

Arroyo Seco Junior High School

Beginning Orchestra Syllabus 2023/24

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Welcome to a new year in our wonderful Arroyo Seco Orchestra Program. I am looking forward to a superior year and am ready to provide a quality experience for all instrumental music students.

This syllabus is extremely important. Many questions that are asked throughout the year are answered in this handbook itself. PARENTS AND STUDENTS SHOULD READ THE ENTIRE HANDBOOK, DISCUSS IT, AND KEEP IT FOR REFERENCE FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR.

Course Description

The Beginning Orchestra class offers the students an opportunity to learn to play an orchestral instrument for an entire academic year. The students and the teacher will collaborate to choose from violin, viola, cello, or double bass for the student to study for the entire year. Physical characteristics, personality traits, prior musical experience, instrument availability, student interest, and the need for balanced instrumentation within the orchestra will all be considered in instrument selection. The goal of the class is to give the students the fundamental skills needed to continue their development in the Advanced Orchestra. Given the reputation of the music program, students are held to a high standard. Students will have the opportunity to perform music in various concerts and professionally adjudicated festivals. Participation in performances outside the school day is highly suggested in the class. Members of the Beginning Orchestra are also encouraged to seek private lessons and grow individually through solo performances and auditioned ensembles. The class meets during the academic school day and fulfills the student's elective credit.

Only when every member of our orchestra puts forth a 100% effort, can an orchestra attain its goals in musical achievement and service to the school and community. You are embarking on a lifetime of musical enjoyment. The more you invest in yourself, the more you will be rewarded. Together we will make this year better than the last. I am excited for the 2023/24 school year to get started and I look forward to working with every one of you!

Course Content

Students will learn/ develop:

1. Care and maintenance of their instrument.
2. Fundamental techniques of tone production.
3. Expressive aspects of performance such as dynamics, articulation, and phrasing.
4. Fundamental rhythms.
5. A better understanding of world cultures, history, and other forms of art through music.
6. Music notation and music reading.
7. Orchestral literature in a variety of styles and difficulty.
8. Sight-reading skills.



Student Expectations

Standards for Music Rehearsals:

1. Always show respect for each member of our ensemble, including the director or other adult leaders.
 2. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak. You miss out on what is being taught and so do the people around you if you are talking during class and/or rehearsal time.
 3. Gum, food, and sugary drinks are not to be consumed during class time for both instrument and performer safety.
 4. Use appropriate language.
 5. Do NOT play your instrument without permission. It is a distraction for you and those around you.
 6. Be in your seat with your instrument and materials no more than three minutes after the bell rings.
 7. Make sure that you ALWAYS have your materials for rehearsal and/or class. This include your instrument, music, method book, folder, pencil, reeds, valve/slide oil, rosin, and a good attitude. If you are in need of something, let the Director know as soon as possible.
 8. Always check the board for important assignments or announcements.
 9. Participate fully in class.
 10. Take care of the music room. Keep it clean and orderly.
 11. Do NOT touch instruments or materials that do not belong to you.
 12. You must bring your instrument to school every day you have rehearsals.
 13. Be prepared to play the day's music. You must practice at home to make consistent progress. We are as strong as our weakest player. When one person does not practice, it hurts the entire ensemble's progress. Don't let others down! Do your part to always play your best.
- *The Daily Participation category of a student's grade will be determined by compliance with the rehearsal standards*

Consequences

If any of the classroom rules or expectations are violated, the following consequences will occur:

- 1st Offense- Verbal warning
- 2nd Offense- Student conference with Mr. Fulleman
- 3rd Offense- Referral and phone call/email sent to the parents
- 4th Offense- Student/ Parent/ Teacher Conference will be scheduled
- 5th Offense- Student will be sent to the office for escalated consequences.



Tardy Policy

In order for students to be marked on time, the student must meet the following expectations:

1. Students are expected to have their instrument, folder/sheet music, and music stand set up three minutes after the bell has rung. If the previously listed items are not set up by the end of the three minute timer, the student will be marked tardy.

