

School of the Arts Orchestras 2013-2014

Period 1: Philharmonia

Period 4: Sinfonia

Period 5: 7/8th Grade Orchestras

Mrs. Herman

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Course Description

The SOTA orchestras are performance-based courses that involve class participation and outside class practice. Material that will be covered include classical and modern string repertoire ranging from circa 17th century to present day. In addition to rehearsal repertoire, students will be responsible for their own individualized lesson program covering all [National Music Standards](#).

Course Expectations, Grading and Assignments

Failure to meet the below expectations will result in a lowering of the students grade

- Daily Rehearsals—50% of grade
 - Arrival and departure procedures: student arrives on time and is ready to begin class when the bell rings. Upon arrival, student gathers folder and instrument, then checks the white board for the day's agenda and quietly warms up until tuning begins. At the conclusion of the rehearsal, student puts folder and instrument back in assigned location.
 - Student participates fully in class activities.
 - Students do not use cell phone or charge cell phone in class. Cell phones that are out will be taken for the duration of class.
 - Food or drink is not permitted in the orchestra room.
 - Student is prepared for rehearsal and has completed all practice assignments.
 - Student behaves appropriately and respectfully during rehearsal to themselves, their peers, their instruments, and teacher.
- Lessons—30% of grade
 - Student attends and arrives on time for all scheduled lessons. It is the responsibility of the student to check the lesson schedule.
 - Student participates fully in all lesson activities.
 - Student completes all lesson assignments.
 - Student practices an appropriate length of time per situation.
 - Student takes instrument home for weekly practice. (Student must return instrument for daily rehearsal. More on practice expectations detailed below.)
- Playing Tests Marking Periods 1-5—20% of grade, Marking Period 6 Jury and Written exam—25% of grade
 - Student individually performs material which consisted of criteria outlined during the marking period. Students will be graded on preparation, technique and musicianship.
 - Written exam will consist of the cumulative material covered throughout the year.

Required Course Materials

- All students are required to have access to an instrument for in-school rehearsals and at-home practice. All students who use an instrument provided by the Rochester City School District must have a completed bond form on file. Rental rates (cash preferred) are \$10 for the school year.
- Shoulder rest (viola/violins) rockstops (cello/bass), handkerchief and rosin
- Pencil

- Concert dress: Philharmonia and Sinfonia are concert black, 7/8th grade orchestras are dress white tops and black bottoms. (In accordance with SOTA dress codes.)
- Music: orchestral music will be provided by SOTA. For individual practice regimens, music will be recommended by the instructor and is to be purchased by the student.

Concert Attendance and Behavior Policy

- Attendance at scheduled concerts is required of all students. Students are required to stay the entire length of the concert. Any student who fails to attend a concert will receive a failing grade for the marking period in which the concert has taken place. This is a policy that pertains to all music students at SOTA.
- The following concerts are required for all orchestra students:
 - Tuesday, October 22
 - Tuesday, December 17
 - Thursday, January 23
 - Tuesday, March 11
 - Friday, June 6
 - Thursday, June 12 Chicken BBQ
- Students are expected to behave appropriately on stage and in the audience. Students must refrain from talking, texting, or any other disruptive behavior. Students who are dressed or behaving inappropriately during the concert will be removed and receive a failing grade for the marking period in which the concert has taken place (per SOTA policy).

Practice Expectations

- Instrumental music majors at SOTA are required to practice a minimum of 45 minutes outside of class time daily. It is expected that students will put forth enough effort to complete all playing assignments and perform class music to the best of their ability.

Parental Involvement

- To parents: I am looking forward to meeting all parents at concerts, conferences and other SOTA events. Please feel that the lines of communication are open. The best way for me to be in touch is via the email address provided at the top of the syllabus. I encourage parents to ask their child to play some of his/her music at home for you on a regular basis. I also ask for parent volunteers at our events to help with things such as concert receptions, etc. If you are interested to be a parent volunteer, please indicate on the attached signature page.

Additional Performance opportunities

- There will be various gigs and other performance opportunities TBD throughout the year. NYSSMMA Festivals are in January and May and students are strongly encouraged to participate. More information will be given as dates approach.

Extra Help

- Any student who needs extra help is encouraged to be proactive in speaking with Mrs. Herman. Every effort will be made to coordinate extra help as needed.