



**MIDTOWN  
HIGH SCHOOL**

*Orchestra*

2024-25 Handbook

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## **Midtown Orchestra Descriptions**

**Beginning (Concert) Orchestra-** This orchestra is open to any student who has not previously studied a stringed instrument. This is a beginning level ensemble where basic instrument technique will be studied. Appropriate method books and music at the GMEA 1-2 difficulty level will be used. The beginning orchestra typically combines with the intermediate orchestra in performance situations.

**Intermediate (Symphonic) Orchestra-** This orchestra is open to incoming 9th grade students who previously played in their middle school orchestra. This is an intermediate level ensemble that will focus on improvement of technique using appropriate method books and music at the GMEA 3-4 difficulty level. Private lessons, participation in outside honor orchestras, and Solo/Ensemble festival are HIGHLY encouraged.

**Advanced (Symphonic) Orchestra-** This orchestra is open to 10, 11, and 12 grade students by placement. Students are placed based on performance in previous year's orchestra, or comparable level orchestra if transferring from another high school orchestra. This is an advanced level group that will focus on refinement of technique using appropriate method books and music at the GMEA 4-5 difficulty level.

**Philharmonic (Mastery) Orchestra-** This orchestra is open by audition only to 9<sup>th</sup> grade; 10<sup>th</sup>, 11, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are placed based on performance in previous year's orchestra, or comparable level orchestra if transferring from another area high school orchestra. This is an advanced level group that will focus on refinement of technique using appropriate method books and music at the GMEA 5-6 difficulty level and Standard orchestral literature where appropriate.

**Based upon performance needs, there will be times where the orchestras perform individually, as well as combined.**

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**School Instruments-** The Midtown High School Orchestra owns a limited supply of school instruments; therefore, all students are strongly encouraged to secure their own instrument. After comparing enrollment numbers with the current inventory, Ms. Davis will assign instruments to students that need to use a school instrument.

**Attendance-** Classroom attendance is essential for learning to occur. It is also crucial that students attend after school rehearsals and all performances. The orchestra is a team that depends on every member; absences will result in lower grades. Please **PLAN AHEAD** to avoid conflicts with other activities (this includes appointments, work hours, lessons, tutoring, etc.) or be prepared to accept the consequences. Upon returning from an absence, a student may be required to perform excerpts for Ms. Davis.

- Every Effort should be made to avoid conflicts with dress-rehearsals. Absences from dress rehearsals may result in not being able to play in concert.

### **Scheduling**

Orchestra members who foresee scheduling problems should consult the directors for assistance. A student's scholastic progress will be given prime consideration when trying to resolve conflicts between Orchestra and other courses. However, enrollment in Orchestra is always encouraged and desired. Orchestra is a year-long class, and midyear changes will not be accommodated.

**Music and Athletics/Clubs-** Music students are encouraged to participate in sports and other clubs provided they can attend rehearsals for their performing groups. The director and coach will work out a compromising schedule if conflicts arise, however it is the student's responsibility to inform the director and coach of any conflicts. Last minute conflicts will not be accommodated.

**Uniforms-** All students of the Midtown High Orchestra are expected to obtain and maintain a uniform. Students will not be allowed to participate in performances without proper uniform.

Options 1 and 2 MUST be purchased from [www.formalwear-outlet.com](http://www.formalwear-outlet.com).

Option 3 tuxedo jacket may be purchased from website, pants, black cummerbund/bowtie, pants may be purchased from local stores (Men's Warehouse, etc).

If you need assistance in obtaining a uniform, please notify Ms. Davis as soon as possible. Uniforms should be ordered by **10/1/24** to ensure arrival by first concert.

Option 1: Long Formal black dress (Item #D683 on website), black dress shoes, flesh tone or black hosiery. Accessories should be modest and kept to a minimum.

Option 2: Formal Dress Shirt (Item #H971 on website), black dress pants (no jeans or leggings), black dress shoes. Accessories should be modest and kept to a minimum.

Option 3: Black Tuxedos (Jacket- Item #B721), black dress shoes.

**Concert Seating-** Approximately 2-3 weeks before each concert, seating tests will be held to determine seating for the upcoming concert. In the case of divisi sections, students should be able to play both parts. **Special Note to Violinists:** It is the opinion of Ms. Davis that ALL violinists should play both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> violin in a performance situation throughout the year. Do not expect to stay in the same section (or seat within a section) for the entire year.

**Orchestra Donations-** The Midtown High School Orchestra operates with little financial assistance from Atlanta Public Schools. Most of our financial support is generated from fundraisers, Orchestra Donations and assistance from the Midtown Orchestra Booster Club. This donation helps to pay for supplies such as music, pay for instrument repairs, and offset the cost of local field trips. The orchestra donation for this year is \$60 and due by **September 15, 2024**. Donations may be made on the Midtown Orchestra website ([www.midtownhsorchestra.org](http://www.midtownhsorchestra.org))