

Chamber Orchestra Syllabus 2019-2020

Ben Roberts, Instructor
email: broberts@conejousd.org

Chamber Orchestra is an Honors class for experienced string players who have an interest and ability to perform and rehearse with a high level of musicianship. Chamber Orchestra is the face of the program and has additional performances and responsibilities as compared to the other orchestra classes.

Grading and Requirements:

Class Rehearsal (50 points per full week)

All of the following contribute to a student's class rehearsal grade.

Students should be inside the classroom at the time of the bell, and should be in their assigned seats with instrument out within three minutes of the bell.

To use the restroom, take the hall pass, non-verbally communicate your intention, and quietly leave class.

Students leaving the classroom early or without permission will receive an F for the day. Student leaving the classroom through deceit will receive an F for the day. Do not open the door and/or stand in the corridor before the bell.

Students should have a pencil readily available during class. Music and tuners should be put away at the end of class.

Cell phone use is not allowed during rehearsals. Cell phones should not be on or underneath chairs or stands. The same follows for laptops or any other electronic accessories. Any deviations of this, for exceptional situations only, must be cleared by Mr. Roberts at the student's initiative using Inbox/Outbox. An exceptional situation is defined as an incident that happens on rare occasions, not on a daily or weekly basis.

Students should be listening and ready to play at all times during rehearsal. This means no reading of books, no laptops, studying for tests, talking over the teacher, or practicing your part individually during rehearsal. Appropriate posture should be maintained.

Students are responsible for knowing their part and practicing outside of class hours. There is an expectation of at least one hour of practice time per week on class music. This will be monitored through classroom observation and playing tests. Playing tests may be done within class time while in orchestra seating due to time constraints.

Students should be supportive of each other and collaborative.

Each Class is worth 10 points for a total of 50 for a full week.

To reduce the time wasted on interpersonal debate, Mr. Roberts may choose to not verbally address these requirements within any given class period. The requirements remain in effect, regardless.

Study Halls

Students get 2 personal study hall days per semester. These do not accrue over the year, so the count starts at 2 for each new semester. Do not use these within the three class rehearsals before a concert. Study halls should be requested through the Inbox/Outbox system, and not merely demanded at the beginning of a class

TOHS Orchestra Performance Information and Criteria

Students are graded on all performances and events in the syllabus unless otherwise noted. Graded performances and events are classified as required.

Occasionally, performances are added to the schedule. With a notice of one month they are considered required as well.

Required performances are worth 100 points each and the vast majority of students receive all 100 points.

Each unexcused absence from a required performance drops a student's semester grade by 10 %, regardless of final point totals.

Attendance

Students are only excused from performances for *equivalent* school related events, or for illnesses that require absence from school. Equivalent events include school-related games and meets, final exams, school club trips and academic competitions.

For conflicts involving equivalent school related events, the student should give notice in writing using the class Inbox/Outbox as soon as possible. Failure to do so will impact their concert preparation grade.

Sports practices, comic-con, rock concerts, and out-of-school club meets are examples of activities that will not merit an excuse from a performance. Out of school job commitments also do not constitute an excuse. It is the responsibility of the student to coordinate with their job.

Unexcused absences are not eligible for make-up work.

Students must arrive on time for the dress rehearsal (call time) to receive full credit for a performance. Call time will be one hour before the start of a performance unless otherwise stated. Unexcused late arrivals will result in a reduction of one letter grade, defined as 12 %, for the performance. Call time means the student is in their seat and ready to play. Students must clear all dress rehearsal conflicts using Inbox/Outbox before the concert.

In the cases when there is traffic, or the student's ride is late, parents should email Mr. Roberts after the fact if they want the tardy excused.

Performance Dress Standards

Unless otherwise stated, performance dress is all black and formal. Students who do not dress appropriately will receive a reduction of one letter grade for the performance.

Dress Standards:

Everyone:

- All Black
- Formal black dress shoes. No gym shoes.

