

OPRFHS ORCHESTRAS

COURSE INFORMATION

2024-2025

General Purpose of Orchestra (in an academic setting)

The goal of the OPRFHS Orchestra program is to musically train and provide students the opportunity to perform a variety of quality music and to become trained listeners, consumers and performers of music. Through our orchestra program, students will also gain experience in collaboration and leadership and will hopefully become valuable citizens through the training of our orchestra program. Students will also study topics related to their repertoire, including music history, music theory, and music composition/creativity.

Objectives

1. Students will perform music in a variety of settings including string orchestra, full orchestra, chamber music and solo.
2. Students will demonstrate musical/instrumental techniques at the appropriate level and demonstrate growth in their individual and ensemble performance.
3. Students will learn basic music theory and music history as is related to their instrument and orchestral repertoire at the appropriate level.
4. Students will regularly perform (in scheduled concerts) for the public.

Daily Expectations - Non Negotiable

- Students are expected to attend class on time (according to the school tardy policy), ready to learn/rehearse.
- Class materials include instrument, music, pencil, and Chromebook.
- Students are expected to participate without completing homework or other class reading on their laps, **fully engaged** in the class.
- Cell phones will be kept in the phone homes.
- IDs are to be worn at all times.

Work outside of class

- Students are expected to practice their music for class. (This is equivalent to homework in other classes.) Practice charts are not required for this program, so students are responsible for managing their time for practice.
 - Students are expected to register and sign in to Google Classroom, Smartmusic, Soundtrap and Noteflight. (Free to all of our orchestra students)
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OPRFHS Orchestra Grading

Grading for this class is based on your contribution to the entire ensemble. In other classes (i.e. math, history or science), individual student performance does not affect the performance of the entire class. However, a group project in any of those classes required everyone in the group to contribute. Think of orchestra as a large group project. When you choose not to participate, your contribution is lacking, therefore, you should not receive equal credit as other students who participated. This is why class participation is weighed so heavily.

70%	Class Participation
20%	Performance Assessments and Concerts
10%	Classwork

Class Participation: You are expected to bring your instrument, music, and a pencil every day that we rehearse music. You are expected to be ready when Mr. Pearson begins the class. You are expected to be engaged in the rehearsal without other classwork, phone, or Chromebook, unless instructed to do so. Phones are to be kept in the phone home.

Performance Assessments: Most of the performance assessments will be recorded and submitted by video.

Classwork: Classwork includes anything that is assigned to you during the class or for homework, including creative assignments, compositions, critiques, and computer work with music software.

Grading Rubric

Abbreviation Key as it will appear in the comments section of the Skyward grade book: **HW** = Other class work **NE** = Not engaged (includes talking and sleeping) **NR** = Not ready in time **UD** = Unauthorized device

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Class Participation WEEKLY GRADE	On time to class Engaged for the entire period No Violations	Participates in class, but receives a violation in ONE category.	Does not play in class, but does sit attentively to the rehearsal and/or receives a violation in TWO categories	Does not play in class and/or receives in violation in THREE or more categories
Assignments Separate rubric for each assignment	90%-100%	80%-89%	70%-79%	60%-69%

Performances	Attends the performance at the announced call time and remains for the entire performance. Exercises proper audience and performance etiquette.	Arrives late, leaves early, does not exercise proper etiquette, etc. (Director's discretion)	Does not attend the performance. Grade will be 0%
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PERFORMANCES

By virtue of being a member of the Oak Park and River Forest High School Orchestra, you have placed upon yourself an obligation not only to yourself, but to the entire program. Because it is OUR desire to achieve the finest possible result, attendance at all performances by every orchestra member is MANDATORY. It would be unrealistic to assume that exceptions, such as illness, death in the family, etc., do not occur, so emergencies will be considered exceptions. With this in mind, the following policy has been instituted to explain and define the absence policy of the orchestra. Please keep in mind that this policy exists so that we maintain the quality of the Oak Park and River Forest High School Orchestra.

All concerts are mandatory and are calculated into your grade. If you cannot attend a performance due to circumstances beyond your control, **please provide parent written notification (email) to Mr. Pearson at least 3 weeks before the scheduled performance.** Your written notification may be presented in the form of an email from your parent(s).

If you have a sports practice, you are to notify your coach of your performance ahead of time. If a concert conflicts with a sports competition, please notify both Mr. Pearson and your coach as soon as you are aware of the conflict. Your director and your coach will be in contact to work out a schedule for you. Most of the time, something can be worked out. State athletic competition is considered excused.

Excused absence from performances

1. Illness – advance notice (voicemail or email) appreciated if possible
2. Death in family
3. State athletic competition
4. Any other uncontrollable, extenuating circumstance that is approved by Mr. Pearson

Unexcused absences include work, studying, oversleeping from a nap

Our concerts are much more than walking on stage and performing. Our students are taught proper performance etiquette as well as audience etiquette. Parents, please assist the music department faculty in maintaining the professionalism of our performances by making sure your children arrive to the performances on time and properly dressed and that they exercise proper etiquette throughout the concert. As always, please feel free to call Mr. Pearson at 708-434-3100 or email at ppearson@oprfs.org.

Oak Park and River Forest High School Orchestra Calendar 2024

F	September 27	8th Grade Orchestra Day	During School
Tu	October 1	Concerto Competition Prelims	After School - Choir Room
W	October 2	ILMEA Audition Video Due	5:00 PM
Tu	October 8	Huskie MusicFest	5:00 PM - 9:30 PM-Field Hs*
Tu	October 22	Concerto Competition Finals	7:00 PM - Auditorium
Sa	November 9	ILMEA District Festival	All Day - Elmhurst College
W	December 11	Prisms of Winter Rehearsal	After School - 6:30 PM
Th	December 12	Prisms of Winter Performance	7:00 PM
F	December 13	Prisms of Winter Performance	7:00 PM
W	January 22	Cinderella Pit Orchestra begins	After School
W-Sa	Jan 29 - Feb 1	ILMEA All-State Festival	Peoria, IL
M	February 3	2025-26 Orchestra Auditions Due	11:59 PM
Sa	March 2	Cinderella (Winter Musical)	7:00 PM - Auditorium
Su	March 3	Cinderella (Winter Musical)	2:00 PM - Auditorium
F	March 8	Cinderella (Winter Musical)	7:00 PM - Auditorium
Sa	March 9	Cinderella (Winter Musical)	7:00 PM - Auditorium
Tu	March 18	String and Concert Orchestra Performance	7:00 PM - Auditorium
Th	March 20	Symphony Orchestra Performance	7:00 PM - Auditorium
F	March 21	Spain Tour	
Sa	March 29	Return from Spain	
Tu	May 13	Orchestra Senior Farewell Concert and Awards Presentation	7:00 PM - Auditorium

The dates in bold are performances that involve all or most of the orchestra classes.

* Students are required to attend and perform at their designated time to be announced later.