Course Title: Orchestra

Course #: 1782-1783

Course Description:
The Orchestra class offers performance-based musical practice and learning on string instruments. 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. Beginners are eligible and encouraged to join at the discretion of the instructor. Instrumentation is limited to violin, viola, cello or string bass. Students interested in different instruments should inquire about other ensemble courses, such as band. 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 practice their instrument approximately 30 minutes per day, or 3 hours per week.

Prerequisite: None

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Prior musical experience (on any instrument) is helpful but not necessary.

Although some students enrolled in the course may have previous musical experience, it is not necessary. For students who have experience on the piano or guitar, they will still be expected to learn a traditional wind, brass or percussion instrument.
Course Grade Categories:
- 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 will also show progress on their instrument through solo performance at the end of each semester.