

2011-2012 Orchestra Member Agreement and Release (OMAR) and Student Code of Conduct



This Agreement must be signed and returned to MYS by Friday, August 26, 2011. Please sign this form after you review the policies stated on both sides. The 2011-12 MYS handbook also contains these policies, and will be distributed at the first rehearsal.

Orchestra Member Agreement

Attendance

The high level of musicianship required by MYS orchestras makes attendance a key factor in providing a complete, productive and worthwhile musical experience. Individual responsibility is critical to the ensemble's musical experience.

Absences

Students are allowed a maximum of two (2) absences per concert cycle (trimester). **There are no excused or unexcused absences.** The reason for the absence is not the issue; it is the absence itself. Avoid missing two rehearsals in a row. Vital information is given to students at each rehearsal. When a rehearsal is missed, particularly two in a row, it puts students at a disadvantage.

Exceeding the limit

Students with more than two (2) absences per trimester will not be allowed to play in the remaining rehearsals or perform in the concert for that trimester. Students with excessive absences may be asked to leave for the rest of the season.

Tardiness

Tardiness is unprofessional, irresponsible and detrimental to the rehearsal process. Please be tuned, warmed up and ready to play at rehearsal start time. Tardiness or leaving rehearsal early counts as half an absence. Students who leave early must inform the attendance monitors at check-in. Tardiness or absence due to extreme weather conditions is judged on a case-by-case basis. Arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal and check in with the attendance monitor every Saturday. If you do not check in you will be marked absent.

Dress rehearsals

Avoid missing dress rehearsals. Missing a dress rehearsal may affect the opportunity to play in the concert. Those in a leadership position (concertmaster, section leader), may lose their position if they miss dress rehearsal. Dress rehearsal details are emailed to MYS families at least three weeks prior to each dress rehearsal - plan on keeping the whole day clear of other commitments. As a courtesy to fellow musicians and the conductor, students are asked to report dress rehearsal absences to MYS by the fourth rehearsal of the trimester, if possible.

Concerts

All concerts are mandatory. Students are not allowed to rehearse with the orchestra if they cannot play the concert. A student absent from a concert without prior permission may be asked to leave the program for the rest of the season.

Scheduling

Record rehearsal and concert schedules on the family calendar so these dates are reserved prior to other planning. When possible, plan family vacations or weekend outings to avoid conflicts with rehearsals. Consider leaving for vacations after Saturday morning rehearsals. The 2011-12 MYS Calendar is available on the MYS website at www.mnyouthsymphonies.org

Withdrawing from the program

Students withdrawing from MYS for a trimester must notify the Operations Manager at the MYS office, in writing, at least three weeks prior to the start of a new trimester. Withdrawing from an orchestra any time after a trimester begins will result in reassignment of parts, re-seating of the section, loss of principal status and/or expulsion from the orchestra. Students who leave are responsible for paying full tuition for that trimester. Students will be allowed to return only if their position has not been filled and at the discretion of the conductor. As a courtesy, please tell the conductor before withdrawing from an orchestra.

Student Code of Conduct

Minnesota Youth Symphonies (MYS) is nationally respected for both its artistic level and the dedication of students and parents to making great music. As members of MYS, it is expected that our musicians be on their best behavior during rehearsal and while at any function where they represent the orchestra. Our goal is to make sure we do our best to keep all our students safe, maintain a positive public image, and provide the proper learning environment. Participation in MYS is subject to the observance of the organization's rules and procedures as outlined below.

General Rules

1. All members should behave respectfully and politely to all musicians, conductors, coaches, staff, parents, parent volunteers, and others associated with MYS.

(Student Code of Conduct, continued)

- Foul language will not be tolerated.
- Give the conductor your full attention. Be courteous by not talking during rehearsal.
- 4. Cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited during MYS rehearsals and concerts, and will be confiscated if necessary. These devices should be turned off and kept in music cases or left with a parent during rehearsals and concerts.**
- No food, drink, or gum will be allowed in the rehearsal areas.
- We are guests of Highland Junior and Senior High School and we must respect the space. We must leave the school in the same condition as we found it. Students must pick up after themselves. Damage to or destruction of property is prohibited.
- Abusing and/or not taking proper care of the MYS equipment or music will not be tolerated.
- Bullying will not be tolerated. Unruly behavior can become dangerous and will not be tolerated.
- All students must follow MYS policies with regard to punctuality, attendance, dress code, etc.

This list is not exhaustive. MYS has the right to impose other reasonable behavior expectations, as it deems appropriate.

Disciplinary Action

If a student violates MYS's behavior expectations, MYS will take appropriate disciplinary action to ensure that the conduct is not repeated. The nature of the disciplinary action will be determined by MYS in MYS's sole discretion on a case-by-case basis taking into account factors such as the severity and nature of the conduct, the impact of the conduct, and the student's history with regard to behavior violations.

Generally speaking, the disciplinary process may include the following:

- One verbal warning to the student.
- If the student continues the same behavior, they will

be asked to sit out the next rehearsal and it will be counted as an absence. The parents will be notified of the offense.

- The student will only be allowed back into the program when they ask to return, and acknowledge their error and make the proper apologies to those involved.
- The conductor has the right to refuse the student's re-entry into their orchestra.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, disciplinary action may include dismissal from MYS without prior warning or adherence to these steps.

Dismissal from MYS

Offenses calling for immediate dismissal from MYS with no refund of tuition include, but are not limited to:

- Possession of any weapon or dangerous object.
- Physical or verbal assaults or any act or words that shows threat to harm or endanger the safety of others. *(No fighting or unruly behavior of any kind is permitted)*
- Any threat to damage or destroy property, theft, or use of equipment belonging to MYS, Highland Junior or Senior High School without permission (at Highland Junior or Senior High School, at Orchestra Hall, your rehearsal retreat location, or any other location where MYS is gathered).
- Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs, or drugs obtained illegally.
- Dishonesty.

Procedures for immediate dismissal from MYS

- The student/child will be removed from rehearsal or other MYS function and taken to the Operations Manager or his/her designee.
- The MYS staff will call the student's parent or guardian and tell them the situation and ask them to come pick up the student.
- The student will not be allowed to return to the MYS program and tuition will not be refunded.

2011-12 MYS OMAR and Student Code of Conduct

When you sign this form you acknowledge that you have read, understand and agree to operate in accordance with the expectations and policies described in the **MYS Orchestra Member Agreement and Release (OMAR)** and the **MYS Student Code of Conduct**. You also hereby give your consent to MYS to use your likeness in videos, photographs or recordings from rehearsals, concerts and other MYS activities, with or without remunerations, by MYS and its assigns for promoting Minnesota Youth Symphonies. This form must be signed by parents or guardians and the MYS student.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature(s)

Date

Student Signature

Date