

2019-2020

Orchestra Handbook

Mrs. Shauna Hormiere– Orchestra: hormiere.shauna@cusd80.com

Course Description

Hi parents and guardians!

Congratulations on the start of your musical journey with your child! Orchestra is a rewarding subject that teaches much more than music notes on a page. Orchestra is open to any student who desires to learn a string instrument and read musical notation.

In class, the students will receive instruction in proper technique, posture, note and rhythm reading, tone, intonation, dynamics, and ensemble playing in a group performance setting. Orchestra is also a class designed to help build self-esteem, cooperation, self-motivation, and life skills through the study of your chosen instrument. Orchestra, like any other subject in school needs reinforcement. Students are expected to take instruments home on a regular basis to practice the skills and techniques learned in class. As a reminder, Orchestra is a year-long commitment.

Course Materials

Method Books - *These books may be purchased at most local music stores or ordered through online retailers.*

All Orchestra students- **MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE THE PROPER BOOK FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT:**

- Essential Elements for Strings (Book 1 with EEi:) - \$5.49
- Concert Tunes for Beginning Strings, Book 1. By Dale Brubaker - \$6.15
- Concert Tunes for Intermediate Strings, Book 2. By Dale Brubaker (6th grade) - \$6.15
- Foldable music stand (for use at home/concerts)
- 1 ½ “ 3 ring binder with view cover
- Pencil

Instrument Supplies

All instruments require supplies in order to be maintained and performed correctly. Most of the supplies listed below can be purchased as part of your instrument's "cleaning kit" at any music store. Please bring this list with you to the store so that you can be sure that you are purchasing the correct items.

1. **Rosin:** This is applied to the bow in order to produce a sound, and it comes in a small plastic container.
2. **Fingertapes:** Tapes on the fingerboard used for finger placement.
3. **Cleaning Cloth:** This is a soft cloth to wipe down the instrument after playing. Make sure your child cleans off their instrument regularly at home, as this avoids rosin build-up and the damage of the instrument.
4. **Shoulder Rest or Sponge:** (violin and viola only) This is used to place under the chin rest, so the instrument may be held with the correct posture but without neck irritation.
5. **Endpin holder:** (cello and bass only) This is a round rubber disk or a strap used to keep endpin in place so it does not slide on a hard floor.

Subject Matter

Students will learn basic instrument technique including left hand position and finger patterns. Students will learn how to pluck the strings and play with the bow. Students will learn basic music theory skills such as learning how to read musical notation on a staff. Musical expression, composers, music history, and performances are included in the curriculum as well. Technology is used in the music classroom as a tool for learning. Mathematics skills are an integral part of music too! Music creates a well-rounded learner that leads to success in all areas of life.

Concert Attire

Males: Boys should plan to wear nice dress pants, a button up shirt and nice dress shoes if available. Ties are a nice addition, but are not required. Any color scheme is acceptable as long as it is not distracting.

Females: Girls should wear either a knee length skirt or dress, or pants with a blouse. Any color scheme is acceptable as long as it is not a distraction. Please follow all other school dress code requirements.

All performers: Jewelry and fragrances (perfume/cologne) may NOT be worn during performances. The only exception for jewelry is for earrings that do not hang past the ear lobe. Hair must be out of the face for males and for females. (Females please pull your hair back and put it up into a ponytail if applicable.) We are to treat our performances as a formal event.

Grading Policies

Grading in band is divided into two categories: Content and Skills, and Behavior and Participation. Students will be assessed based on the following:

CONTENT AND SKILLS

Meets Standards:	The student mastered most of the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester. (MS) 80 – 100%
Progressing:	The student mastered some of the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester and/or shows evidence of developing understanding or skills. (P) 60-79%
Area of Concern:	The student was unable to master the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester and/or shows little evidence of developing understanding or skills. (AC) 0-59%

BEHAVIOR AND PARTICIPATION

Excellent:	The student consistently demonstrates willing and active participation and consistently applies the <i>Behaviors That Promote Learning (BTPL)</i> * in the classroom. (E) 80-100%
Satisfactory:	The student usually demonstrates willing and active participation and is usually consistent in the application of the BTPL in the classroom. (S) 60-79%
Improving:	The student is demonstrating willing and active participation on a more regular basis and is more consistent in the application of the BTPL in the classroom. (I)
Needs Improvement:	The student demonstrates a lack of active participation on a regular basis and is inconsistent or acts counter to the application of BTPL in the classroom. (N) 0-59%

* for details on the *Behaviors That Promote Learning (BPTL)*, please visit the class website.

