

# Dozier Middle School Orchestra Newsletter



Shawn Roberts  
Orchestra Director

December, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Inside this issue:

What's New?	1
Concert Schedule	1
Spring Trip	2
Membership Agreement Forms	2
Contact Information	2

## Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ Check out the Dozier Middle School Orchestra Website!
- ◆ See the 2012-2013 Orchestra Concert Schedule
- ◆ Time to start planning our Spring, 2013 Trip
- ◆ Don't forget to complete your Membership Agreement Forms

## What's New?



**Image of the Dozier Middle School Orchestra Website**  
[www.dozierorchestra.webnode.com](http://www.dozierorchestra.webnode.com)

I have had the pleasure of working with the Dozier Middle School Orchestra students for just about seven weeks now. Over the last seven weeks, we have made a tremendous amount of progress and I can't tell you how proud I am of all of my students. Of course, with a new director come changes. While I am not interested in changing the things that the Dozier community has come to love about its orchestra program, I have changed some things that will help it to become even better than before!

**Website:** I have set-up a brand new Dozier Orchestra Website, that will help me to communicate with students, parents and the community. At-Home Practice Assignments are updated every A-Day, so students and parents

can keep up with what should be accomplished each evening. The new website can be found at <http://dozierorchestra.webnode.com/>.

**After-Hours Phone:** An after-hours phone number has been established to help students and parents after-school hours. The phone number is the easiest way to reach me by phone. The number is (757) 528-2033. When you call, you will be asked to record your name. Please record your first and last name, and if I am available, I will answer the phone. If I am not available, or if the call goes directly to my voicemail, please leave a message with the following information: (1) your name, (2) your child's name, (3) the reason you are calling, and (4) a number which I can use to return your call. Because I have over 200 students, it is important that you leave all four pieces of information. Also, when I return your phone call, I want to be prepared to answer your question(s).

I am looking forward to an exciting year! Please take a look at the following stories so you know what will be going on with the Dozier Middle School Orchestra!

*Shawn M. Roberts*

Shawn Roberts, Director  
Dozier Middle School Orchestra

## Concert Schedule and Attire

### Concert Schedule

The following concert schedule has been created for the Dozier Middle School Orchestra Program:

Winter Concert: Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 7:00pm (Report at 6:15pm)

District Festival Assessment: Thursday, March 7, 2013 (Time TBD - During the School Day)

Spring Concert: Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 7:00pm (Report at 6:15pm)

### Attendance

Students are required to attend all performances. Students who do not attend a performance will receive a grade of "0" for the performance. Remember, performances count for 40% of the final grade for each grading period. Students are required to report to the Dozier Middle School Orchestra Room at their report time for each concert. Students marked tardy will lose points on their performance grade. A rubric will be sent home before the first performance.

### Concert Attire

It is important for all students to wear the appropriate attire for concerts. Since the guidelines are being communicated early, it is expected that all students will have the required concert attire before the first concert. Students who do not have the appropriate concert attire may not be allowed to perform in the concert, yielding a grade of "0."

(continued on page 2)

## Concert Schedule and Attire (ctd.)

(continued from page 1)

Boys: White, button-down collared shirt with a solid white undershirt. Black dress slacks should be worn with a black belt. Black dress socks and black dress shoes should be worn.

Girls: White, dressy blouse with solid

white undergarments. Black dress slacks or a black skirt (length below the knee) should be worn. It is highly recommended that ladies who play the cello wear black dress pants. Black dress socks or stockings and black dress shoes should be worn. Black stockings must be worn with a skirt. Boys and Girls: Earrings must be smaller than the size of a quarter. Students may

not wear more than two bracelets on each wrist (with a watch counting as one bracelet). Students may wear no more than one visible necklace.

What about the polo shirts? Since we did not have enough students return the polo shirt forms, we will be unable to use the polo shirts for the first concert. We will try again possibly for the Spring Concerts.

## Spring Trip

We are planning on taking a Spring Trip to Busch Gardens, in Williamsburg. The trip will be coordinated through the company, Music in the Parks. We will perform in a festival at a school in Newport News or Williamsburg either on Friday evening or Saturday morning of the event. Then, we will travel to Busch Gardens for the day on Saturday. Students will attend an awards ceremony on Saturday afternoon at the Royal Palace Theatre inside the park. We will return back to Dozier later in the evening for students to be picked up.

There are three phases to this performance: Establishing Interest, Establishing Commitment, Preparing/Performing.

**Phase I, Establishing Interest:** There are several criteria that need to be met in order to plan the trip. In order to be successful in the performance festival, we will need an appropriate amount of students from each instrument section attend (Violins/Violas/Celli/Basses). As well, we will need enough chaperones to attend to ensure appropriate supervision for our students.

Please see the attached information sheet and permission form for the spring trip. Please read through all of the information and complete the permission form. Permission forms will be due back to me on or before Monday, December 17th. DO NOT SEND PAYMENT WITH THE PERMISSION FORM. A deposit will be made shortly after returning from Winter Break.

**Phase II, Establishing Commitment:** After you return a permission form, I will assess to ensure that we have met the criteria stated above. If we meet the criteria, I will send information to the students who will be attending the performance. This will establish the actual date of the performance / trip so that parents can decide whether or not to make a commitment to the performance. Students who are going to attend make a commitment by paying a non-refundable deposit. If we still meet the criteria stated above, we then move into our preparing / performing phase.

**Phase III, Preparing / Performing:** During the remaining months before the performance, students will prepare for the performance. After-school rehearsals will be required throughout the spring to ensure the orchestra is ready to perform. During this phase, students will pay the remaining balance for the trip. For your convenience, a payment plan can be established to pay for the trip, or the payment can be made all at once. All payments must be made in full at least fifty days prior to the trip date.

**What to do now?** Now, all you have to do is complete the permission form, which is attached to this newsletter. Once we have established enough interest, we will move to Phase II.

## Membership Agreement Forms

A handbook was sent home with each student back in September. If you have not completed the Membership Agreement Form, it is attached to this newsletter. The handbook can be accessed online at <http://tinyurl.com/dmsorchestracontract>. If you cannot access the handbook online, or do not have the internet, please send a note in with your child and I will print you another copy. Thanks for your support!!



### Dozier Middle School Orchestra

Shawn Roberts, Director

Address: 432 Industrial Park Drive, Newport News, VA, 23608

Phone: (757) 888-3300 ext. 26111 | (757) 528-2033

Website: <http://www.dozierorchestra.webnode.com>