



7th/8th HLS ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK 2020-2021

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Course Description

7th/8th Grade Orchestra is an advanced instrumental performance ensemble/class that focuses on proper technique, music reading skills, musicality, ensemble skills, rehearsal skills, & performing a variety of musical styles. This is an academic & performance based class that meets every day. This ensemble depends on the successful effort & achievement of each individual to do their part to flourish. Orchestra is a yearlong course. Students enrolling in this course should be prepared to commit to participation for the entire school year. Communication about any issues that may arise is encouraged. Schedule changes should be considered as a last resort, and will only be honored at the end of the semester after discussion has taken place between parent, student, & director. Orchestra is co-curricular & has graded events before, during, & after school.

Music State Standards on which this class is based can be found at: <https://www.azed.gov/>

Course Objectives

The students will:

- Perform music from a variety of genres (classical, folk, pop, etc.).
- Perform music using proper technique & posture.
- Perform a high level of music reading including: correct rhythm, appropriate tempo, dynamics, & musicality.
- Participate in a variety of on & off-campus performances throughout the year.
- Demonstrate individual & group rehearsal techniques.
- Demonstrate self-discipline, reliability & responsibility.
- Demonstrate ability to work cooperatively with others toward a performance in large & small ensembles.

Materials Required

Students participating in Orchestra are responsible for bringing the following supplies to every rehearsal/performance:

- A method book - **Essential Technique 2000 for Strings (Bk. 3)**.
- A Tuner
- Rosin
- A cleaning cloth
- Rock Stop (CO & DB)
- A pencil (no pens)
- A folder or binder for sheet music

Grading Scale

A = 90-100% - Proficient work on all content objectives & advanced work on some objectives.

B = 80-89% - Proficient work on all content objectives.

C = 70-79% - Proficient work on most content objectives, although not on all.

D = 60-69% - Proficient work on at least half of the content objectives but missing objectives & is at significant risk of failing.

F = 50-59% - Proficient work on fewer than half of the content objectives & is failing.

F = 0% - No attempt made, missing work.

Orchestra Activity (Achievement) Grade

Students can earn points towards their Orchestra Activity Grade by doing the following each day:

1. Student participates in tuning & scale warm-ups.
2. Student participates in etudes/technique exercises.
3. Student participates in rehearsal of all pieces.
4. Student performs with correct posture.
5. Student makes changes to technique as requested.

Pride (Citizenship) Grade

Students can earn points towards their Citizenship Grade by doing the following each day:

1. Be prepared at the start of class, with proper materials.
2. Fully participate - avoid off-task behavior such as talking during instruction.
3. Stay in assigned seat or area at all times.
4. Be respectful to the teacher, others, and classroom materials.
5. Follow all other music room expectations not listed above. These expectations will be posted in the room.

Written work/material checks: From time to time, written assignments will be given to students to either work on in class or to take home as homework. Most written assignments will happen during class time. Points for these assignments may vary based on the assignment. Students will also be checked from time to time to ensure they are bringing all materials to class. Must-haves for any material check, however, are: instrument, a folder/binder with sheet music, & a pencil.

Performances: Concerts are postponed until further notice.

Orchestra is a performance-based course. Performances are an essential part of musical development. All school/district performances are required & are for a grade. Students who miss a performance must have a parent or guardian contact Mrs. Schrade prior to the performance in order to be excused. An unexcused absence from a performance will alter a student's grade.

The 7th/8th Grade Orchestra has the privilege of representing Highland Lakes in community performances as well. Such opportunities might include: performances at coffee shops or marketplaces, performances at nursing homes, performances at board meetings, & performances at school special events. These performances are not graded, but are strongly encouraged!

Technique/Part Assessments: These will occur periodically throughout the year. These assessments are based on state standards aiming to help assess achievement in instrumental & music reading techniques. Specific, standards-based rubrics will be used to score students when these checks occur. Points may vary.

Performance Dress: Concerts are postponed until further notice

All students are encouraged to purchase a Black Highland Lakes Performing Arts Polo. (See attached form for ordering information). Dress for all performances includes:

- Black Highland Lakes Performing Arts Polo. If a student is unable to purchase a polo, then they must wear either a solid black polo or t-shirt (no logos or designs...plain black only).
- Black pants (no leggings)
- Black socks
- Black closed-toe shoes (no high-heels or sandals)
- Long hair must be combed & tied or pinned back.

Students who dress inappropriately risk one of the following: losing points, being asked to not perform, or having to call their parents/guardians for appropriate attire to be brought.

Classroom Behavior Expectations and Consequences

Students will:

1. Stay in room in his/her assigned seat.
2. Raise his/her hand to ask a question.
3. Respect teacher, classmates, and property.
4. Give his/her best effort at all times.
5. Have appropriate materials each day.
6. Enter and exit the room quietly.

Students will **NOT**:

1. Talk during instruction time.
2. Put down other students.
3. Bring gum, candy or food.
4. Use tablets, mobile devices, etc. w/out permission

ISS Referrals

Referrals are only written in the event of defiance, inappropriate language, unsafe/threatening behavior, or chronic misbehavior.

Restroom/Nurse Usage

During virtual instruction, students can use the restroom at their own discretion. During in-person instruction, students will be allowed to use the restroom at the teacher's discretion. All students leaving the classroom will need to fill-in the sign-out sheet on the counter or have their agendas signed by the teacher. Nurse usage is limited to the following: personal emergencies, profuse bleeding, broken bones, vomiting/nausea, & blood sugar issues.

Tax Credit

It is highly encouraged for parents to participate in the Arizona State Tax Credit Program through the Deer Valley Unified School District. This tax credit money can be donated to the orchestra program, and parents receive 100% of the money back through taxes returns dollar for dollar. We have a limited budget to purchase music & supplies. Tax credit donations make it possible to order music & supplies.

Communication

It is crucial that teachers, parents, & students maintain open lines of communication. Contact information is provided at the top of the first page for questions or concerns.

Students with a positive attitude, personal responsibility, & self-discipline will have a quality learning experience. Each student will feel the satisfaction of accomplishment through regular attendance, good conduct, care of school property, & preparation of music/assignments during class. Most students are able to achieve these expectations without much difficulty.