



**Ephrata High School
Course Syllabus**



**Orchestra
Course #5620**

I. Course Description

Orchestra is a performing group encompassing all families of instruments into a sound-balanced ensemble. It is designed to promote the student's individual musicianship, improve instrumental facility, and increase appreciation and knowledge of a wide variety of musical styles. Orchestra performs in at least two concerts throughout the school year. Group lessons/instruction will be scheduled on a rotating basis during the school day. String students selecting this course enroll in Orchestra everyday for the entire year. Wind, brass and percussion students earn membership through audition only and should schedule a concert band option below.

II. Materials & Equipment

Instrument

- *'Cellos and Bases will be assigned an instrument to use for the entire year. These items must be kept together at all times and stored properly (end pins in, bow loosened, instrument and bow in a closed and secure case) Note: If these items are not properly stored you will forfeit your privilege of using a school instrument and will have to provide your own. Also, if any damage occurs to an instrument, the person who it is assigned to is responsible for the repair. It is imperative that you use the instrument assigned to you and only that instrument.
- *Violins and Violas are expected to provide their instruments on a daily basis. Since after school activities do not begin until 3:15 PM, there is adequate time to ensure the proper storage and safety of your instrument.
- The cabinets in the hall are for string players and their instruments (not books). Please use this space to store your instruments and not the floor. This will ensure that your instrument will be safe and secure.

Music

- Music and folders will be provided. All music and folders will have corresponding #'s. It will be your responsibility to keep these items together. If any music is lost or damaged, it will be the responsibility of the student/parent to pay for the cost of replacement.

Pencil

- Please keep pencils in your case to ensure that you will have one at every rehearsal. Extra pencils will be made available for students if needed.

III. Course Goals & Objectives

- To perform music at a high level through large and small ensemble instruction
- To perform a variety of styles of music from different time periods
- To gain a fuller appreciation of music and understand its importance to people of different cultures and ethnicities

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

What musical aspects does an ensemble need to possess to have a successful performance?

V. Assignments & Grading

- **Lessons**
Sectional lessons will be given on Fridays. You will be assigned to a lesson group. For those interested, there will be a Chamber lesson group on Fridays during 9th period (2:30-3:30). Entrance to this lesson group will be by audition only. All others will be placed in a group according to their instrument. Lessons will occur on a rotating basis as to not miss the same class week after week. Lesson attendance is part of your grade. It is not optional. For each lesson you attend you will receive 25 points. Students are required to attend a total of **4 lessons** per marking period. Chamber Orchestra members are expected to attend all rehearsals.
- **Participation**
Every quarter you will start out with 100 points. It is very rare to gain points once they are lost. You will lose points for the following:
 - 5 points: No instrument**
 - 5 points: No music**
- **Playing Exams**
Every quarter you will have a Playing Exam. These are performance-based assessments on the music we are rehearsing in orchestra.
- **Other Graded Items**
In addition to the Lessons, Participation points and Playing Exams, you will have other graded projects and activities. These will include, but are not limited to: *SCALE TESTS*, *VIDEO WORKSHEETS*, *ARTICLE REVIEWS* and *PROGRAM NOTES*.