

**ORCHESTRA SYLLABUS  
ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (VIVACE)**

Dear Orchestra Students and Families,

Welcome back to school!!! I am very excited for the music making that will happen this school year. Listed below are the concert dates for the 2015-2016 school year, concert dress, orchestra grading policy, etc.

Thank you,

*Shelley MacAllister*

|                     |                        |                |               |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Premier Concert     | Thursday, September 24 | 6:00pm         | Hoover Gym    |
| Mega Concert:       | Saturday, October 17   | 9am-12pm.(TBA) | Lincoln Gym   |
| Winter Concert      | Thursday, December 17  | 7:00pm         | Hoover Gym    |
| The Spring Concert: | Thursday, May 19       | 7:00pm         | Hoover Gym. . |

**Vivace Orchestra - Six Flags**

*Saturday, May 7                      All Day                      Vallejo, CA*

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*\*Tickets for children 5 years and under, all concerts, are free.*

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Please note that concerts could be added during the school year and, if so, will be required. The concerts are a big part of the students' grades. We will try to give two weeks notice.

**Concert dress is as follows:**

Girls: School concert dress, assigned at the beginning of the school year:  
Black velveteen top and black skirts. Black shoes for every concert.

Boys: White, button-down shirts, black vests, and blue bow-ties, assigned at school  
Black dress pants (no jeans), and black shoes.

**Grading:**

**1. In class participation and attendance: 30%**

Arrive to class on time (on time with the necessary materials, music practiced, progress in skills, and ready to be an active orchestra participant. This part of the grade includes behavior, attitude, and effort.)

**2. Concerts: 30%**

All students are required to participate in all concerts. We are a team, and a

performance group. Every member is important. An unexcused absence will lower your grade up to 2 whole steps.

An excused absence:

- 1) Must be in writing by a parent or guardian
- 2) Must be timely, well in advance of the concert, except in unavoidable circumstances, such as severe illness. In those cases an email or call from the parent/or guardian will excuse the absence. The student will make up the concert missed by extra practice at home, usually 400 minutes.
- 3) Contact info: [shelleymacallister@yahoo.com](mailto:shelleymacallister@yahoo.com) or [smacallister@sjusd.org](mailto:smacallister@sjusd.org)

The performance schedule can change, and remain required. Any additions will be announced at least 14 days in advance, when possible.

### **3. Performance and Testing: 20%**

Skills: Students will be tested regularly on the music and technique. These play tests will happen inside class and will be based on the methods book, Essential Elements, and orchestra music learned in class.

### **4: Home Practice: 20%**

60 minutes per week, to be turned in with the Practice Log given out in class, and signed by parents at the end of each grading period.

### **Music:**

Each music stand will have an assigned binder. This binder will not leave the orchestra classroom. For Orchestra music to practice at home, music is in bins at the back of the room. Pick up the music you want to practice at home at the beginning or end of class, or during brunch, or lunch, or after school.

### **Grading Scale**

|    |            |    |       |    |       |    |       |
|----|------------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|
| A+ | 100 and up | B+ | 85-89 | C+ | 70-74 | D+ | 55-59 |
| A  | 95-99      | B  | 80-84 | C  | 65-69 | D  | 50-54 |
| A- | 90-94      | B- | 75-79 | C- | 60-64 | D- | 44-49 |