



Orchestras

Student and Parent Handbook

July 2023

Dear Chaparral High School Orchestra Students and Parents,

Welcome back to another great year at Chaparral High! I'm very excited about continuing our musical journey this year! I have been teaching orchestra for over 20 years in Michigan, Texas, Indiana, Tucson and this is my eighth year in Scottsdale. I am confident the high caliber of this program will only continue to excel, and I know the students will continue to succeed. I look forward to making great music throughout the year and believe this will be the best year for Orchestra EVER!!!

Please take the time to read and understand the following pages. This should make policies and expectations clear to you. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this handbook, or about any of the events happening throughout the year.

IMPORTANT – Enclosed at the end of this handbook is a Syllabus Agreement Form. Please read carefully through the handbook, then print, sign, and have your son or daughter return the form to me by the end of the 1st week of school indicating that both parents and students have reviewed these materials together. **Please be sure to make note of the required concert dates now to avoid any conflicts.** If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to making great music this year and am so happy to be here!

Musically Yours,

Shana Roberts



Shana Roberts | Orchestra Director
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Scottsdale Unified School District
Engage, Educate and Empower Every Student, Every Day

Arizona Academic Standards in Music Education

The Arizona Academic Standards in Music are the topical organization of the concepts and skills every Arizona student should know and be able to do throughout their Preschool through Grade 12 experience.

Expression of Music. The expression of music is the demonstration of human thought and emotion through the medium of performance, which is a product of knowledge and skills gained in the study of music.

1. Performance of musical works, accurately and expressively, demonstrating evidence of self-evaluation and personal interpretation at the minimal level of 4 (intermediate) on a scale of 1-6
2. Composition of more complex music in several distinct styles
3. Arrangement of pieces for voices or instruments other than those for which the pieces were written in ways that preserve or enhance the expressive effect of the music.

Creation of Music. The creation of music is the demonstration of learned skills in the composition, improvisation and arranging of music. Creating music involves writing music, fashioning new music from an existing piece of music or forming an entirely new piece of music.

1. Improvisation of a stylistically appropriate vocal or instrumental solo over a given pattern of harmonic progressions.
2. Composition of more complex music in several distinct styles.
3. Arrangement of pieces for voices or instruments other than those for which the pieces were written in ways that preserve or enhance the expressive effect of the music.

Theory of Music. The theory of music is the understanding of the distinctive language, conventions, mechanics and structure of organized sound. Investigation of music theory allows for a more complete understanding of all aspects of the musical process, including musical performance and composition.

1. Interpreting notation of aural musical elements and ideas.
2. Classification of musical genre, style, historical period or culture.
3. Critical, informed evaluation of musical works.

Aesthetic Valuation of Music. The value of music focuses on the knowledge needed to make an informed evaluation and to provide a well-thought-out critique about a musical piece. It also addresses the beauty, heart, and soul of music. Valuing music will permit individuals to distinguish between a scholarly critique or an individual judgment of music.

1. Awareness of appropriate behavior in cultural activities.
2. Critical evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of musical performances.
3. Verbalization and defense of oral and/or written aesthetic judgments using appropriate evaluation criteria.
4. Explanation of opportunities available to them for further musical growth and professional development.

Music standards can make a difference because they speak powerfully to two fundamental issues that pervade all of education: Quality and Accountability.

Expectations...

for Students -

Be respectful at all times

Be responsible (be on time with all materials every day – no gum)

Communicate with Mrs. Roberts about your individual progress and concerns before they become an issue

****Cell phones will be left in backpacks and not on your person at all times.**

Practice enough to learn the music in your folder at a high-quality level

Give your best effort daily and be excited to be part of something great!

for Parents -

Support your student, the Orchestra Program and Performing Arts Department as a whole

Read this handbook

Provide necessary materials and supplies for your student

Provide a consistent space and time for your student to practice

Assist in acquiring and maintaining your student's concert uniform

Plan family activities around scheduled orchestra performances and events when possible

Communicate with Mrs. Roberts if there are any concerns or questions

Be a positive role model for your student

Encourage your student to take private lessons

for Mrs. Roberts -

Provide a safe, encouraging, and fun learning environment

Be prepared for rehearsals

Treat all students in a fair manner

Be positive

Be organized

Design activities for student centered learning

Respond to concerns in a timely manner

Communicate effectively

Be a positive role model for young people

Rehearsal Etiquette:

Stop playing immediately after the cut off

Practice at home, not during rehearsal

No food, drinks (other than water), or gum in class

No electronics allowed, unless being used for class activity

(Cell phones may be confiscated during class)

Be on time! Be prepared!

Bring your OWN music, class materials and pencil to EVERY rehearsal

Get to know your stand partner/classmates

Dismissal comes from the teacher, not from the bell

Respect anyone who is on the podium

Be professional. Do not talk during rehearsal unless you are called on; breaks will be given.



