9th Grade Orchestra Instructional

Plan: 2nd Semester

Course Overview

Orchestra provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development and introduces students to ensemble performance, focusing on the study and practice of orchestral repertoire. It emphasizes the development of technical skills, musical interpretation, and collaboration within a large ensemble. There will be extra rehearsals outside of class time, which could include morning or evening rehearsals, sectionals and summer orchestra. The summer orchestra schedule is determined by the program directors. There is an assessment fee associated with taking this course.

Prerequisites: Students should have previous experience. An audition may be required.

Contact Information

Teacher Name: Matthew Molinar
matthew.molinar@midlandisd.net Google Voice: 432-242-2095

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to engage in learning. Students are expected to demonstrate respect, responsibility, and a commitment to learning. This includes arriving on time, being prepared with necessary materials, actively participating in class discussions and activities, and completing assignments on time. Respect for peers, the teacher, and the learning environment is essential—disruptive behavior, inappropriate language, or bullying will not be tolerated. Students should maintain academic integrity at all times and seek help when needed. A positive, focused attitude and consistent effort will contribute to a productive and supportive classroom community for everyone.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences. Two important state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit—are discussed in the MISD Student Handbook.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years and could result in loss of credit.

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Learning Objectives

9th Grade Orchestra students will develop skills such as:

- Rehearsal Etiquette
- Collaborative work with peers
- Vibrato
- Shifting
- Sight Reading
- FInger Patterns, Scales + Arpeggios

Course Resources

- A Binder will be provided.
- Sheet Music will be provided.
- Technique Materieals will be included.
- Sightreading Material will come from various songs from the Texas UIL PML.

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

1. The departmental grading policy will meet the district's framework with 60% of the grade being MAJOR GRADES and 40% being MINOR GRADES.
    a. Major grades will include such things as tests, projects, essays, long-term assignments, etc. There must be two or more grades in the Major category each grading cycle.
    b. Minor grades will include daily grades, homework, quizzes, etc.

Redo Policy

It is the goal of teachers to promote student success and when a student does not succeed on a summative assessment, a redo assessment may be requested. If a student receives a failing grade on a summative assessment, the student may request a redo assignment from his/her teacher.

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for a redo assignment:

1. The student must have made a significant effort on the original test. Significant effort is defined as:
    - No randomly marked answers and
    - All work/questions are attempted and
    - Work is meaningful and represents deliberate thought

2. The student must complete a reasonable intervention measure as prescribed by a teacher with the aim of improving mastery of the topics covered within the allotted time.

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3. The student will have 5 school days from the date of notification of the grade (via in class notification or online grading system) to request a redo assessment.

Once the above criteria are met the teacher will administer the redo at the prearranged time. The following do not qualify for redo:

1. Assessments that students refuse to initially take in class.

2. Redo not completed by the end of the grading cycle (The Wednesday prior to the end of the grading period on Friday).

The opportunity to redo/retake shall exist for major grades included in a student's average except for semester exams. The maximum grade awarded on a redo/retake is 75. Failure to complete the prescribed intervention and/or meet the timeline established by the teacher will result in the student receiving the original grade awarded. Teachers may choose to offer additional redo opportunities for minor or major grades at their discretion.

School-wide System of Communication

MFHS teachers have several ways to communicate with our MFHS families. Teachers will send out notifications every other week via Skyward, Blackboard or Class Dojo to keep families informed of student academic progress and upcoming events.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!