

Course Syllabus

Course Name: Symphonic/Chamber Orchestra

Teacher Name: Mr. James Hutchins, B.A. Music Education

Teacher Contact Information:

School Phone: 480-987-5973

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Fax: 480-882-1276

Room Number: D104

Prep Time: I teach at Newell Barney Junior High School in the afternoons, so please contact me either before school, or at any time via email. I will return your email in the afternoon/evening, or the following day.

Course Materials:

- Sharpened pencil with eraser
- Instrument in working condition
- Rosin, end pin anchor, shoulder rest, and soft polishing cloth
- Music (to be provided by the school)

Lab Fee: \$30.00

Course Objectives and Goals:



To provide an enjoyable experience of music while playing, performing, and/or auditioning using music from a wide variety of genres, cultures, and styles.



To perform alone and in small and large ensembles with good posture, good playing position, good bow control and appropriate articulation.



To exhibit proper bow control and technique using accented détaché, legato détaché, martelé, spicatto, string crossings at varying tempi, and bow articulation using variations of slurred and détaché groupings of notes.



To play two/three octave major and minor scales and corresponding arpeggios in keys up to four sharps and four flats. Please note that this is the minimum, and that we may go further into the All-State level scales.



To learn how to sight read music comparable to one level below performance level.



To identify and apply musical terms and symbols appropriate to the repertoire encountered while using appropriate terminology to describe and explain music.



To learn to play expressively on pitch and in rhythm, using dynamics, proper phrasings, and tempo markings.

These goals will be achieved through daily rehearsal of music and in concerts/festivals.

Course Description/Mission Statement:

Welcome to the QCHS Orchestra Program! Here at QCHS we strive for excellence, which means that as your teacher, I will be guiding and encouraging you to do nothing less than your best each and every day during rehearsals and performances. Through daily rehearsals, we will, in a hardworking, caring environment, achieve our personal best music making possible. We will discuss and apply musical, historical, and theoretical concepts appropriately for every piece of music. I highly encourage all musicians to try out for Regionals. Those musicians in Chamber Orchestra will be required to audition for Regionals. In addition, all musicians will be required to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Rehearsal Procedures: The following student expectations will help ensure our goal of musical excellence in rehearsal.

- Be on time and prepared for class. Rehearsal will start two minutes from the final bell. Be in your seat, unpacked, and ready to go.
- Be respectful to others in the classroom and the teacher. This means no talking while we are playing or rehearsing, and absolutely no texting, especially when we are rehearsing.
- NO gum chewing, eating, or drinking (except water bottles) in the Orchestra room.
- Problems? – Come talk to me outside of rehearsal. My door is always open!

Please note that you will not be able to earn full credit for missed participation or work related to an unexcused absence! You are important to the group and its members; please show them the respect of your presence.

Grading System:

A +	100-98
A	97-94
A-	93-90

B+	89-87
B	86-84
B-	83-80

C+	79-77
C	76-74
C-	73-70

D+	69-67
D	66-64
D-	63-60

F	59 or below
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Grade Breakdown:

- 20% Daily Participation
- 20% Assignments and/or Quizzes
- 40% Performances/Projects and/or Tests
- 20% Final Exam

Grading in the orchestral music program is largely affected by students' individual progress, willingness to work, attitude, and attendance. If you do **YOUR BEST** in rehearsal, you will receive 20 points each day (per each 55 minute period). You will not earn all 20 points if you:

- Are tardy
- Are unprepared for class
- Have gum, candy, food, or drinks besides water
- Disrupt the rehearsal; talking (other than "where are we," etc.) is not permitted while Mr. Hutchins is teaching.
- Use your cellphone without permission. **NO CELLPHONES!** Use of a cellphone will be dealt with as according to the Queen Creek Handbook. Texting while we are playing the music will result in disciplinary action.
- Do not put forth your best effort.

Classroom Management Plan:

We will be following the "Student Expectations" plan for QCHS. Students who are absent more than 10 times per semester will be placed on audit status and may not receive credit for the course. Students caught cheating will receive an automatic 0% for the grade. Please also note that every three tardies will amount to an absence that counts towards an audit for the course. Being punctual is imperative! If you are late more than three times in a quarter, you may be required to come in before school to make up lost time.

