

Northview High School
String Orchestra Syllabus 2016-2017
Tim Aucoin - Instructor

1. Method Book

Essential Elements, Book 2 Hal Leonard Publishers

Students are expected to have their instruments, music, necessary accessories and a pencil each day.

2. Course Description

String Orchestra emphasizes the mechanics of string instruments, note reading, rhythm, pitch discrimination, expression, and music literacy. Performance expectations increase at each sequential level. ***This is a performance course chosen by students interested in learning to play or continuing to develop performance skills.*** Rehearsals and performances held outside of the regular school hours are considered required coursework. Students are expected to participate in the course for the entire school year.

3. Course Outline

- a. Improve and increase performance skills—Proper fundamentals are stressed
- b. Explore music career opportunities
- c. Develop knowledge of ethnic music
- d. Develop awareness of music literary resources
- e. Develop audition procedures
- f. Develop values towards music
- g. Engage in orchestra as a performer and listener

The music curriculum is delivered in a “spiral” manner. This essentially means that basic elements are taught and then re-taught at a higher, more sophisticated level until understanding and skill development reaches an appropriate level.

- More specific information may be found in the actual curriculum document which is on file in the director’s office.

4. Grading Scheme

Orchestra grades are comprised of four categories:

- A. 40% = Performances and Rehearsals
- B. 30% = Classroom Competency
- C. 15% = Playing/Written Tests
- D. 15% = Exams

*Details of the Grading Contract are located in the Orchestra Student Handbook.

5. Special Projects

Students may elect to participate in extra performance opportunities. Such activities may include, but not be limited to: All-State Ensembles, Fulton County H.S. Honor Orchestra, Solo and Ensemble Festival, etc...

6. Homework Expectations

Homework assignments, which primarily consist of home practice, will be a regular occurrence. Thirty minutes of concentrated practice per day is a good guideline. Good practice does not mean long practice

7. Provision for Improving Grades (formerly known as the “recovery” policy) –

1. Recovery is for students who, despite a conscientious effort and communication with their teachers, have failed to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of course standards. It is not for the student who has been failing for many weeks and then wishes to recover during the final days of the course. Opportunities for students to recover from a 74 or below *cumulative* average will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements. *Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery.*
2. Students may initiate recovery on major assessments starting with the second major assessment of the semester as long as they have made a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Unexcused absences may prevent this opportunity.

3. So that students stay focused on the content at hand and don't become overwhelmed and fall too far behind, they must initiate recovery on a major assessment within five school days of being informed of the grade on that assessment. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher.

8. Honor Code: Cheating has been defined as giving or receiving information relating to a gradable experience including the use of sources other than those specifically approved by the teacher. Plagiarism and the related act of allowing another student to use one's work are not to be considered inconsequential pranks. Such acts involve serious moral implications; they constitute lying and stealing. They are unjust to teachers who spend valuable time evaluating the paper. They are ultimately harmful to the student committing the act, who is deliberately undermining his/her integrity, destroying his/her reputation, and breaking the trust that must exist between a student and teacher. An honor code violation results in a zero on the assignment, no opportunity to make up the work, no opportunity for recovery in the class, and disciplinary action. **For the complete honor code policy, visit the Student Handbook on www.northviewhigh.com.**

9. Technology Policy: Northview computers are only for school research and projects. The Internet may not be used for personal reasons. Any unauthorized use of the internet will be grounds for disciplinary and/or legal action as well as loss of Internet privileges. Attempts to log into the internet using another person's password, falsely posing as a school system administrator, or other security violations are grounds for termination of privileges and disciplinary measures. Computer vandalism (including food/drink in a lab) is prohibited and will result in immediate termination of Internet and computer access as well as appropriate disciplinary action. Violators are subject to criminal prosecution. **For the complete technology policy, visit the Student Handbook on www.northviewhigh.com.** It is a violation of the above policy

- to download or install any executable programs (such as games, MP3 players, video players, chat programs, FTP programs, music or video sharing programs, etc.) to a school computer, or on to any student's share folder (Z drive).
- to store any files (documents, pictures, videos, etc.) on any student's share folder (Z drive) that are not directly used in an assignment or teacher directed work; no personal documents, pictures, music videos or other files.
- to use the school computers and internet connection to access email, games, chat rooms, sharing sites, ecommerce sites, etc, unless specifically directed by the teacher.

10. Scheduled Help Sessions

Students may request help sessions Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. with a one day notice.

11. Teacher/Parent Communication

Parents will be notified by letter or telephone if their attention is required for assistance in student remediation or for notification of outstanding accomplishment. Conferences will be scheduled upon parental request.

12. Absence Make-Up Procedures

Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher to request make-up work. Make-up work must be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. The student will receive the actual grade on the make-up work if the absence was "excused." Make-up work for "unexcused" absences may be reduced by 10 points. Make-up work submitted late will receive a zero.

13. Discipline Guidelines (Quick Version)

- a. Be on time.
- b. Remember instrument, music, pencil, and other accessories.
- c. Practice!
- d. No electronic devices allowed out in class (phones, music players, etc.)
- e. Respect the rights of others

14. Parent Connect/Progress Reports

Parents are able to check student progress and assignment deadlines online in this and all Northview High School classes. The school will also issue progress reports every six weeks.

15. Fees

All orchestra students are asked to provide a \$75.00 orchestra lab fee which will be used to purchase/maintain instruments, purchase music, provide transportation to events, and support orchestra activities.

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I have read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in the 2016 – 2017 String Orchestra Syllabus.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Thank you for your support of the Northview HS Orchestra Program. We look forward to another great year!

Tim Aucoin
Fine Arts Department Chair
Director of Orchestras