsals are included, as well as participation in concerts and competitions. Recommended for all grade levels. If interested in Symphonic Orchestra, you will need to know the below skills:

### **Violins:**

- \_\_\_ Two-octave C, G, D, A, and B-Flat Major Scale, One-Octave F Major Scale
- \_\_\_ Play and shift comfortably in half through third position

### **Violas:**

- \_\_\_ Play and shift comfortably in half through third position
- \_\_\_ Two-octave C, G, D, A, and F Major Scale, One-Octave B-Flat Major Scale

### **Cello:**

- \_\_\_ Play and shift comfortably in half through extended fourth position
- \_\_\_ Two-octave C, G, D, A, and F Major Scale, One-Octave B-Flat Major Scale

### **Bass:**

- \_\_\_ Play and shift comfortably in half through fourth position
- \_\_\_ Two-Octave G, A, F, and B-Flat Major Scale, One-Octave C and D Major Scale

### **All instruments:**

- \_\_\_ An understanding and attempt at vibrato
- \_\_\_ Tone quality is characteristic in most registers, exhibits minor flaws in production
- \_\_\_ Intonation is mostly accurate; student adjusts these pitches with fair success
- \_\_\_ Rhythms are nearly accurate
- \_\_\_ Demonstrates basic control of tempo, dynamics, phrasing, and expression; basic attempts at dramatic performance and basic knowledge of style are evident.
- \_\_\_ Demonstrate and define: spiccato, loure (portato), tremolo, trills, legato, staccato, marcato, and con sordino
- \_\_\_ Read and perform natural harmonics

**Chamber Orchestra (Adv. Chamber):** Fast paced Orchestra designed for advanced students who study privately or have the desire and drive to work hard and excel quickly. Additional after school rehearsals are included, as well as participation in concerts and competitions. Participation is recommended for seniors and juniors, but open to advanced sophomores and freshmen. If interested in Chamber Orchestra, please contact Mrs. Payne for more information.

## FDHS Orchestra Auditions

**Concert Orchestra:** Students do not have to audition to be in the concert orchestra. Students sign-up for orchestra on their FDHS schedule card.

**Symphonic Orchestra:** Students are to submit their audition to the FDHS Orchestra Auditions Google Classroom Due March 27th. They should sign up for “orchestra” on their FDHS schedule card, and will be moved to the correct class after the auditions.

### **Violins:**

1. D Major, Two-Octave Scale
2. Excerpts posted in Google Classroom
3. Solo of your choice

### **Violas:**

1. G Major, Two-Octave Scale
2. Excerpts posted in Google Classroom
3. Solo of your choice

### **Cellos:**

1. G Major, Two-Octave Scale
2. Excerpts posted in Google Classroom
3. Solo of your choice

### **Basses:**

1. F Major, Two-Octave Scale
2. Excerpts posted in Google Classroom
3. Solo of your choice

**Chamber Orchestra:** Students must successfully pass the symphonic orchestra audition, and request to audition for the Chamber Orchestra.

### **Violins:**

1. Two-Octave F Major Scale
2. Excerpts available upon request

### **Violas:**

1. Two-Octave B-Flat Major Scale
2. Excerpts available upon request

### **Cellos:**

1. Two-Octave A Major Scale
2. Excerpts available upon request

### **Basses:**

1. Two-Octave A Major Scale
2. Excerpts available upon request