



Orchestra

2012-13

Course Description:

Orchestra is a course designed to strengthen existing playing/reading/aural skills and to develop greater technique and musicality with respect to the challenges presented by Orchestra literature. Literature that Orchestra performs is in addition to method books and materials and is comprised of a wide spectrum of musical styles and technical difficulty. All performance literature, method books and materials are oriented to the string section and the students therein. All students are expected to participate in all public performances; this is a course requirement.

This elective is open to all students in grades 9-12 who have had private or class instruction on a string instrument.

Course Content:

String orchestra/full orchestra literature

Scales

Arpeggios

Etudes in all twelve major and minor keys

Rhythm etudes

Dynamic studies

Articulation/bowing studies

Performance techniques particular to each instrument, with the focus on string instruments.

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Treasury of Scales (Smith), I Recommend (Ployhar, edited for strings), String Techniques for Superior Musical Performance (Frost), Bach & Before for Strings (Newell), Rounds & Canons (Bergonzi), Excerpts from "Teaching Strings (Klotman), Orchestral Bowing: Style & Function (Kjelland), Orchestral Bowing Styles (Rabin & Smith), acknowledged standard full orchestra/string orchestra repertoire, Instrumentalist Magazine brass/woodwind/percussion/string anthologies, Watkins-Farnum String Scale (standardized assessment method), teacher-developed materials.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to attend all regularly scheduled rehearsals and performances. Extra rehearsals outside of the school day are scheduled as needed for program preparation. Orchestra students should plan on regular practice sessions at home. All orchestra students are expected to complete designated ear-training exercises on Auralia as a component of their quarterly grade. All orchestra students are encouraged to complete at least one seating test (Watkins-Farnum String Scale) each academic year.

Appropriate dress is required for concert performances. Details regarding concert dress will be outlined at the outset of the school year.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grading System/Point Values

Marking Periods 1, 2, 3 & 4

All Period 1 Rehearsals - 10 pts.

All Performances - 90 pts.

All Out-of-School Rehearsals - 50 pts.

Auralia Ear Training - 100 pts. (Proficiency Tests)

Deductions:

Forgotten Instrument/Equipment/Music - "0" for that rehearsal/event

Concert Dress Infraction - 10 pts. per occurrence

Late - 10% deduction from value of rehearsal/event

Inattentive, talking - 9 pts.

Improper posture, gum chewing - 9 pt.

Instrument/equipment not put away - 9 pts.

Calculation of Grades: Averaged together according to weights and scale as below.

Rehearsals/Classwork = 50% of grade for that quarter

Students can expect to get full credit for this category if they arrive on time, with their instrument and music, and are ready to warm up and tune in a timely manner. Students may not do homework for other classes during rehearsal, nor may they arrange to make up test or other work for other teachers during class time. Rehearsals outside the school day do occur from time to time. A minimum of two weeks notice will be given. Such rehearsals will take priority over extra-curricular practices.

Performances = 15% of grade for that quarter

Reasonable efforts are made to arrange some kind of performance in every quarter, with the possible exception of the 1st quarter (see below). Performances include evening concerts, assembly concerts at local schools and/or appearances in other venues.

Quizzes/Tests = 15% of grade for that quarter

Content material relevant to this course will be covered in class and is also available in on-line sources. Students will be expected to know more than just how to play their own instrument. Content material will include concepts related to pitch, rhythm, notation, bow techniques, and fundamental music theory topics with the goal of integrating these concepts into performance for increased understanding.

Auralia Ear Training = 15% of grade for that quarter

Strengthening of aural (listening skills) is essential for total musicianship. Students are to complete the specified drills by the last day of the quarter. Students may work ahead. Students who meet the proficiency threshold for their grade/drill for the quarter will receive full credit toward this category. Students who do not meet the proficiency threshold will receive pro-rated credit in this category (Ex. a student scores 78% on tuning for the quarter. The grade entered in the grade book will be 78 points out of 100.)

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Midterm	10%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	10%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There are none at this time.