

**ORCHESTRA SYLLABUS
BEGINNING STRINGS(HAWKESTRA)**

Dear Orchestra Students and Families,

I am very excited that you are here in Beginning Orchestra ready to learn a Stringed Instrument. You will have the choice between violin, viola, cello, and bass. I will talk more about these instruments during the next few days!

You will be performing in 3 concerts this year.

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

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

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.

Concert Uniform
Hawkestra and Allegro Orchestras

It is very important to look your best for each concert. Each concert is a formal event and we must look as good as we play. If you do not have this, borrow from a family member. Or friend. If you cannot find ANY of this, ask Mrs. MacAllister for help.
Please bring in your concert uniform by October 9 for inspection.

Boys:
Nice black pants (not jeans)
Nice white shirt (no t-shirts)
 -polo shirts
 -full button up shirts
Nice black shoes (no sneakers or tennis shoes)

Girls:
Nice black pants or skirts (no jeans, no shorts, no skinny jeans)
Nice white shirt, blouse, top (no t-shirts)
Nice black shoes/flats (no sneakers or tennis shoes)

You may bring the clothes in a bag to show me, or you may take a picture and show me on your phone, or email me at shelleymacallister@yahoo.com or smacallister@sjusd.org

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, effort.

2. Concerts, 30%

All students are required to participate in all concerts. An unexcused absence will lower your grade 2 whole steps. We are a team, and a performance group. Every member is important. An unexcused absence will lower your grade 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 from the parent will make the absence excused. Under most circumstances, the student will make up the time by extra practice at home usually 400 minutes.

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+ 86-89	C+ 76-79	D+ 66-69
A 95-99	B 85-89	C 75-79	D 65-69
A- 90-94	B- 80-84	C- 70-74	D- 60-64