

Rolesville High School Orchestras

Joshua Heaney - Director
Fall 2018

Course Descriptions

Orchestra 1

This course is for students learning to play a string instrument for the first time. Emphasis is placed on developing basic technique, ensemble skills, musical literacy and notation, and proper instrument care. Students should expect an after school rehearsal and performance at the end of the semester.

Orchestra 2

This course continues the development of basic instrumental and technical music skills from middle school or other prior study. Emphasis is placed on improvement in the areas of tuning, shifting, vibrato, bowing, and ensemble performance. Students should expect after school rehearsals and performances.

Intermediate/Advanced Orchestras (3, 4, honors)

Students have demonstrated advanced skill level and serious commitment. Success requires rigorous study, excellence in performance, extensive knowledge of all areas of music including music theory, and an in-depth study of advanced music literature. Students should expect after school rehearsals and performances. Students will also be required to complete extra course work/projects. They will need to complete at least 2 extra projects per quarter. Due dates are **Sept. 21st, Oct. 22nd, Dec. 7th, Jan. 14th**. **Late projects will be graded according to the late grading policies, please plan ahead!** Students may choose a project to complete from the following list:

- Attend a symphony/orchestra concert and write a detailed review. The review must be a minimum of 2 pages long (double spaced) and include an attached concert program or ticket.
- Perform an extra piece for a concert or work on a solo piece to be performed for the class. The repertoire for these must be approved by me in advance.
- Write a 2 page paper about the composer of a piece we are working on in class. This paper must be in MLA format and include a works-cited page. Please ask me if you need help with this.
- A 10 slide PowerPoint presentation on a composer with graphics, background music, and detailed information. You must include a works cited slide. Students will also need to present their PowerPoint to the class on or before the project due date.

Students are highly encouraged to meet with me during the process of completing their project in order to ask questions.

Required Materials

Students must provide:

- A working instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass)

- Rosin
- Cleaning cloth
- Backup set of strings
- Any given music
- Pencil
- Violin and viola students must have a shoulder rest and cello and bass students must have a rock stop.
- Beginning orchestra students must provide Hal Leonard Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1 and Hal Leonard Essential Elements Book 2.

Students must have all materials in class by:

Orchestra 1: Tuesday, September 4th

Orchestra 2, 3, 4, honors: Tuesday, August 28th

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

We will abide by the school's BYOD rules and procedures in my class as follows: *BYOD means students bring their own devices to school for educational purposes. In the classroom, students will use devices responsibly, and only with the permission and direction of the teacher or other staff member. The increased use of technology in RHS classrooms will "power up" student success today, and for the future. Just like tardy table, violations accumulate by each individual class over the course of each quarter. Violations restart each quarter.*

First violation: Verbal warning.

Second violation: Final verbal warning.

Third violation: Student will be verbally directed to select one of two options:

A: Student will shut down the device and place it in a secure location in the classroom as designated by instructor.

B: Student will shut down the device and place it in their own personal belongings for the remainder of the class.

Fourth and subsequent violations: Student will be escorted to ISS for the remainder of the period. Device is confiscated by administrator. Loss of BYOD privilege may be revoked by administrator.

Grading Categories

Performances 40%

Public performance is one of the most effective means of performing arts education assessment. **Because chorus, band, orchestra, guitar, theatre and dance are considered academic classes, grades are assigned for participation in all scheduled performances. Unexcused absences from any of these events will result in a failing performance grade.** Regularly scheduled performances are graded events, counting 40% of the student's quarter grade assessed on the following criteria:

- Proper preparation: Correct outfit, on-time, present for warm ups with group
- Playing with appropriate energy/attitude
- Focus and teamwork ethic (especially before concert and between songs)
- Off-stage etiquette
- Performance Assessment and Reflection

All reasons for absences will be considered excused or unexcused at the discretion of the director. **Effort must be made to notify the director by 30 days BEFORE the concert date concert if a student must miss a required performance opportunity.** Acceptable forms of notification will be parental/ guardian phone call or written note.

If a student is **absent from school** (due to illness) on the day of a concert, he/she is encouraged (if feeling better) to attend the concert as an audience member and write a critique of the performance due the next day that the student is in school. A signed note from a parent, stating that his/her child was sick is necessary to allow the grade substitution. **Otherwise, students who miss concerts due to illness must bring in a signed note from a parent (stating illness) and complete a report to make up the considerable grade.**

*****According to WCPSS Board Policy, students in OSS, ISS or are not in school a FULL day on the day of a concert (or other performance) are prohibited from participating in that performance. Such students will have to make the grade up through an individually assigned activity (usually a large research paper) or take a zero.*****

Skills and Artistic Work Habits 30%

Students will learn and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal etiquette. This includes being on time, having necessary music, having a pencil on your stand, having nails the appropriate length to play your instrument successfully, playing/speaking at appropriate times, and having your part learned in the requested time frame. Students will receive 20 points per day for demonstrating these skills. Students who are absent for class must make-up the missed rehearsal by recording themselves playing an hour of practice time and turn in to Ms. Zimmerman following the make-up work policies.

Tests/Projects 15%

Students will complete a cumulative final exam.

Quizzes 10%

Students will periodically be given written or playing quizzes.

Classwork/Homework 5%

Effective and consistent practice is essential for the success of all musicians. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 120 minutes per week. Students will complete a weekly practice journal to be turned in through canvas every Friday.

Grading Scale

A: 90-100 = 4.0

B: 80-89 = 3.0

C: 70-79 = 2.0

D: 60-69 = 1.0

F: < 59 = 0.0

Grading Policies

Late Policy

The Performing Arts Department will comply with the RHS Policy for Late Work as stated in the Handbook. The Performing Arts Department will accept late work at a penalty of 5 percent off the grade earned for each school day the assignment is late. All assignments must be turned in by the quarter dates determined by Rolesville High School which are listed in the handbook.

Retest Policy

Written tests may be made up by quarter dates listed by Rolesville High School.

Make Up Work (in accordance with the RHS Handbook)

- For absences of one to three days, the student will have one day for each day absent to complete makeup work.
- For absences exceeding three days, the student will have two days for each day absent to complete makeup work.
- Absences due to approved school trips are excused. It is the STUDENT'S responsibility to secure such assignments BEFORE a known field trip and in accordance with the handbook, all work will be due upon the student's return to school during the class period in which the work was assigned.
- Missed assignments will not be excused, unless they involve tasks that could only be completed on the particular day an activity was assigned. In such a case, the student will be omitted from that individual assignment (unless an alternate assignment is assigned to take the place of the missing grade).

Final Examinations: As per Wake County school legislation, a comprehensive semester final exam (or a dedicated exam at the end of each quarter) will be given comprising 20% of the student's overall grade. **Thus, the items above comprise 80% (40% each quarter) with the exam weighing 20%.** Students should **WISELY PLAN** for these examinations **THROUGHOUT** the semester.

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