Olympia High School

Orchestra

2018-2019



Handbook

Joe Dyvig, Director of Orchestras
360.596.7324, jdyvig@osd.wednet.edu

Course Descriptions

String Orchestra
Length of class: 1 year
Fine Art or Elective: 9
Prerequisite: Previous experience on orchestral stringed instrument.
Supplies: Instrument, appropriate black attire for performances.
This course is for entering freshmen who have been part of middle school orchestra. There is a strong emphasis on skill development and performance.

Sinfonietta
Length of class: 1 year
Fine Art or Elective: 10, 11, and 12
Prerequisite: Completion of String Orchestra or prior experience and permission from instructor.
Supplies: Instrument, appropriate black attire for performances.
This course is for advanced string players. There is an emphasis on exploring orchestral literature and skill development.

Symphony Orchestra
Length of class: 1 year
Fine Art or Elective: 10, 11, and 12
Prerequisite: By audition only, winds selected from wind ensemble.
Supplies: Appropriate black attire for performances, instrument.
For advanced string players who wish to explore and perform major works from the symphonic and string orchestra literature. There is a strong emphasis on literature and performing.

Chamber Orchestra
Length of class: 1 year, 0-hour (.25 credit per semester)
Fine Art or Elective: 9, 10, 11, and 12
Prerequisite: By audition only.
The total emphasis is on performing. Students are expected to possess strong skills that allow for the study and performance of major chamber orchestra literature. Students have many performances throughout the community. Rehearsals are at 6:45 a.m.

Orchestra Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
9/26-9/29	All State / All-NW Audition Recording	OHS	TBA
10/12	PLU Orchestra Festival (Chamber Orchestra Only)	PLU	All-Day
10/23	Fall Choir Concert	OHS	7:30pm
10/25	Fall Orchestra Concert	OHS	7:30pm
10/27	Mercer Island Orchestra Festival (Symphony Orchestra Only)	MIHS	All-Day
11/6	Fall Band Concert	OHS	7:30pm
12/10	Holiday Festival (9^{th} Grade Only)	OHS	7:30pm
12/11	Holiday Festival (Upperclassmen)	OHS	7:30pm
12/13	Holiday Festival (Upperclassmen)	OHS	7:30pm
12/18	Solo and Ensemble Entry Forms Due		
1/10	Seattle Opera (Upperclassmen Only)		
1/26	Instrumental Solo and Ensemble Festival	Olympia High School	All-Day
2/14-16	All-State Honor Groups for selected students	Portland, OR	All-Day
3/5	Festival Orchestra Concert	OHS	7:30pm
3/6	CMEA Orchestra Fest. (Symphony and Sinfonietta)	Capital HS	All-Day
3/7	CWU Orchestra Festival (String Orchestra Only)	CWU	All-Day
3/12	Festival Choir Concert	OHS	7:30pm
3/14	WMS and Elementary combined concert (Symphony and Sinfonietta only)	OHS Gym	7:00pm
3/15-16	W-ASTA Orchestra Festival	WWU	Two Days
3/19	Festival Band Concert	OHS	7:30pm
4/26	WMEA State Ensemble Contest	CWU	All Day
4/27	WMEA State Solo Contest	CWU	All Day
5/3-11	Spring Musical	OHS	
5/23	Jazz Night	OHS	7:30pm
5/30	Spring Band Concert	OHS	7:30pm
6/6	Spring Choir Concert	OHS	7:30pm
6/7	Spring Orchestra Concert	OHS	7:30pm
	Highlighted cells are required orchestra events		

Grading Policy

If you are absent on a due date the work must be turned in the next day you are at school and the absence must be excused.

Grades will be determined by classroom work, and concert attendance/participation. They will be split as follows:

60% Classroom work: Including but not limited to; participation, concert reports, practice journals, written assignments, and playing tests.

40% Concert attendance/participation: full credit in this category will be earned by fulfilling all expectations for a performance. **Students are expected to fully participate in all performance opportunities, including orchestra travel on weekends**. Exceptions to this expectation will be rare and reserved for the **direst of circumstances**.

Uniform

To enhance the image of the orchestra and to present us in the most professional way possible the following dress code is **enforced** for performances. Please remember that the purpose of a uniform is to make the group appear as "one". Anything that makes an individual stand out is not appropriate. Being in correct uniform is an important part of your performance participation grade.

