Course Title: Orchestra Honors

Course #: 1823-1824

Course Description:
Honors Orchestra is a highly select group of musicians designed for the advanced players. Special emphasis is placed on solo and chamber performance as well as regular orchestral studies. Students accepted into this program will be expected to expand their mastery of music theory, music history, and composition through performance-based musical practice and learning on string instruments. The curriculum will include both traditional and contemporary repertoire. 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: 10-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: Students in Orchestra Honors should be averaging 45 minutes to 1 hour of practice per day, outside of rehearsal time.

Prerequisite: Advanced Orchestra (3-4) or audition for non-freshmen.

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Students enrolled in Orchestra Honors should have two-three years experience in a high school band ensemble or should demonstrate advanced proficiency on their instrument, as well as with musical literacy. This includes being able to perform at least 6 major scales, memorized, at a brisk tempo. Students should be able to comfortably sight-read Grade 3 literature and perform Grade 4-5 literature when preparation time is provided. Experience with chamber music and/or orchestral repertoire is not required with this course, but is encouraged.

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.