Participation

Music ensembles require a TEAM'S BEST effort. When part of the team is missing, it is hard for each member to function properly. Therefore, every member's presence is needed at all classes, rehearsals, and performances. All school attendance policies apply.

These are acceptable reasons for an excused absence:

- Illness
- Death in the family

The following are NOT acceptable reasons for absence:

- Work conflict
- Lack of transportation or large amounts of homework (plan ahead!)
- Other recitals or performances
- Sporting event

Being present, on time, and engaged is necessary for success of the orchestra ensemble. Be present, be engaged, be on time, and bring the best of yourself. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each rehearsal. If you must be absent, communicate with Mrs. Roberts prior to the absence. All school attendance policies apply.

*Attendance at performances outside of the school day is **REQUIRED** and will affect the student's grade.*

Grading Policy

Instrumental music classes are academic subjects for which students receive credit similar to any other class. Therefore, as in any other curricular subject, grades must be earned. Semester grades are evaluations of students' progress on the music standards previously explained. Five criteria will determine a student's grade, as outlined below.

- 1) Performance Component Assessments
 - Concert performance grade
 - Scale Tests
 - Playing Tests
- 2) Written Component Assessments
 - Common Assessments
 - Theory Work and tests
 - Quizzes
 - Listening Tests
 - Projects and/or Compositions
 - Concert Evaluations
- 3) Ensemble/Teamwork
 - Positive class contribution and giving effort to improve skills, tone, intonation
 - Being PRESENT, Being ENGAGED, Being ON TIME
- 4) Final Exam

As music learning should improve with practice, there is always a chance to re-do assignments for a better grade. Contact Mrs. Roberts if you would like to resubmit an assignment.

Please be aware that students who miss any required performance will not receive an 'A.' Grades are cumulative by semester. Progress reports will be available on Synergy/ParentVue. Reports are also e-mailed to parents periodically throughout the semester.

Practice Time

In order to have an excellent music program, each individual must do their part. It is an expectation that high school orchestra students should be practicing outside of class. Keys to successful practicing include consistency, challenging yourself, and having fun. There will be performance exams that hold students accountable for their practice time and progress. Remember: Practice makes permanent!

Concerts/Performances

All concerts and performances are REQUIRED. As stated previously, it is essential to successful musical results to have 100% participation. Students with un-excused concert absences will NOT be able to make up concert points. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Concert Attire

Uniforms will be provided by the school, dresses or tuxedos. Tuxedos will include a bow tie and cummerbund. We will need parent volunteers to help with uniform fittings. If you'd like to volunteer, please email Mrs. Roberts. All uniforms are expected to be returned at the end of every school year freshly dry-cleaned with a receipt dated after the last performance.

Students wearing dresses will need to provide their own flat, black, close-toed dress shoes and black nylons/tights. No bra straps should be visible at any time. Students wearing tuxedos will need to provide a white long-sleeved tuxedo shirt, black dress shoes, and black socks. Please see examples of acceptable dress shoes and tuxedo shirt below.

***NEW:** Students/families are responsible for arranging a professional hemming of pants or dresses to fit the student if needed.



Concert Etiquette

During concerts, students will be expected to listen to other musical groups that they are not performing with AND provide appropriate support as an audience member. Audience members are expected to remain for the **ENTIRE performance**. If you must leave the auditorium for any reason, please do so during intermission, or during a changing of groups on stage. Please refrain from talking during a performance, as it is discourteous to the performers and other audience members.

Finally, please do not use flash photography while a performance is in progress. Recordings are allowed for personal use only. However, it is against copyright laws to download performances on public websites such as YouTube.



Practice Tips

Daily practice is the key to success on any instrument. Quality is more important than quantity. 15 minutes can be more beneficial than 2 hours, if done properly. Here are a few tips to aid in achieving that:

- Find a quiet place with few distractions
- Pick a certain time during the day and stick with practicing at that time every day
- Develop a warmup routine to help prevent injury and body fatigue (scales, etudes, stretches)
- Set obtainable goals for the practice session
- Spend more time on passages that are difficult, there is no need to practice the parts that can easily be played
- Use books written specifically for your instrument
- Practice with purpose, persistence, and positivity – I promise you will be pleased!

Sheet Music

Students will need to provide their own 1" black binder, sheet protectors and at least two dividers. All music will be provided unless students have accepted a special project. Students will be responsible for having their black binder with music at *every* rehearsal and concert. Each student is responsible for being able to play the music in that folder. There will be periodic binder and music performance checks during class for grades.

Annual Awards

Orchestra Awards will be given at an Awards Banquet at the end of the school year. During this ceremony, outstanding and improving students will be recognized. All seniors will also be recognized at the banquet and final concert. If you are interested in helping plan the banquet, please let Mrs. Roberts know.