Content and Skills Grading

Playing Tests and In-Class Observation – 70%

- Students in Orchestra are required to demonstrate their growth and proficiency through a variety of methods. Students are monitored for progress throughout the year on a general basis in class, however students will be required to demonstrate their skill to me at least once per quarter through formal playing assessments. Playing assessments will be done through in person as needed.
- Students who do not demonstrate proficiency through their playing tests are offered targeted suggestions for improvement, and given more chances to re-submit their performance after further practice. Feedback will always be positive and encouraging for the students!

Written Quizzes – 30%

- Students will be asked to complete short quizzes and formative assessments throughout the year as a means of monitoring progress in areas of music literacy, technique, musical vocabulary, and other standards-based areas.

Behavior and Participation Grading

Participation – 40%

- Bring instrument to every Orchestra class. After three class periods of not having instrument, the student will be issued a band participation/behavior reflection form to complete and their grade will go down one letter grade for the quarter. Please use the Orchestra calendar in your binder to keep track of when you need your instrument. It is necessary to have an instrument to participate in class.
- Bring classroom materials every day, including **books** and **pencils**
- Students should be averaging at least 10 minutes a day of practice.
- Come to class with a positive attitude, ready to learn and give your best effort.
- Attendance: Be in assigned seat with instrument, book, and pencil out, ready to play by the time the setup timer has expired.
- Be personally responsible for your setup (chair, stand, instrument) and cleanup each class.

Concerts/Performances – 40%

- Concerts make up such a high percentage of the student's grade due to the fact that band is a group activity. An absence from a performance impacts the whole group. In addition, students work extremely hard bringing musical pieces up to a performance standard. For this reason, they deserve a chance to display their efforts and talents.
- If it is not possible for the student to perform in the concert, contact from a parent/guardian in advance is required in order for the student to be given a make-up excuse. In order for a student to be considered excused, it needs to be regarding family emergencies, illness, etc... Failure to plan is not an excusable reason. Students are given calendar dates the first week of school in order to plan accordingly.
- In cases such as emergencies or sudden illness where prior notification is impossible, a parent or guardian must contact Mrs. Hormiere as soon as possible. The student will be given one week after the concert to turn in the assignment.

Behavior – 20%

- Students are expected to treat all members of our groups with respect, kindness, and fairness.
- All school rules will be enforced per the student handbook and CUSD guidelines.
- Bullying – CUSD has a zero tolerance policy for bullying.
- Excessive talking during class, or playing an instrument out of turn to intentionally disrupt a lessons is taken seriously. Students who are choosing to cause disruptions in rehearsal will be warned and redirected in class. Students who do not correct their behavior will be issued a reflection form and lose points from their behavior grade.

- Students can earn back points for their behavior grade by demonstrating excellent behavior in the future.

For Parents:

As a traveling teacher the best form of communication with me is via email. My email address is shauna.hormiere@gmail.com

- When we are getting close to concerts I will send concert reminders out via email.

Obtaining an instrument:

- I would highly encourage you to rent your instruments through any local music store. It might seem enticing to buy a cheap instrument from an online retailer, but often times these instruments are of poor quality and can break often. If they do not break or have problems, the students often struggle to play them because of their poor build quality.
- The best way to find a shop to rent from is by talking to friends and neighbors, or by using your favorite search engine via the internet and search for local instrument rentals.
- CUSD Instruments: We never want money to be the reason a student cannot play an instrument. If money is a hardship, CUSD has an instrument rental program. There is a small fee at the beginning of the year, if you qualify and are selected your student can use a district instrument for the whole year.
 - If you are interested in a low cost CUSD instrument, CUSD rental information is due to Orchestra before the end of class on Thursday, July 27th. No exceptions. Applications will be sent home on Monday, July 23rd.

Make an investment!

- Please be involved in your child's learning. Just like any of the STEM courses your students take in the classroom, concepts taught must be reinforced via activity in the classroom and homework at home. The same applies for learning an instrument. Learning to play a musical instrument is challenging at times, and your child will need encouragement and insistence from you to push past the hard work. At the beginning, students may have trouble making sounds on their instruments. This is completely normal. I expect students to practice between 60 and 90 minutes per week.
- Make practice fun! Be involved with their practice; make it fun by having your student perform mini impromptu concerts for you, where they can play a song they learned in class that day.

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR ORCHESTRA

- Read through this packet, discuss with your child.
- Complete the attached Orchestra Contract on the following page and return to Orchestra before the end of the day on Friday, July 28th.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

We, the parents/guardians, acknowledge having read this handbook and promise to assist our child and support them to the best of our ability. We will help them to abide by all rules and expectations contained herein.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

PLEASE RETURN TO ORCHESTRA BY FRIDAY, JULY 26TH

Students who have not acquired and instrument and book and/or returned their signed Orchestra contract by Friday, August 10th will be moved to general music.