

Gunn High School Music Department
Director Ms. Sandra Lewis
780 Arastradero Rd. Palo Alto, CA 94306 (650) 354-8264
Fax (650) 493-7801
Home (408) 251-0221

COURSE TITLE: Orchestra

The Gunn orchestra is an advanced ensemble open to students with a background in orchestra music performance. This ensemble will focus on the performance techniques and knowledge of repertoire associated with standard string and orchestral literature. Fundamental techniques, stylistic interpretations, musicality, tempo control, proper tone production, proper intonation is the core of the class work.

PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for students to develop musical skills and ideas, competence in large group, individual or ensemble performance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of basic music fundamentals, terms and musical theory.
2. Demonstrate basic skills, as well as competence in rhythm, pitch and tone production.
3. Perform in class solos, duet, trios and other chamber ensemble works. (Unison and non-unison)

PREREQUISITES

Ability to demonstrate playing/knowledge of instrumental techniques at an intermediate or advanced level. Students who wish to try a different instrument may also be accepted based on instrumentation needs or proficiency audition.

EVALUATION AND GRADES

50% Daily participation, which includes: preparation, attitude, improvement, attendance, and active involvement in the rehearsal process, discussions and performances

30% Playing tests and performances

20% Written assignments and examinations: theory, rhythm, scales intervals. The final written exam is worth no more than ten percent of the final semester grade.

PERFORMANCES

Wednesday, September 7th
Francesca dePasquale
Masterclass@Gunn 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5th
CODA Tapes Due

Thursday, October 20th
Prism Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Spangenberg Theater

Thursday, November 3rd
GHS/HHS/PHS
Orchestra Exchange

Fri.-Sat., December, 2-3
CODA Honor Orchestra
@ UOP Stockton

Thursday, December 7th
Chamber Group Concert

7:00 p.m. Location TBA

Wednesday, December 14th
Gunn Chamber Orchestra
w/Gunn Concert Choir

Thursday, January 26th
Full Orch. Rehearsal
2:45 -4:30p.m

Friday, January 27th
Gunn Orchestra exchange
With JLS/Terman
8:00 a.m. to 2:05 p.m.

Monday, February 13th
Sym. Orch rehearsal 6-9 p.m

Tuesday, February 14th
Symphony Orch. Concert
Spangenberg@7:30 p.m.

March 6-8th
Midwest Recording and Video

Monday, March 12th
Night Rehearsal with PA
Philharmonic 7-9 p.m.

March 23-28th
Pacific Basin Music Festival
Oahu, Hawaii

Thursday, April 12th
Dress Rehearsal w/PA
Philharmonic 7-9:30 pm

Saturday, April 14th
Concert w/PA
Philharmonic @Spangenberg
6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 4th
CMEA Independence HS
Time TBA

Monday, May 21st
Final Orchestra Concert
Spangenberg@7:00 p.m.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

1. No food, gum, or drinks in class. (Only water is acceptable)
2. Profanity, name-calling, hitting, throwing objects, destroying classroom property or provoking others is UNACCEPTABLE behavior and will result in an immediate referral and possible expulsion.
3. Students suspected of substance abuse will be referred immediately to Student Services.
4. Parents will be notified by the director of any reoccurring negative behaviors in class.
5. Once the rehearsal has begun students are expected to remain quiet during class time. When not actively involved in playing their instrument students are expected to study their music quietly. Failure to observe this rule may result in referral, loss of points and possible expulsion from the group.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

The following is expected of every student:

1. Regular attendance and positive, active participation in rehearsals. This includes dress rehearsals and performances.
2. Individual practice OUTSIDE of regular orchestra rehearsals.
3. Work to develop individual technique, tone, posture, bowing style and interpretation.
4. Respect for other orchestra members and student leaders.
5. Completion of all written assignments and tests.
6. Participation in orchestra program fundraisers as needed for group activities.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

You will need the following items for Orchestra

1. Folder with music. (Music and folder are provided)
2. Pencil (s) for marking music.
3. Instrument and all necessary accessories: i.e. strings, mutes, shoulder rests.

Students will receive further information about concert attire in a letter that will be sent home late in the week.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The class activities include: full group rehearsals, sectionals, performances on and off campus, festivals, district tours, lecture, guest clinicians, written assignments and test, and possible TBA performances as the might arise.
2. All performances are MANDATORY. A calendar listing of all performances is attached to this sheet. Additional performance dates/times or changes will be announced in a timely manner.

3. Any unexcused absence from any mandatory performance will lower your orchestra grade by 2 full grades. Exceptions may be made with prior written notification and only then on a case-by-case basis. Student will need to perform their entire concert repertoire for a grade and turn in a two-page paper to make up for the missed performance. Realize that there is no way for a written report and an individual performance to fully replace the experience of a live ensemble concert. If you are ill, then you need to contact the director or a member of the music department.
4. Each student will be responsible for their own folder of music and is expected to keep all copies available for rehearsals.
5. Students are expected to remain in good academic standing in their other non-music courses.
6. Seating: Auditions will be held at the beginning of the year. Where you sit after auditions does not affect your grade. During the year people may challenge when time permits. Challenges always are done in front of the class. All students are expected to be supportive to the challenge process.

I have read the course syllabus and understand that it is my responsibility to fulfill all requirements, including performances for the above calendar dates.

Student Name

Date

Parent Name (please print)

Date