Assignments

Students are responsible for the 5 types of assignments that constitute their grade in the class:

1. Weekly Training Log: (10 points each): Students are expected to train *for a minimum of 120 minutes per week*. The training chart must be turned in every Monday for full credit. One point will be subtracted every day that the sheet is turned in late. **Only practice charts with a parent signature will be accepted.** Any extra time spent practicing over 120 minutes will be given extra credit. Students also have the opportunity to practice during nutrition, lunch, or even afterschool to earn time. In order to count this time, have Mr. Fulleman sign you out. Extra copies of the practice plan can be found online on the Arroyo Seco music website <arroyosecomusic.weebly.com>
2. Playing Tests: (20 points each): Students will be required to perform short tunes or exercises in class as a part of their grade. They will be evaluated on posture, position, tone quality, intonation, rhythmic and melodic accuracy. All playing tests will be given advance notice for appropriate time to prepare.
3. Daily Participation: (5 points per week): Participation begins with being prepared. Students will receive 1 point for participation each day if the student has **ALL** the items necessary to succeed while following the standards of rehearsal listed above.
4. Concert Performance Attendance: (40 points) Every student in the music program will have fun and exciting opportunities to perform various concerts throughout the year. **Attendance is mandatory for all performances.** Included in the course syllabus is a schedule of this year's performance calendar. Please review the days, mark them in your calendar, and notify Mr. Fulleman immediately if you foresee a scheduling conflict. Concert performances are considered **Final Exams**.
**We understand that life happens and there are unforeseen accidents, and so if a family, medical, or personal emergency arises, please contact Mr. Fulleman as soon as possible to discuss possible solutions.*
5. Other Assignments and Tests: Students will receive in-class music assignments, journal entries, and music theory tests occasionally. These assignments will need to be completed as homework if it is not completed in class.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Students may earn extra credit by:

1. Attend a professional or college-level concert that showcases their classroom instrument such as a recital, concerto performance, or a free master class. 15 points of extra credit will be given to the student upon writing a reflection of the performance with proof of attendance such as a ticket stub or a program. Mr. Fulleman may guide you with finding events to attend and can help if there are any financial restraints.

Late Work Policy

All assignments turned in after the due date will drop one letter grade. For example, an "A-" becomes a "B-." If a student misses a day that the assignment is due, no penalty will apply but the assignment will be expected upon return to receive full credit. If an assignment was given during the student's absence,

the student will be given the same amount of class days as his or her absence to complete the work. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain and complete all materials given in the days absent from class.

Grade Scale

The cumulative grade of the student will be based on the following point system:

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| A+ 97-100 | B+ 87-89 | C+ 77-79 | D+ 67-69 | |
| A 93-96 | B 83-86 | C 73-76 | D 63-66 | |
| A- 90-92 | B- 80-82 | C- 70-72 | D- 60-62 | F 0-59 |



Cell Phone and Electronic Devices

Our classroom will adhere to the no electronic device policy that has been established at our school. Please see those rules for specifics. At times, cell phones and technology may be used to enhance classroom learning only when directed by Mr. Fulleman.

Instrument Selection

At the beginning of the school year, students will have the opportunity to learn about and try all the major instruments in the string orchestra. Students will have instruments demonstrated for them during the first weeks of class and they will get to try out each instrument as well. At the end of the first few weeks, students will get to list their top three instrument choices and will be assigned based on physical characteristics, prior musical experience, instrument availability, student interest, and the need for balanced instrumentation within the orchestra will all be considered in instrument selection. Students will be assigned an instrument for the entire year.

*If you are interested in purchasing your student a musical instrument after this choice, please please contact Mr. Fulleman to help facilitate this process and give suggestions of reputable brands in order to save you and your student's future headaches.

Renting Your Own Instrument

The benefits of renting your own instrument are as follows:

1. Your rented instrument will be newer than a school instrument.
2. The rented instrument will, in most cases, be of better quality than school instruments.
3. A rent-to-purchase plan can be used to purchase the instrument to use in high school.
4. Repairs are usually covered through the insurance policy.
5. Students are guaranteed a fully functional instrument to give the student the best chance to succeed.

Instrument Storage

A safe space will be provided for the student to keep their instrument during the school day so that they do not need to carry the instrument from class to class. Instruments are to be stored before school and picked up after school.

Instrumental and Financial Responsibility

Once a school instrument has been “checked out” to a student (all school instruments are numbered and recorded), ***students and parents assume financial responsibility for damage, loss, or any repair needed of school instruments due to misuse.*** All 8th grade and non-returning students will turn in their instruments at the end of the school year. The instrument will be checked for dents, broken parts, and condition at this time. School instruments will be assigned and a loan agreement will be given to be signed at a future date.

Students are expected to bring their school instrument home to practice and bring the instrument back to class the next day.

MATERIALS

Students will be required to keep a well organized ½ inch 3 ring spiral binder for all paper supplies. Sheet protectors for music are also required. Students needing assistance in acquiring these materials, please speak to Mr. Fulleman for help.

