Course Title: Advanced Orchestra

Course #: 1788-1789

Course Description:
The orchestra class offers performance-based musical practice and learning on string instruments. This is for students who have developed proficiency on their instrument. Students will have access to tools and strategies across a variety of ability levels within the ensemble setting. The curriculum will include both traditional and contemporary repertoire and will cover instrumental performance technique, historical context, as well as components of musical theory. Students are expected to practice their instruments outside of class time in order to be prepared for rehearsal. Supplemental instruction and student leadership opportunities are available and encouraged. Students are responsible for providing their own instrument, but may elect to work through the school’s recommended music vendor for convenience.

UC/CSU Approval: “f” approved

Grade Level: 9-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: Students should be practicing their instrument consistently, about 45 minutes most days / 4 hours a week.

Prerequisite: Orchestra (1-2) or audition for non-Freshmen.

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Students enrolled in Advanced Orchestra 3-4 should have at least one year experience in a high school orchestral ensemble or should demonstrate moderate proficiency on their instrument. This includes being able to perform at least 4 major scales, memorized, at a brisk tempo. Students should be able to comfortably sight-read Grade 2 literature and perform Grade 3 literature when preparation time is provided.

Course Grade Scale:
- Practice and Rehearsals: 25%
- Assessments/Quizzes: 15%
- Written Assignments: 20%
- Performances: 25%
- Final Exam: 15%
Major Assessments/Units/Topics:

This is a performance-based course.

- Scales, techniques and sections of music can and will be assessed, via video or live performance.
- Students also demonstrate their knowledge and connection to the subject through music literacy (note reading/writing), as well as written expression (essay/journals).
- Additional grades are determined by rehearsal participation, effort and etiquette as well as ensemble performances at school events/concerts.
- Students in advanced ensembles may also earn credit for extra event participation and for helping to mentor more novice students on their instrument.
- Students will also show progress on their instrument through solo performance at the end of each semester.