

HH Dow High School

Orchestra Calendar and Handbook

2025-2026

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2025-2026 Calendar

Date	Event	Location
September 23 7:30PM	DHS Orchestra Concert (Required)	Central Auditorium
October 18-19	MSBOA All-State Auditions (Optional)	Bay City Western
October 20 9:00AM	Grove Music Festival Masterclass (Required)	Midland High School
October 27 7:00PM	Joint Concert with CMU and MHS	Midland Center for the Arts
December 2 7:30PM	DHS Orchestra Concert (Required)	Midland Center for the Arts
December 4 TBD	Love, Light, Trees (Required - Honors Only)	Mid-Michigan Hospital
January 17 7:00PM	RenFair (Required - Symphony and Honors Only)	Midland Center for the Arts
January 22-24	Michigan Music Conference (Optional)	DeVos Hall, Grand Rapids
February 7	MSBOA High School Solo and Ensemble (Optional for Symphony, Required for Honors)	Bay City Central
February 18 7:30PM	DHS and MHS Orchestras Pre-Festival Concert (Required)	Central Auditorium
March 5-7 TBD	MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival Weekend 1 (Required)	TBD
March 13-14 TBD	MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival Weekend 2 (Required)	TBD
March 21	MSBOA State Solo and Ensemble (Optional)	Midland High School
March 24 9:45AM	4 th Grade Music Celebration (Required - Symphony Only)	Midland Center for the Arts
May 1 TBD	Jazz & More (Required - Honors Only)	Midland Country Club
May 7 8:00PM	DHS Orchestra Concert (Required)	Central Auditorium

Daily Attendance

Daily attendance in orchestra class is the basis for the orchestra curriculum. Continued learning in orchestra is built on the material that was learned the day before.

1. The school's attendance policy, as written in the Dow High School Handbook, will be enforced. Tardiness will also be handled according to the Dow High School tardy policy.
2. **All tests, quizzes, and assignments missed for an excused absence must be made up in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with the instructor for a make-up test. Any missing work not made up within one week will receive a zero.**
3. Bathroom – Please use the restroom before class. Due to the nature of a performance-based class, leaving the class hurts you and the rest of the group. Bathroom breaks will be limited to emergencies.
4. “I forgot something in my locker...” – If you must leave class to retrieve something from your locker, it will be reflected in your daily rehearsal points.

Performance and Extra Rehearsal Attendance

The success of a musical performance is dependent on the full participation of all the members. Therefore, attendance at all performances is **mandatory**. **Non-emergency requests for an absence must be submitted in writing at least two weeks before the performance. The request must be an email from a parent, or it must include a parent signature.** School-related conflicts will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, but the following may serve as a guideline.

1. An orchestra member may be excused from a performance for certain family obligations. Depending on the nature of the absence, the student may be required to complete some make-up work.
2. Requesting to be excused does not guarantee that the absence is excused. Approval must be given by the director. An example of an appropriate excuse would be taking a university's entrance exam when no other dates are available.
3. Emergency absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but in general, severe illness and family emergencies (i.e. death in the family) will be excused.
4. Extra rehearsals should be treated as extra class periods. Daily grade points will be awarded.

Addendum to MPS Wireless/Electronic Device Policy at Co-Curricular Events

For evening concerts, after-school rehearsals, weekend rehearsals, etc, instructional time will include the following.

- Concert times from the published call time to the end of the concert.
- Rehearsal times from the published beginning to end with the exclusion of specified breaks (which will follow the same rules as passing time).
- For larger events (like Rhapsody, RenFair, Festival, etc) teacher discretion will be used to determine instructional time. Students will be made aware of the policy on an event-by-event basis.

If students violate the electronic device policy, the device will not be collected in the moment. Instead, administration will be informed, and appropriate consequences will follow the next school day.

Leadership Positions/Seating (Symphony Orchestra)

The symphony orchestra uses assigned seating, and the first two seats of each ensemble are also leadership positions. The duties of these leadership positions include (but are not limited to) bowing and fingering parts, leading sectionals, assisting classmates with difficult excerpts, collecting and distributing music, and double-checking attendance at events such as MSBOA Festival. Other duties will be assigned by the director as the need arises. Because of the extra responsibility associated with these seats, leadership qualities will be considered in addition to playing ability when assigning seats. Students who are unable to fulfill these additional duties (or attempt to misuse their authority) are subject to removal from the first two chairs of the section.

Maintenance of Room and Equipment

Remember that this room is a shared space and needs to be kept in working order for everyone. Throw away all trash, and do not write on music stands or equipment.

The director and the school will not be held responsible for damage or loss of personal property left unattended in the classroom or in lockers. (i.e. Do not leave things in the classroom, and keep lockers locked.)

The student is responsible for the maintenance of his or her own instrument. If problems arise with an instrument, please inform the director as soon as possible.

Lockers

Lockers are issued for the sole purpose of storing an instrument and music. Lockers should be kept clean and well-maintained. Also, **lockers must be kept locked**. Lockers left unlocked after class will be locked by a member of the music staff. Repeated offences may result in the loss of locker privileges.

