

Wyalusing High School Orchestra Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Clinton

Time: Mondays (strings only, alternating Jr. & Sr. High as needed) and Wednesdays (all strings 7-12, winds, & percussion) 9th periods

Location: Rehearsal Room or Auditorium Stage

Course Description:

This course provides private group instruction on orchestral string instruments and a group ensemble experience. Musicianship, technique, and preparation for performance are stressed. There are at least two public performances yearly.

Materials:

Each rehearsal you will be expected to come prepared for class with your instrument, music and a pencil for necessary notations. Failure to have these materials will result in a lower participation grade. You will be provided with a rehearsal folder that is labeled with your instrument and a folder number that you will share with a stand partner. **This folder is not to leave the folder cart unless being used in rehearsal** – pick it up when you arrive at rehearsal and return it as you leave. Alternate copies for practice can be found on my website.

Course Requirements:

- Attend and participate in all rehearsals.
- Attend and participate in all lessons.
- Practice concert music and lesson exercises *on your own* to develop mastery and musicality.
- Complete assignments and assigned tasks on time
- Attend and participate in all concerts and performances.

Concerts:

- December TBA – Winter Concert
- May, TBA – Spring Concert
- * Other performances may be added *

Appropriate attire must be worn to concerts:

- **Ladies:** Black dresses, below the knee skirts, or slacks with appropriate white blouses and nice dress shoes.
- **Gentlemen:** Button-down white dress shirts with a collar, black pants (no jeans), and dress shoes.

All concert clothing must meet school handbook criteria for appropriateness.

Grading: You will receive your grade based on the following scale:

Lesson attendance and engaged participation = 30%

Rehearsal attendance and engaged participation = 30%

Benchmarks and Performance exams = 40%

Concert participation = Midterm and Final Exam grades.

(grading scale may be shifted during the year)

Schedule:

- Orchestra meets every Monday and Wednesday during 9th period. Attendance at every rehearsal is mandatory. One missed rehearsal per 2 marking periods is permitted through the Get Out Of Orchestra Free program. Scheduled labs and Jr. Chorus (every other Monday) are excused absences. Any other absences, including missed school days and early dismissal for other activities may require extra work to make up the points. ****Makeup work or tests for other teachers is not an acceptable excuse for missing Orchestra class, and you may not be allowed to do so, any of these, if permitted, will receive a 0.****
- This year there will more online and digital content for class which will be explained throughout the year.
- Lessons will be individually scheduled every week, and attendance is mandatory. Any missed lessons must be made up or will receive a zero for that lesson grade.
- There will be benchmark skills testing several times every marking period, and you will be responsible to submit a short video demonstrating each skill. These skills are a major test grade every marking period and will drastically affect your grade if unsuccessful or incomplete.
- Concerts are mandatory and receive a Midterm and Final exam grade. Missing a concert results in a zero for these grades. If the absence is due to severe illness or a completely unavoidable circumstance, that zero may be made up through a written paper, due soon after the concert at Mr. Clinton's discretion.

Classroom Expectations:

- Enter, pick up your rehearsal music, get out your instrument, sit in your seat (find a chair and place it where you are supposed to sit if necessary), and be prepared to tune quickly, quietly and in an orderly fashion.
- Be Silent while others are playing or speaking.
- Follow directions the first time given.
- Be respectful to one another, Mr. Clinton, and your instruments.
- Work and achieve to the best of your ability, contribute personally and meaningfully to the group, helping yourself, one another, and the group as a whole be the best we can be.

Personal Expectations:

- Practice at home regularly using effective practice techniques.
- Learn your lesson assignments well for your next lesson.
- Learn your concert music early, well, and at home so we can spend rehearsals developing a good ensemble from the "inside out" (individually out to the group).