Feminine
Black dress, black skirt or black dress pants with black top. Length may be from floor to below knee. Sleeves should be below elbow. Shoulders and mid-drift must not be bare. Black nylons or tights and dress shoes. The effect should be black from neck to floor. No flashy jewelry, please.

Masculine
Men may use orchestra-owned tuxedos and purchase a wing-collar white shirt with accessories for under $40 (purchased through the school), and provide their own shoes and socks. Orchestra tuxedos must be returned following the last concert after having been professionally dry-cleaned.

Why did you choose this class?

I hope that your motivation for being in this class is based on a combination of a love of playing your instrument, a desire to make music with others who share that same love, the dedication to participate in a very high level human endeavor, and the realization that being in this group is something very special that few others will ever experience. Most of you will never make a living playing music, but the difference it will make in your humanity will be significant. You may not make a living with music, but it may be one of the things that make your life worth living.

General Orchestral Discipline

Rehearsals begin promptly at the beginning of the period. Each member is to be in the room prior to the tardy bell, seated and prepared to tune within one minute of the tardy bell. School rules regarding promptness and attendance will apply, and promptness and attendance are also grading factors. **Tardiness and excessive absences cannot be permitted in orchestra.**

Rehearsals are not the time or place for reading, studying, or visiting. Also, as a general policy, no food or drink is allowed in the music room, practice rooms, or PAC.

Each member is responsible for the preparation of the music being rehearsed. If we are to function as an orchestra, you must learn your notes outside of class time. Evidence of your having done this is a factor in grading.

Since our orchestra is only as good as its weakest member, all members are expected to share equally in effort. Be sure you are fulfilling your obligations to the group.

Practicing

Practicing should be motivated by the love of playing your instrument, a desire to improve, and the willingness to support the orchestra. Regular playing by you outside of class is an expectation. What form that playing takes depends on your individual needs as a musician. If you are studying with a private teacher and reasonably advanced, you may only need to spend a few minutes each day working on orchestra music. If you are reasonably advanced and not studying privately, you may still need only a few minutes a day to work up the orchestra music, but you may also need to spend time working on a daily routine of exercises which challenge you to continue to refine your tone, intonation, and musicianship. If the orchestra music is a challenge for you, then you must regularly take whatever time is necessary to completely learn your part.

Seating

Criteria for seating include leadership qualities, work ethic, compatibility with your stand partner, and behavior. Strong players will often be asked to lead from the rear of the section while weaker players may be placed towards the front for more direct instruction. We often rotate the seating order.

Public Appearances

The major function of the orchestra is expressed in its public performances. These are in effect the "term paper" or "final exam" of each course unit. For obvious reasons, attendance and participation at all public appearances is mandatory and is a major grading criterion. Absence due to serious illness is excusable only if the director is notified by your parent in advance of the performance.

Every effort will be made to give you ample notice of upcoming performances. A schedule of performance dates is attached to this policy. Concerts are held in the PAC and admission (our only fund-raising effort) is $6 for adults; $4 with an ASB card. Season passes are also available. Festival and contest locations are noted on the schedule.

Music Folders

Each student will be issued a complete music folder. Please keep all the music in the folder at all times. Lost music creates a financial hardship as well as an inconvenience. Fines for lost music will be levied against the person responsible for the loss. It is your responsibility to have music at school and at home. A pencil should always be readily accessible.

Private Lessons

The orchestras at Olympia High School are significantly more advanced than other high school orchestras. This advanced status is due in part to many students taking private lessons. Private instruction from a qualified teacher is highly recommended to help you gain the most from your involvement with your instrument. You are strongly urged to consider this step. Interested students should see Mr. Dyvig about the availability of teachers. Private study is not a grading criterion in any direct sense.

Student Survey

Name:_____Instrument:_____

Grade:_____ Do you take private lessons?_____

If yes, with whom:_____

If no, would you like help finding a private teacher?_____

Do you play any other instruments, and if so, what?_____

_____

_____

What are your musical goals individually and as a group, in the near future and the distant future?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What activities are you involved with outside of school?_____

_____

_____

_____

Anything else you think I should know?_____

_____

_____

Please sign, detach and return this sheet, health travel card, student survey and the permission to travel by ***Friday, September 7.***

I have read and understand the orchestra handbook:

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Phone _____ Email _____

Parent Phone _____ Email _____