

Westlake High School Orchestra

Course Guidelines/Expectations

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Student will practice and demonstrate knowledge of proper technique on their instrument. (Posture, fingerings, style, bowings, intonation, tone, and musical expression.)
2. Student will practice and demonstrate knowledge of proper ensemble techniques (balance, blend, intonation within the ensemble, phrasing, and matching bowings and style.)
3. Student will demonstrate evidence of developing musicianship (improved performance, knowledge of notation and music theory.
4. Student will rehearse and perform repertoire in varied styles, genres and time periods.
5. Student will actively perform in concert and community performances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Active participation in all rehearsals and concerts of the ensemble.
2. Effort to improve individual technique on the student's instrument through home practice and in daily rehearsal as well as the conscious effort of full attention, responsible behavior and good conduct during rehearsals, performances, and all times when students are together.
3. Positive attitude displayed through a demonstration of personal character and maturity in dealing with the day to day responsibilities of being a member of an organization, accept the goals and attitudes of that organization, and to respect those placed in authority of that organization.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Pencil
2. Personal or school owned instrument with accessories as needed.
3. Music in class each day

GRADING POLICIES:

Grading will be a combination of the student's demonstration of musicianship, attitude, effort, and performance and will be broken down in the following manner:

1. Daily Requirements

- a. **Daily Grade** will be determined by the following:
 1. Participation: Each student is expected to be punctual, attentive, courteous and cooperative with staff members and other students at all times.
 2. Neatness: Each student is expected to keep his or her rehearsal area/instrument clean and well-ordered (as per instructions). Each student is expected to treat the Music Wing with respect and to follow all rules governing its use. There will be no food or open drinks in the music room except water.
 3. Instruments and all accessories each day (beginning with a sharpened pencil!)
Strings: Rosin, Cleaning cloth.
 4. Participation: Students are to follow all rehearsal procedures, fully participate, and sit with excellent posture.

2. Performances and outside of class rehearsals

ALL OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!

- a. Unexcused absence from after school rehearsals: The grade for that marking period will be lowered. The student may be excluded from the upcoming performance, although attendance at the performance will still be required.
- b. Unexcused absence from a performance: The grade for that marking period will be lowered two letter grades. A repeated violation of this requirement will serve as a basis for removal from the ensemble with a grade of "F" assigned. Please note that the director must be notified about planned absences from a performance one month before the performance.

3. Classroom Work

- a. Written work
- b. Individual playing checks

ABSENCES AND TARDIES

ALL orchestra members are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and performances. Whenever a student is forced to be absent from or late to an after-school practice or event the student and parent are expected to make every effort to contact the director ahead of time. **All excuses must be submitted in writing to be classified as excused.** All absences will be classified as **excused** or **unexcused**. Directors must be notified one month prior to a performance conflict, 1 weeks before a rehearsal conflict or 48 hours after an emergency absence. An absence may be **excused** if the student misses for extreme illness, another school function (worked out in advance with the director) or a family emergency which is severe in the judgment of the director. Failure to notify the directors will cause the absence to be **unexcused**. Work and social activities are examples of unexcused absences. **In all cases the director will make the final judgement.**

1. In school tardiness will be counted if students are not in the room when the bell rings, and in their seat when the first note of warm-up is played. Students will have 3 minutes after the bell rings to be ready to play.

UNIFORM POLICIES

1. All Girls – Hair neat or pulled into a ponytail.
2. All – Hair must be neat and collar length or pulled back in a ponytail.
3. All- Black closed toe dress shoes and stockings or black socks.
4. All- No jewelry except small stud earrings if desired or short pearl necklace for girls.
5. All- No facial piercings/tattoos covered.
6. Hair must be a natural color.

Girls – Black concert dresses provided by the school.

Boys – Tuxedo provided by school – Tux shirt will need to be purchased