

2018-2019

HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL GT ORCHESTRA SYLLABUS

THE GT STRING ORCHESTRA PROVIDES A PERFORMANCE-BASED CURRICULUM FOR ADVANCED LEVEL LEARNERS, FOCUSING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXPRESSIVE AND ARTISTIC MUSICAL EXPERIENCES THROUGH STUDENT DRIVEN WORK. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT MERELY BE PLAYING INSTRUMENTS IN THIS COURSE, BUT RATHER LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC THROUGH PERFORMANCE. AS SUCH, A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF YOUR WORK IN THIS COURSE WILL BE DEVOTED TO REFINING YOUR PERFORMANCE SKILLS, INCREASING YOUR ABILITY TO READ NEW MUSIC AT SIGHT, AND EXPLORING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING MUSICIAN.

GRADING POLICY

Creativity and Composition – 5%

Students will complete composition assignments to further their understanding of music theory and the creative process

Musicianship – 30%

Students will complete assignments that explore musical works performed in class to further their understanding of performance practice. Assignments will include listening to personal, ensemble, and professional recordings and researching musical works to understand cultural and historical context.

Applied Skills and Technical Development – 35%

Every Student will receive graded performance assessments and skills tests throughout the year. These tests are video and/or audio recorded.

Procedures and Practices – 25%

Students are not just learning to perform on their instruments, but they are also learning to conduct themselves in a large ensemble rehearsal. This class will put the student in the role of a professional instrumental musician. As such, you will be asked to show your understanding of rehearsal and performance behavior. Students are observed and assessed on their instrumental performance and rehearsal conduct on a

daily basis. This includes Symphonic Orchestra rehearsals and sectionals.

Reflection – 5%

Students will receive written reflection assignments over the course of the year. Students will evaluate their performances and performances by other groups in the following categories: tone, technique, intonation, musicality, balance, interpretation, musical effect, and other factors.

GT STRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT DATES

Students should plan to stay for the entire concert. It is highly recommended to have at least one parent in attendance for each performance.

Fall Concert (GT Orchestra and Choirs) – October 10th, 7 – 9pm

Pyramid Concert (GT Orchestra ONLY) – November 13th, 7 – 9pm

Winter Concert (All Orchestras) – December 12th, 7 – 8:30pm

Franz Schubert's Mass in C Major

Rehearsal at Howard HS Auditorium - January 29th, 5 – 8pm

Rehearsal at Howard HS Auditorium – February 4th, 5 – 8pm

Dress Rehearsal at First Evangelical Lutheran Church – February 6th, 4 – 6pm

Concert at First Evangelical Lutheran Church – February 8th, 7pm

*3604 Chatham Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Howard County Orchestra Assessments, March 26th or March 27th (specific time and date TBA)

Spring Concert, April 9th @ 7pm in Howard HS Auditorium

Spring Trip, April 26th and 27th – Busch Gardens, Williamsburg VA (~\$250-\$350)

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Join our Howard HS Music Boosters to be involved with a great group of people supporting our student musicians throughout the year.

HCPSM - sign up with our COUNTY parents helping to protect music in our schools. Feel free to send the form to Mr. Morris and he will send it.

Keep an eye out for opportunities to serve in a “one-time capacity” as chaperone. Mr. Morris will send out notifications as needed.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

At Home

- Music Stand
- Metronome ([Online Metronome](#))
- Chromatic Tuner
- Rosin
- Cleaning cloth
- Rock Stop

In Class

- Instrument and Bow
- Music
- Rehearsal Pencil
- Rosin
- Cleaning cloth

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private teachers model a professional sound on their instrument

Students are able to perform by themselves weekly and get concentrated feedback

Students are able to focus on supplemental exercises written specifically for their instrument. Method books written just for their instruments are far superior than ensemble music for developing well-rounded players.

Region/district orchestra auditions can be approached on an individual level. Instructors give students a chance to play a unique solo music while also assisting in preparing for festivals and competitions

Private lesson teachers provide a role model for students that can be a strong motivation for students to continue in music and excel on an individual level

Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus.

I HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS, UNDERSTAND THE GRADING POLICY,
AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE STATED GUIDELINES.

PARENT NAME _____

STUDENT NAME _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

STUDENTS SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____