



Sinfonia
Syllabus - 2025 - 2026

Mrs. Zakutansky-Clark
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Course Description:

Sinfonia is an audition only, advanced level orchestra. Students will perform classical, contemporary literature, and chamber music. Members of a Sinfonia may perform with the wind ensemble, choirs, and other groups. Students will be given the opportunity for lessons, independent, solo, and small ensemble work. Sinfonia students are expected to practice outside of the class period. Students are required to participate in all concerts and other performances listed in the syllabus at the start of the year. Sinfonia will participate in an orchestra festival, midnight magic, WSMA Solo & Ensemble contest, and four formal concerts each year. This is an audition ensemble. Auditions take place late winter and auditions audition materials will be posted by winter break. Students who enroll in Mukwonago High School after the audition date should contact Mrs. Zakutansky-Clark if they are interested in joining Sinfonia.

Course Expectations:

Summative	Formative
Five required performances (10/20/25, 12/10/25, 3/5/26, 5/12/26, and Solo & Ensemble 3/21/26) per year with optional additional performance opportunities. <i>S&E is not graded</i>	Six required lessons per semester to be attended by students outside of the orchestra class period.
Written concert self and group reflections. <i>December and May reflections will be a portion of the semester exam</i>	Quarterly video playing assignments completed on Google Classroom.
Final Exam	
December or May Concert Reflection	Playing assignment from current music in class.

Primary Resources:

Google Classroom - [haqngop3](#)
Music

Grade Breakdown:

Semester Grade	Practice	Formative	Summative
90 or 80%	0%	70%	30%
10 or 20%	Semester Exam		

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A+	97-100	B	83-86	C-	70-72
A	93-96	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
F Below 60					

Late Work/Missing Work Policy:

Mukwonago Area Schools believes that feedback is an integral component to student success in teaching and learning. Mukwonago High School expects that all students will turn in work by the intended due date to receive full credit and necessary feedback. Students will have the opportunity to turn in practice and formative assessments up to 2 school days late to receive partial credit.

- **Full Credit:** Students *might* receive full credit if the practice or formative assessment is turned in on the due date.
- **Partial Credit:** Students will receive partial credit if the practice or formative assessment is turned in up to two school days after the due date.
- **Zero Credit:** practice or formative assessment can be turned in past the two days to remain eligible for reassessment; however, no credit will be given.

Assessment Policy:

Assessments are used to measure student learning of essential learning standards within a unit of instruction.

Cumulative Assessments (Ex. Projects, Essays, Presentations, Semester Exams): These end of unit assessments are final products of learning in which students have had several opportunities to make adjustments based on feedback. Retakes are not provided for these types of end of unit assessments. ***Not eligible for retake**

Summative Assessments (Ex. Test): This end of unit assessment uses various types of questions that students have studied but not previously seen. Students are eligible to reassess if the following criteria are met: practice and formative assignments for the unit have been completed and turned in prior to the summative assessment, student meets with their teacher to schedule a reassessment, and demonstrates relearning within 2 weeks of receiving the original assessment. The reassessment grade will replace the original summative grade, regardless if the new grade is lower than the original assessment. ***Eligible for retake**

Materials/Supplies needed:

- Working Instrument & Bow
- Uniform (Tux or Dress - rented from Mrs. ZC)
- Rosin
- Shoulder Rest (violins and violas)
- Strap/Rockstop (cellos and basses)
- Pencil
- Music
- Mute (as needed)
- Tuner/Tuner App (optional)
- Metronome/App (optional)

Expectations & Classroom Conduct:

Orchestra Room Muk Way Matrix: https://drive.google.com/file/d/132jPYzZoj5aXFnX1V_FkEqzYU1s5F0T/view?usp=sharing

Tardiness will be tracked in Infinite Campus (IC), and the following steps will be taken for each occurrence:

1st Tardy: Verbal warning

2nd Tardy: 10-minute detention with the teacher (must be served within 2 days) and parent contact; administration will be notified through Educlimber.

3rd Tardy: Teacher will submit an IC office referral. Administration will meet with the student, assign an after-school detention, and contact the parent.

4th +: The teacher will submit an office referral in Infinite Campus (IC), and administration will determine appropriate consequences at their discretion.

Academic Honesty:

The Mukwonago Area School District emphasizes the importance of academic honesty and integrity as essential to education. Students are expected to complete and represent their work truthfully and are held accountable for academic misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, and misuse of artificial intelligence. Teachers review the academic honesty policy at the start of each course. Consequences for dishonesty vary by offense: the **first offense** results in a zero on the assessment, parent contact, administrative review, and permanent ineligibility for National Honor Society; the **second offense** leads to another zero, a parent meeting with administration, and ineligibility for valedictorian or salutatorian honors; a **third offense** results in withdrawal from the course with a failing grade or audit status, and loss of honors pass privileges.

Tips for Success:

1. In Sinfonia, Mrs. Zakutansky-Clark expects that students are practicing and preparing their music outside of class; these are rehearsals **not** practices. Our time in class should be spent aligning each student's individual part with their section and the rest of the orchestra. The amount of time a student needs to practice is not the same from student to student. If Mrs. ZC needs students to prepare music outside of class, she will identify spots at the conclusion of rehearsal each day. Students should spend as much time as they need to meet the goals set by Mrs. ZC by the next class period.
2. If your student is struggling in class, please say something! Mrs. ZC can't fix a problem if she doesn't know a problem exists - but she wants to help! The more she's kept in the loop, the more she's able to help.
3. Mrs. ZC will send monthly newsletters via email with updates regarding upcoming events for the orchestras. Please be sure to read those closely as they will contain important information.
4. All assignments and announcements will be posted on Google Classroom. Please feel free to join our class's Google Classroom to receive updates in your email when I post anything on GC.
5. If you come to her class on time, are engaged during rehearsal, respectful to your peers, Mrs. ZC, and the classroom, she promises a year full of laughter and incredible musical growth!

All Mukwonago policies & procedures will be followed and enforced in this class as outlined in more detail in the [Mukwonago High School Student and Parent Handbook](#).

