

DESA Orchestra
Grades 9 through 12
Course Syllabus

Course Overview:

Orchestra is for various wind, string and percussion instrumentalist. This course is designed to improve their skills as ensemble performers. Students will have a daily lesson emphasizing music literature from various periods of history. The ultimate goal of the Orchestra course is for all students to perform at a high level while being exposed to orchestral literature thereby preparing them for their senior recital and college entrance auditions.

Specific objectives are as follows:

1. Correctly interpret and perform music literature according to historical timeframe or composer's intent.
2. Collaborate with other musicians to form cohesive ensemble music with attention to musical elements including tempo, balance, dynamics, phrasing, and interpretation.
3. Play a variety of repertoire, emphasizing all appropriate literature.
4. Develop sight-reading skills

Content Standards:

DCPS music content standards are basis for the core skills and concepts addressed in this course:

1. Undertake daily instrument technique exercises.
2. Learn to play through music notation and develop sight reading proficiency.
3. Develop proficiency in performing assorted etudes and compositions.
4. Learn to play a varied repertoire of music
5. Understand the history and culture of the instrument
6. Learn to improvise

Course Materials:

1. Instrument
2. Instrument accessories (i.e. mutes, reeds, etc...)
3. Percussion instrumentalists must have a complete percussion kit to include pitch pipe and stick bag (hard and soft timpani mallets, concert drum sticks, soft and hard melodic instrument mallets, etc...)
4. Pencil and music folder

Course Requirements

1. All rehearsals and performances (which include all adjudicated festivals i.e. World Strides, DCPS music festival) are mandatory. This includes after school rehearsals in preparation for performances (work scheduling and extra-curricular activity conflicts will not be acceptable reasons to miss rehearsals).
2. Prepare music through a rigorous daily practice schedule.

Grading Procedures

Students will be graded by:

1. Quality of class and homework assignments.
2. Evidence of a consistent daily practice schedule
3. Class attendance and promptness. Any absence must be supported by a note from home signed by a parent or legal guardian. Tardiness without a pass will affect the student's grade.
4. Rehearsal protocol
5. Class participation
6. Preparation for and quality of performances.
7. See attached grading rubric for further explanation.

Grading Breakdown

The grade for each advisory will be based on the following areas:

Participation----10%

Practice and Application----50%

Assessments----40%

Dress requirements for juries and recitals

Students will not be allowed to perform and will receive a failing grade for the jury or recital if they are not in the correct performance attire as indicated below. All performance attire must be approved by the ensemble director before the performance.

- Male – black tailored suit (no saggy cuffs), white collared shirt, long matching black tie, black socks, and black shine-able dress shoes. For additional information, please seek advice from the designated male advisor.
- Female –black long skirt(T-length/mid-calf or longer) with black collared blouse, black/off black stockings and black dress shoes. No cleavage, midriff, bare shoulders or pants/pant suits allowed. All jewelry worn for performance must be modest and conservative. For additional information, please seek advice from the designated female advisor.

It is a requirement to pass this course that students participate/attend ALL rehearsals(including mandatory after school rehearsals) and performances.

I have received and read the Orchestra Course Syllabus and agree to meet all course requirements and objectives as listed in the syllabus.

STUDENT’S SIGNATURE DATE

PARENT’S SIGNATURE DATE

Please return this signed form to the teacher.