Music

Original music will often be issued during orchestra. All students are responsible for their own music, and it must be brought to class every day. Music must also be returned in a timely manner. Destruction of original parts will result in a fine. The fine will be based on the cost of purchasing a new part, but it will often range from \$2 to \$10.

Extra Supplies (Strings, Rosin, Shoulder Rests)

The school does not supply extra supplies to students. If you play a personal instrument, you are responsible for carrying extra strings, rosin, etc. If you need to use the school supply of these materials in an emergency, you must purchase them at the following rates. For school instruments, the district will pay for regular maintenance. However, the student is expected to pay for any repairs caused by misuse or negligence.

Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass
E - \$2	A - \$5	A - \$10	G - \$14
A - \$4	D - \$5	D - \$10	D - \$14
D - \$4	G - \$6	G - \$12	A - \$18
G - \$4	C - \$6	C - \$13	E - \$21

Eating and Drinking

Only water is allowed. No other food or drink, including gum, is allowed in the orchestra room. Please follow the school rules about water bottles.

Scholarships

Every year, the Dow High Music Boosters set aside funds to give scholarships to students interested in furthering their musical study. These scholarships can be applied toward summer private lessons and music camps. You may start turning in applications on November 1, 2025, and they will be accepted until May 1, 2026.

Uniforms

Wearing the appropriate uniform is part of the performance grade. An incorrect uniform will result in loss of points.

Symphony Orchestra

This uniform will be issued during the first several weeks of school. Students are expected to take care of their uniforms. The cost of lost or damaged items will be covered by the student.

- Pants/skirt, white tux shirt, uniform jacket, cummerbund, black tie, black socks/panty-hose, and close-toed black dress shoes.

Concert Orchestra

Concert Black—Black shoes, black socks/tights, black pants/skirt, black belt, black shirt/blouse with sleeves, black tie (optional)

If a student has a problem acquiring the appropriate uniform for any reason, please contact the director.

Grading

Grades are calculated as a percentage of a total point score and will include the following components.

Daily Rehearsal Points

Most of the marking period grade will come from these points. Up to 3 points may be awarded each class period.

3 Points – Student is...

- On time (in seat ready to begin 5 minutes after the bell)
- Prepared (student has instrument, music, and a pencil)
- On task (student actively participates in class)

Home/Class Work

This may include, but is not limited to concert analyses, personal and group assessments, and end of semester evaluations.

Playing Tests

There will be multiple playing tests throughout the year. Some will count towards the final grade; others will not. Some will be formal recordings. Others will be pass/fail play-offs in class. Students will always be aware of whether or not a test is graded.

Performances

Orchestra is a performance-based class, so the performances are a vital part of the learning experience. The performance grade will be based on attendance, rehearsal etiquette, and proper dress.

50 points – Student is...

- Ready to warm-up at call time
- In complete uniform
- Follows professional standards of conduct for rehearsal and performance

Final Semester Exam

The final exam may be written, performed, or both, and it will either be based on the music that was played throughout the semester, or it will serve as audition music for the Symphony Orchestra.

Evidence of musical growth will be considered as part of the final grade.

Honors Curriculum (.4 Credit)

The honors program of the H.H. Dow High School Music Department is offered to give students the opportunity for advanced musical training as a supplement to the music program and to receive credit for accomplishing those objectives. The director will grant honors program participation on an individual basis. Due to the function of this program as a supplement to the .3 music classes, the honors requirements are to be completed IN ADDITION to the .3 course objectives and performance requirements. Please be very sure that the goals are attainable as .4 credit holds more weight in the grade point average. It is recommended that students sign up for honors credit only after completing one year of .3 credit.

Practice Expectations

Home practice is orchestra's daily homework assignment. Practice the amount of time necessary to be able to play the repertoire. While a half hour a day is recommended, even 10 minutes can mean the difference between knowing and not knowing the music. Class time is not the time to do individual practice. If a student ever needs assistance with individual practice, please contact the director.

Please fill out and return the following information by FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025

Student Name: _____

Preferred phone: _____ Preferred email address: _____

Parent Name: _____

Preferred phone: _____ Preferred email address: _____

H.H. Dow High School Orchestra Contract

I agree to all the policies and procedures laid out in this handbook. I agree to fulfill my responsibility as an orchestra student/parent, and I will contact the director if any problems arise. I have written all the performance dates in my personal calendar, and I will not put any other commitments on those dates.

Print Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date
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Print Student Name	Student Signature	Date
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Carpooling Permission Slip

Periodically throughout the year, orchestra events may take place at other locations within Midland including (but not limited to) Central Auditorium, Midland Center for the Arts, and other Midland Public School buildings. In these situations, we often arrange carpooling among the students and the instructor. If carpooling cannot be arranged, the student, parent, and instructor will work together to find another appropriate means of transportation. **Please select ALL that apply from the following.**

_____ My student (who has a driver's license) may drive himself/herself to other locations within Midland for orchestra events.

_____ My student (who has a driver's license) may drive a carpool to other locations within Midland for orchestra events.

_____ My student may carpool with other licensed students to locations within Midland for orchestra events.

_____ My student may not participate in carpooling to travel to locations within Midland for orchestra events.

Student Name _____

Print Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date
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