

2018-2019

# HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL STRING ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS

THE HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL STRING ENSEMBLE PROVIDES A PERFORMANCE-BASED CURRICULUM FOR STUDENT MUSICIANS, 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 PRACTICAL AND 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 after school 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.

## STRING ENSEMBLE 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 date.**

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

Pyramid Concert (GT Orchestra ONLY) – November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 9pm

**Winter Concert** (All Orchestras) – December 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 8:30pm

Franz Schubert’s Mass in C Major (GT Orchestra Only)

*Rehearsal* at Howard HS Auditorium - January 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 8pm

*Rehearsal* at Howard HS Auditorium – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 8pm

*Dress Rehearsal* at First Evangelical Lutheran Church – February 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 6pm

*Concert* at First Evangelical Lutheran Church – February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

\*3604 Chatham Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Howard County Orchestra Assessments**, March 26<sup>th</sup> or March 27<sup>th</sup> (specific time and date TBA)

**Spring Concert**, April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in Howard HS Auditorium

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

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Join our very own 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.

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

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

### At Home

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

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_