Leadership Applications

Throughout the year, it is beneficial to have student leaders assist with certain tasks in orchestra. Students who are interested can help plan events, lead sectionals, decorate bulletin boards and display cases, tutor younger musicians, in addition to other tasks as determined. Leadership applications will be available the first week of school for the following positions: President (motivational leader, spokesperson, director assistant, form collector, concert publicist) Vice President (party planner, photographer, guest greeter, spirit apparel) Secretary (attendance help, organize music in folders, file music), Treasurer (plan fundraisers, collect receipts, order class shirts), and Historian (take/collect photos/end of year slideshow), and Section Leaders (lead sectional rehearsals, enforce bowings, music checks).

Private Lessons

ALL students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to take **PRIVATE LESSONS**. Private lessons advance, strengthen, and expand students' musical abilities, while increasing the chances for acceptance to special by-audition events such as college scholarships opportunities and Regionals/All-State Orchestras. Most importantly, private lessons address the individual needs of students to support performance: both in the classroom and as a soloist.

Investing in private instruction is priceless when it really comes down to it - it truly is a most worthwhile investment with immediate returns!

Tri-M Music Honor Society

The **Tri-M® Music Honor Society** is an international honor society for high school students. This National Association for Music Education (NAfME) program recognizes students for their academic and musical achievements, rewards them for their accomplishments and service activities, and inspires other students to excel at music and leadership. Tri-M® offers many different advantages: not only does it create community within your music department, it also benefits your school and community as well. All Orchestra, Band, and Choir students are invited to become active members. There are additional leadership positions through Tri-M as well. Check the calendar for upcoming meetings.



CHSO Calendar of Events 2023-2024

Parents & Students: Make note of these dates NOW to avoid conflicts.

Calendar is also posted on www.chaporchestracommunity.com

August

- 15 – Mod Pizza Party Fundraiser (Scottsdale/Shea) – ALL DAY
- 23 – CHS Parent Night (5:30-7:30)

September

- 6 – California Trip Parent Meeting 6:00pm (Cocopah Room M10) OPTIONAL
- 9 – Student Leadership Workshop 8am-2pm – REQUIRED FOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
- 12 – Orchestra Chipotle Night (Scottsdale/Shea) 4-8:00pm
- 29 – CA Deposit Receipt Due \$400

October

- 17 – California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser (ALL DAY)
- 19 – Fall Orchestra Festival Field Trip (Time TBD)*
- 24 - MS/HS Orchestra Glow Concert 6pm @ Chaparral HS*
CALL TIME is 30 minutes BEFORE performance

November

- 4 – Goodwill Donation Drive (tentative)

December

- 1 - CA Balance Receipt Due
- 18 - MS/HS Orchestra Concert @ Chaparral 6pm @ Chaparral HS*
Students must arrive by 5:15pm

January

- 16 – Portillo's Night (Time TBD)
- 20 – AMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival (Time TBD)
- 26 – CA Paperwork & Medications DUE
- 26-27 – AMEA Regional Auditions (Time TBD)

February

- 4 - Parada del Sol (8am-12)+*
- 13 - California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser (ALL DAY)

- 16-17 – AMEA Regional Festival (ALL DAY – by audition only)
- 29-3/3 - California Disneyland Trip

March

- 2/29-3/3 – California Disneyland Trip
- 8-9 – AMEA All-State Auditions
- 22-23 SUSD Arts Festival – Time is TBD*

April

- AZ Fine Arts STATE SEAL DUE (No exceptions)
- 9 – Creamistry Night – 4-8pm
- 11-13 – AMEA All-State Festival (by Audition Only)
- 25 – Spring Concert 6pm @ Chaparral HS*
Students must arrive by **5:15pm**
- 27 - Orchestra Goodwill Donation Drive 10am-2pm

May

- 2 - Senior Awards Performance 4pm-5:30pm (Symphonic ONLY)*
- 8 – District HS Arts Banquet – Scottsdale Center for the Arts – 6pm
- 14 – CHS Orchestra Awards Banquet 6pm (tentative)

*Required for a grade.

Any additional performances and rehearsals will be communicated with as much advance notice as possible.

**Chaparral High School
Orchestra
Syllabus Acknowledgement Form**



***Print page OR Email THIS PAGE only.**

Please return by Friday of the 1st week of school.

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent Preferred Phone(s): _____

Preferred Parent Email(s): _____

We have read the information in this handbook, checked the calendar dates for possible conflicts, and agree to help our student follow the guidelines and procedures outlined.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the information in this handbook, checked the calendar dates for possible conflicts, and agree to follow the guidelines and procedures outlined herein.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you have concerns or questions, please contact
Mrs. Roberts at 480-484-6575 or sroberts@susd.org