



Symphony Orchestra Syllabus

Class Description: The Symphony Orchestra is a high school level ensemble containing strings, winds and percussion instruments/players. The repertoire chosen and performed has a minimum level of difficulty as would be listed on the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Class C High School Symphony Orchestra Basic Music List. The OHMI Symphony Orchestra performs three (3) concerts and participates in Youth Arts Coalition Orchestra Festival.

Student Expectations: Students need to bring their instruments, music, and a pencil to class every week. Students are expected to practice their instrument throughout the week. To receive credit for this class, you are expected complete the following:

Attend class each week – Mondays, 4:15-6:15 p.m.

Practice at home 5 days during the week for minimum of 30 minutes.

Grading: Grades/HS credit for this class, and will be based on the following criteria:

- Class participation, preparation, behavior & attendance will be 40%.
- Concert and Festival participation/attendance will be 30%.
- Assessments – both formal (announced performance test) and informal (assessment that occur as I am listening throughout class/rehearsal/performances) will be 20%.
- Practice records will be 10%.

Grades are based on the demonstration of the improvement or growth in a student's musical skills. All of our students are talented, but growth occurs when these talents are developed and refined. If a student participates in Solo & Ensemble Festival, Youth Arts Coalition All-State Orchestra or Band, or any other Honors Band or Orchestra, they will receive additional credit towards their grade because that involves a significant time investment outside of class.

Required Performances/Concerts:

- December Concert
- Pre – Festival Concert
- Youth Arts Coalition Orchestra Festival
- May Concert

Course Calendar:

Unit 1, Class weeks 1-13 – Focus on proficiency in the techniques of shifting, vibrato, and bow usage to be demonstrated in the music of the music for the December Concert.

Unit 2, Class weeks 14-23 - Focus on ensemble skills of a unified sound, intonation and interpretation as will be demonstrated in the Festival Concerts.

Unit 3, Class weeks 24-33 - Focus on advanced techniques and skills while exploring symphonic music used in movies and other popular modern genres in addition to tradition symphonic music genre for the May Concert.

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