



HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

Orchestra



Upcoming Freshman Information

"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys of learning."

-Plato

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

WELCOME

Welcome to the Harrison High School Orchestra program! We are so glad that you have taken the first step into joining the orchestra program at Harrison. Harrison's music department is one of the finest comprehensive music programs in Cobb County. The orchestra program consists of 3 skill-based orchestras which are designed to help students maximize their potential and growth. Harrison's orchestra program has traveled to and performed nationally and internationally including destinations such as: Orlando, Indianapolis, Nashville, Washington D.C., and London, England. The orchestra has a history of excellence and has been accepted to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference (1998, 2006, & 2025), the Music for All National Festival (2007 & 2025), and the American String Teachers Association National Conference (2008 & 2025). The orchestra program is open to all incoming freshman who have completed the string education program from their middle school. Freshman will begin their pathway at Harrison in the Freshman Philharmonic Orchestra. As incoming freshman will be registering soon, we are excited for your students to become a part of our wonderful orchestra family and want to give you the information you need in order to register for orchestra at Harrison. We hope that this information is helpful as you plan your next 4 years with us at Harrison High School.

Koji Mori
Director of Orchestras

Purpose

The purpose of this information packet is to answer some of the most common questions that incoming orchestra students have as they enter/enroll high school at Harrison.

How to Register for Orchestra

Registration forms will be sent to the middle schools (Durham, McClure, and Lost Mountain) from Harrison during the registration period in February-March. Register for ORCHESTRA on the appropriate forms that will be given to you and you will be registered for orchestra in the fall. If you have not registered for high school orchestra at Harrison by April, simply email koji.mori@cobbk12.org and write that you are interested in joining the orchestra program.

HB 251

We encourage all students to attend the high schools that they are zoned to attend. However, if you live out of district and are interested in attending Harrison, and would like to join the orchestra program, you will need to fill out the appropriate application/paperwork in order to be accepted as a "Choice Student" to Harrison under House Bill 251. **Applications are available on CobbK12.org and are generally available in February.**

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PROPOSED CLASS SCHEDULE

Grade	On-Level	Advanced	Highly Accelerated
8th	Adv. Math Foreign Language 1 Orchestra	Algebra I Foreign Language 1 Orchestra	Algebra I Physical Science Foreign Language 1 Orchestra
9th Fall	-9th Literature/Composition -Algebra I -Orchestra -Elective or *Health/PE	-Honors 9th Literature/Composition -Honors Algebra I -Foreign Language 2 (Honors) -Orchestra	-Honors 9th Literature/Composition -Honors Geometry -Foreign Language 2 (Honors) -Orchestra
9th Spring	-Biology -Foreign Language 2 or 1 -Orchestra -World Geography (not required) or other Elective	-Honors Biology -Honors Geometry -Orchestra -Elective or *Health/PE	-Honors Biology -Honors Advanced Algebra -Orchestra -AP Human Geography (not required) or other Elective
10th	-World Literature -Geometry -Chemistry -World History -Orchestra -Orchestra -Elective -Elective	-Honors World Literature -Honors Advanced Algebra -Honors Chemistry -Honors World History -Orchestra -Orchestra -Foreign Language 3 (Honors) -Elective	-Honors World Literature -AP World History -AP Pre-Calculus -Honors Chemistry/AP Chemistry Combo (2 semesters) -Orchestra -Orchestra -Foreign Language 3 (Honors) -Elective or *Health/PE
11th	-American Literature -Advanced Algebra -Physics -US History -Orchestra -Orchestra -Elective -Elective	-Honors American Literature -Honors or AP Pre-Calculus -Physics or AP Physics 1 -Honors US History -Orchestra -Orchestra -Elective -Elective	-AP Language -AP Calculus AB & BC or Honors Calculus -AP Physics 1 & 2 -AP US History -Orchestra -Orchestra -Elective
12th	-British Literature or equivalent -Statistical Reasoning or Pre-Calculus -Science (Any) -Government/Economics -Orchestra -Orchestra -Elective -Elective	-Honors British Literature or Honors Dramatic Writing -AP Calculus AB/BC or AP Statistics or Honors Calculus -Honors or AP Science (Any) -Honors Government/Economics -Orchestra -Orchestra -Elective -Elective	-AP Literature -GA Tech Linear Algebra & Calculus III (if admitted) or Multivariable Calculus/Differential Equations or AP Statistics -AP Science (Any) -AP Government/AP Economics -Orchestra -Elective -Elective

*Available in summer school through Cobb Virtual Academy

All course titles are subject to change by year and all courses are subject to availability by year.

FAQ

Is it possible for me to play a sport and be part of the orchestra program?

A: Yes! Many of our students are active in the sports and extra curricular activities at Harrison. Our orchestra students are also involved in: Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Colorguard, Dance, Fastpitch Softball, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Swim & Dive, and Volleyball.

Can I join the orchestra program and still be a part of other clubs, student government, and/or organizations?

A: Yes! Our orchestra students are involved in student government, many other clubs/organizations and are able to fully participate in the orchestra program.

I'm interested in taking private lessons but not sure I have the time. Does Harrison have a private lesson program?

A: Yes! The Harrison String Conservatory is designed to make quality one-on-one instruction convenient and accessible. All students are encouraged to take private lessons as this one-on-one enrichment experience will help excel a young musician at the fastest rate and help propel them to become their best. It is with private instruction that students get a custom diagnosis and plan of gaining more skills at a faster rate on their instrument. Students are encouraged to take private lessons from any professional musician of their instrument.

Do the older students have any kind of initiation for the Freshman?

A: No. When you join the orchestra program at Harrison, you are part of a family of musicians who take care of their own. Our upperclassmen are wonderful individuals who will welcome you from the first day. Lost in the halls or need help with homework? Ask an orchestra upperclassman and they will kindly help direct you to where you need to go. They really are really nice. :)

Why should I join orchestra?

A: Aside from the fact that you have already invested 3 years of hard work into playing your instrument, know that there are real benefits of playing through high school orchestra. Colleges prefer well rounded individuals who commit to long term goals such as the study of music. When college admissions see that a student has been part of orchestra for 7 years (6th-12th grade), they understand that the student has experience in fulfilling a long term field of study.

You can be eligible to receive the Fine Arts Diploma Seal on your graduation diploma and receive a special Fine Arts cord for graduation.

FILL OUT THE ORCHESTRA INFORMATION FORM:

Visit: www.harrisonorchestra.org/join or QR scan here:

