

Orange High School

Visual & Performing Arts Department

Course Outline & Syllabus

String Ensemble

Mrs Gu
Strings Director
gujhieun@orange.k12.nj.us
973-677-4050 ext. 41185

Course Description

Welcome to Strings! Please be advised that this is a performance-based class, and we will be performing solo and ensemble works for each other during class and for several concerts, events, and festivals throughout the school year.

This course is for students who are new to or continuing study of an orchestral string instrument - specifically violin, viola, or cello. We will learn to read music notation, ensemble pieces, chamber music, and solo repertoire from various genres.

Course Goals

- Develop the aesthetic sensitivity, musical knowledge, and independent ensemble performance skills of each orchestra member
- Develop high level thinking required for complex reasoning, critical thinking, problem solving, and listening skills through music performance
- Promote and develop positive interactions such as teamwork, cooperation, leadership, acceptance of differences, discipline, and creativity
- Enhance thinking in all other subjects while maintaining the integrity of music as its own subject

Student Objectives

- Perform independently and in groups a variety of string orchestra and full orchestra repertoire
- Perform with appropriate musicality, musical knowledge, and ensemble performance skills
- Demonstrate and utilize correct rehearsal skills and etiquette

Mission

The mission of the Orange Youth Orchestra is to provide exemplary musical experiences that enable players and audience members to be engaged actively and reflectively, using high quality examples of orchestral literature from a wide range of genres and eras.

Topics of Instruction

Posture	Notation	Beat	Musicianship	Bow Hold
Articulation	Rhythm	Ensembleship	Dynamics	Musicality
Blend	Tone Quality	Melody	Balance	Mood
Harmony	Tempo	Stage Etiquette	Stage Presence	
Timbre		Texture Form		
Sound Production		Instrument Care		

Classroom Conduct

- Make responsible choices
- Use kind words for yourself and others
- Strive to do more than is expected
- Include yourself in all class activities
- Care for instruments and school equipment

Students are to be in class every day on time and prepared with all class materials and ready to learn. Students are to adhere to conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. One minute after class and phone call to parent/guardian
3. Lunch detention
4. Termination of Instrument Contract
5. Referral to Administration

Depending upon severity of behavior, steps 1-4 may be skipped.

Grading & Make-up Policies

- 25% Tests
- 25% Authentic Assessments
- 20% Quizzes
- 20% Classwork & Participation
- 10% Homework

Students are responsible for all missed assignments due to absence. Students with excused absences will be allowed up to one week upon return to class to submit missing work. Unexcused absences will result in a negative impact on individual grades.

Concert and Performance Policy

As a member of the Orange Youth Orchestra, **concerts are MANDATORY** and will each count as an Authentic Assessment or Test grade. Absences will only be excused due to family emergency and must be submitted in writing from a parent/guardian directly to Mrs G ASAP.

Winter Concert - Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Spring Concert - Thursday, May 29, 2025

High Note Music Festival - TBA

*Video recordings may be required in lieu of an in-person performance. Please be advised that these video recordings will be MANDATORY and will count as test grades.

Concert Attire: Formal attire in all black is required for all performances unless otherwise specified. Skirts and dresses must be floor-length and tops must cover the shoulders.

Failure to adhere to the concert policies will result in loss of field trip and festival participation privileges, performing in the concert, and can result in failing grades.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and essential for developing musicians. Absences negatively impact personal growth as well as the overall ensemble's growth.

You are expected to be in class on time and ready to go every day. Those who arrive after the bell must have a pass to be admitted to class. Those who arrive late without a pass will be marked late and have points deducted from their daily classwork grade.

In the event our district or building implements virtual learning, all students are to report to the Google Meet on time with cameras ON and properly adjusted to clearly show their face.

Academic Dishonesty

Students and their parent/guardian should refer to the Student Handbook regarding the Academic Dishonesty Policy. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated and will result in a zero grade for the assignment.

Late Work

You are expected to hand in assignments on time. Late assignments will be marked down a grade unless otherwise cleared with the instructor.

Restroom Policy

A pass to the bathroom will be granted at appropriate times during class. If this privilege is abused, it will be taken away. No passes will be given during the first 10 minutes and last 10 minutes of class.

Required Supplies and Materials

1. Pencil - you may NOT mark music in pen/marker/etc
2. Instrument (district-provided)
3. Folder
4. Chromebook. Cellular devices / Smartphones are not sufficient for most classroom activities
5. School Gmail account to access Google Classroom & other course materials
6. Any additional material distributed in class (sheet music, other resources)

These are mandatory for every class.

Recommended Texts

You and the instructor will discuss which instrument is the best fit for you.

Please do not purchase method books until you have been assigned an instrument.

- Suzuki Method, Book 1-3
- String Explorer, Book 1-2
- All for Strings, Book 1-2