

Tulare Union High School

String Orchestra

Class Syllabus

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Course Description

String Orchestra is designed for the non-beginner student who has experience on a string instrument (violin, viola, cello and upright bass). Students play music literature from different eras written for string ensembles. Small ensemble groups (2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello) are initiated for community events and participation in solo and small ensemble festivals. Orchestra students belong to a performing organization that provides opportunities and experiences permitting them to participate and progress to their fullest potential. Instruction includes general music education in the areas of major/minor scales, chord construction, and sight-reading difficult rhythm patterns. All members are required to practice outside the school day. Periodic individual auditions are scheduled to validate this procedure and rate results into a section seating order. Students have the opportunity to listen to audio orchestra music recordings and watch videos of musical groups in orchestra performance. Required listening includes classical, baroque, contemporary and other music styles. Records of student assignments and audition scores are kept by the teacher for semester grading purposes.

Grading Scale

Each student begins each semester at zero (0) points. As the grading period progresses, the student will have opportunities to gain points towards their final grade. Final grades will reflect the percentage of points earned from the total points available.

Benchmarks (Performances)

Performances = 1000 points

Class Participation (Rehearsals)

100 points for class participation during scheduled events. Participation includes: following class rules, Playing your instrument during rehearsal, proper sheet music assigned by Mr. Capote and following dress code rules.

Assignments

(Scales, Music Memorization, Music Notation, Music History, Writing Assignments)

Points will be assigned by Mr. Capote per scale(s), music assigned to play, music notation and music history, benchmarks.

GRADING SCALE

(Students will accumulated points and final grade will be based on the percentage of points accumulated)

90% and above	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
59% and below	F

MAKE-UP WORK

As a performance-based class, it is impossible to “make-up” classroom instruction due to the nature of the ensemble-oriented instruction. You will perform a vital role in the success of your ensemble and exemplary attendance is required of all members. Should you to be absent from class and/or performance, you will need to complete a make-up assignment/benchmark given by Mr. Capote. Assignments are available to make-up for these events if the absence is excused. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the make-up assignments/benchmark within the time frame given by Mr. Capote. Absences from announced after school rehearsals and/or performances must be avoided if at all possible and need to be excused prior to the absence. Students who do not notify Mr. Capote in advance, and miss more than two rehearsals and/or performances, will have a mandatory meeting with their parents and Mr. Capote regarding their membership with the Tulare Union High School String Orchestra.