Seating

The Final Seating will be based on an average of all playing tests for the concert. Your classroom participation average will count as one test in this average (the day following the final playing test before that performance), so please do your best in class (ie. arriving on time, keeping your cellphone out of sight, practicing and doing your very best, etc.). Please note that while you may make up your playing test for a better score (up to three times), only your first score will count towards your seating.

Reseating will happen after each test or when Mr. Hutchins decides that students need to be in a different spot, for either educational or classroom management reasons. Concert Final Seating will not reflect either of those. When Symphonic and Chamber are combined, we will use a side-by-side format, meaning that the first chair of Chamber will sit with the first chair player of Symphonic Strings.

If you have an unexcused absence on the day of a test, your test will be graded as per Queen Creek policy (a 50 percent deduction). Please be in class every day; we are making music, and you don't want to miss out on that.

Performances:

Performances are a required part of this course. Performances will be outside of the normal school day. One person being absent or late has an adverse affect on the entire ensemble. Students will only be excused from performances for valid emergencies. If you have a conflict, please talk to me as soon as you learn about the conflict so we can work out a solution.

Concerts are culminating events and are the equivalent of major exams. They are the ultimate authentic assessment! It is expected that every student is in attendance. Group morale and the quality of performance both suffer when a student is missing.

All concerts will be in the Queen Creek High School Performing Arts Center. The dates of the 2015-2016 school year Orchestra concerts are as follows:

Thursday, September 24th, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Tuesday, October 27th, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 9th, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Tuesday, March 1st, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Tuesday, May 5th, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Students will be expected to arrive by 6:00 PM for tuning/warmup, unless directed otherwise.

In addition to these dates, Chamber Orchestra will be required to perform/participate in the following performances, pending funding and qualification. Symphonic Orchestra is not required, but highly recommended to participate in Regionals.

Day of Service Performance, September 11th, 2015 before school

**Grand Re-Opening of the Queen Creek Performing Arts Center,
September 12th, 2015**

ABODA Fall Orchestra Festival, October 23rd, 2015
Or

NAU Orchestra Festival, October 24th, 2015

Regional Auditions (Required for Chamber) January 22-23, 2016

Regional Orchestra Festival, February 19-20, 2016

ABODA Concert Festival February 26th, 2016

All State Auditions, March 11-12, 2016

Band, Orchestra, and Choir All State Festival at NAU April 21-23, 2016

Graduation, May 19th, 7 :00 at Wells Fargo Arena

No pass, No play

In the Fine Arts, students will have opportunities to participate in some events that may require them to miss other instruction during the normal school day. **In these instances, students must have a 65% or above in all classes in order to participate, unless the activity is a credit-earning requirement of the class.** Weekend events will not be subject to the No Pass No Play policy in Fine Arts, since students will not be missing class time for these events. Please note that it is possible that students will pay in full for events/activities/tickets/trips/etc , and still end up being ineligible to participate due to their grades. In these instances, students will not be able to receive refunds for monies paid. We want you to be successful so let's work together to be proactive and make sure we are all able to participate all the time. We need you and you are an important member of our ensemble!

Late Work Policy:

As per QCHS school policy, if a student absence is excused, the student will have one day plus the number of days absent to complete missed work or quizzes. It is important that missed work is made up quickly so that students can continue developing their skills without getting behind the rest of the class. Late work / quizzes, or work related to an unexcused absence will only be accepted for half credit and only until the end of the unit.

Movie/Film Policy:

Parental consent forms must be completed for each movie/film that students view in class. District policy states that movies and videos with ratings other than for general audiences of all ages cannot be shown without parental consent. Parents have the right to request that their child not view any movie or video, regardless of its rating or the purpose for which it is to be shown. If a student does not have permission to watch a movie/film, the student will be given an alternative assignment.

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Please sign below indicating that you have read and understand the expectations, content, and policies for Mr. Hutchins's Symphonic and Chamber Orchestras.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date