Girls:

- Dress; blouse/dress shirt with sleeves OR
- Slacks/dress pants; blouse/dress shirt with sleeves

Boys:

- Slacks/dress pants; button down dress shirt with long sleeves

Other Factors Influencing Performance Grade

Student is ready to play when the conductor raises the baton

No cell phone visible or in use on stage

Fingernails are at playing-appropriate length, not extending past the tips of fingers

Student has their music, and an instrument in good working order

Student is not talking or making noise offstage in a way that distracts the performance

Other Policies

Students may have other assignments in the class, such as music theory work.

Students in Chamber Orchestra must have playing-appropriate fingernails. Fingernails that are extended- defined as past the tips of the fingers - impede intonation, tone, and distort a student's playing technique. There are no quality string orchestra players in the world who have extended fingernails.

Students who cannot comply will have their grade reduced by one letter grade for each class rehearsal and concert. An extended time period of non-compliance will result in the student being given alternate assignments rather than playing with the ensemble.

Students must participate in either a fundraising, activities, promotions, or a concert set- up/ tear-down group, as part of the class. The group must be active.

Student who have lower than 91% on *either* their concert grade or class rehearsal grade must re-audition for Chamber for the next year.

Inbox /Outbox System

Individual logistical issues for each student should be resolved through the Inbox/Outbox system. This includes: anticipated late arrivals and absences for concerts, study halls, and the like. Students should write their request on a blank sheet of white paper using complete thoughts, in the form of a query and not a command. Submissions without a name and date may be disregarded. Requests submitted immediately before class will be attended to at the discretion of Mr. Roberts.

Performances and Events (others may be added with due notice)

* denotes events contributing to class grade

*Fall Concert

*Future Lancer Night

*Winter Concert

*Holiday Breakfast Concert

Trip (i.e. Disneyland from 2019)

*Dolce Fundraising Dinner

Social Event (ie The Stadium from 2019)

*SCSBOA Festival

*All District Festival

*Spring Concert

*End of Year Park Potluck Un-Banquet (Event)

*Baccalaureate

Chamber Orchestra Syllabus 2019-2020

I have read and understand the requirements for Chamber Orchestra.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Due By: End of School Year May 17, 2019

Fall Concert Procedures 2018
Sign and Return by Monday, October 29
Worth 40 points. Each day late is the loss of 10%.

PART A

- The Fall concert is Tuesday, November 6th.
- The concert will be from 6 pm to 7pm
- The dress rehearsal will be from 5 pm to 6 pm.
- The concert is worth 100 points in total

Part B: Conflicts

- At 5 pm, students should be ready to play – not arriving, searching for music, tuning, etc
- Any scheduling conflicts, whether you have told me verbally or not, must be submitted to the Inbox by Thursday, November 1st.
- Submitting a scheduling conflict does not guarantee it will be approved. Therefore it is suggested that “the earlier the better”.
- Any deviation from the above` may result in the reduction of 10% in the concert grade
- Unexcused concert absences result in a 0. See syllabus for details on what constitutes an excuse. Apart from illness or bereavement resulting in absence from school, all requests must be submitted in writing to the Inbox. A request does not constitute approval.
- If your parents are dropping you off late due to traffic etc, have them text me at the phone # I gave them.

Part C: Dress Code

- For Everyone: All Black
- For everyone: Dress Shoes only. No Boots, or Gym Shoes. No white socks.

- Option A: Dress (to the knees or lower), blouse with sleeves
- Option B: Slacks or Dress Pants, blouse with sleeves
- Option C: Slacks or dress pants, buttoned down black shirt, full length sleeves

- Remember that the point of a dress code is to project an aspect of uniformity. While some high schools have mandated outfits that they buy for the students, it is my opinion this does not teach students the intricacies of how to dress for an occasion as an adult.

- Any deviation from the dress code (Part C) may result in the reduction of 10% in the concert grade
- Any personal questions and/or requests for an exception should be submitted to the Inbox. Another option is to talk to me after school between 2:50 and 3:00, or by appointment.

I have read and understand the Fall Concert Procedures Form (you may submit this slip separately)

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

5.16.2018