Having the right equipment can make a big difference in the success or failure of a music student. In some cases, having the necessary supplies can affect the life or death of a musical instrument! Protect your investment. The following is a list of accessories that students will need for their instrument. These items will help prolong the life of all instruments, school or privately owned. The items can be found at local music stores, see below for a list of music stores surrounding our school area. Financial assistance will be available for students who need it and will be allocated on a case per case basis. Contact Mr. Fulleman with any questions.

**Students needing financial assistance to provide the necessary supplies to be successful in class are encouraged to ask Mr. Fulleman.*

IMPORTANT SUPPLIES:

Violin/Viola: rosin, chin rest, cleaning cloth

Cello: rosin, stop rock, cleaning cloth

Bass: rosin, cleaning cloth

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: metronome, tuner, wire music stand

For supplies, rentals, and instrument purchasing:

Bertrand's Music
2618 Burbank Blvd
Burbank, CA 91505
(818) 848-9665
Hours: Tues-Fri 2pm-6pm
Sat 11am-3pm

Nick Rail Music
25868 McBean Pkwy, Valencia, 91355
(661) 288-2345
Hours: Monday- Friday 11:00 AM- 7:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Concert Performance Attire

To match the high performance standard, musicians in the Beginning Orchestra will wear semi-formal attire for all performances. Students are asked to dress as stated below:

Option 1- White long-sleeved button up dress shirt, black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, and a black belt. Ties are encouraged.

Option 2- A black dress (must be all black, no white, grey, or any other color) and black dress shoes. Students may also wear black pants and a dressy black or white blouse, or a white long sleeve dress shirt.

***Tennis shoes, jeans, and t-shirts are not appropriate.**



Student Help/Parent Consultation

It is the goal of Mr. Fulleman to provide the highest education possible for all students. Mr. Fulleman is excited to collaborate with students and parents to achieve success for each student. Prior arrangements

can be made to meet before school, during lunch, and after school to achieve the goals of the student. The best way to contact Mr. Fulleman is via email at kfulleman@hartdistrict.org.



Follow us at @arroyosecomusic on Instagram!

Important Dates Beginning Orchestra 2023-2024

| Fall Semester 2023 | | | |
|---|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Activity | Date | Time | Location |
| Advanced Orchestra Fall Mini Concert w/ Choir | October 27, 2023 | 7:00PM | Arroyo Seco Knutson Hall |
| Orchestra Winter Concert | December 5, 2023 | Call time: 6:30 PM Performance: 7:00 PM | Arroyo Seco Knutson Hall |
| Band Winter Concert | December 6, 2023 | 7:00PM | Arroyo Seco Knutson Hall |
| Spring Semester 2024 | | | |
| Activity | Date | Time | Location |
| District Honor Band Concert | March 2, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Hart HS Auditorium |
| Downs Fischer Jazz Festival | March 8, 2024 | 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM | Golden Valley HS |
| Music in the Parks Festival | April 27, 2024 | 7:00 AM- 10:00 PM | Knott's Berry Farm |
| Incoming Saugus Student Informational Meeting | TBD (May) | TBD | Saugus HS Band Room |
| Band and Orchestra Spring Concert | May 22, 2024 | Call time: 5:45 PM Performance: 6:30 PM | Arroyo Seco Amphitheater |
| Band and Orchestra Banquet | May 24, 2024 | 5:00-8:00 PM | Arroyo Seco Amphitheater |

Bolded events are mandatory concerts that are part of the student performance curriculum.

**Event times and dates are subject to change with as much notice as possible given.*

Donations

Students have the privilege of using Arroyo Seco instruments and services for free. According to the law, students are entitled to a “free and public education”, however, the cost of maintaining a high quality program is tremendous! Without the financial support of Arroyo Seco families, services and necessities like instrument repair, sheet music purchases, festival fees, transportation, and replacing old and damaged instruments would not be possible. **A donation of \$50 or more would be greatly appreciated to keep the music program successful.** The amount of donations determines the grandeur of the program. **Donations directly benefit the students in the program.** Please help keep music at Arroyo Seco triumphant by making a payable check to Arroyo Seco ASB or a cash donation. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

** It is important to note that no student will be excluded from any activity based on whether he/she contributes.*

**Please return this page to Mr. Fulleman by
Friday, August 11th**

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the rules, expectations, and performance dates as outlined in this syllabus agreement. I also agree to respect and take care of all school property. I will come prepared and ready to contribute to class and expect nothing less than excellence of myself every day.

Student Name (Printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name (Printed) _____

Parent Signature _____