



Carter High School

Music Appreciation Syllabus 2025–2026

Director: Susan Barnes

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Office Hours: M, T, Th, F 8:40 - 9:30 am or by appointment



COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUSIC APPRECIATION

This course invites students to explore diverse musical styles and traditions through hands-on, creative, and collaborative experiences. Students will study the elements of music while engaging with a variety of instruments and activities, including world drumming, digital music production, Orff instruments, handbells, choral singing, and music history. The class will also feature investigations into influential composers, performers, and the cultural contexts that shaped their music.

Learning experiences will include:

- Listening, performing, and creating music
- Analyzing musical works and styles
- Participating in group discussions and reflections
- Completing projects and periodic presentations

Through these activities, students will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of music as both an art form and a reflection of diverse cultures. This course is open to all students; no audition required.

CLASS CODE: o6ydi53q

GRADING

GUIDELINES

Grades are based on assignments and assessments aligned with the [National Core Arts Standards](#). Your grade reflects both your performance and your growth. Be sure to read the following guidelines carefully and strive for personal and academic success.

- **Grading Scale:** A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, F = 59% and below
- **Key Requirements:**
 - Participation in all unit performances is required to earn a passing grade.
 - Class absences, excessive tardies, missing work, or failure to meet proficiency on assessments may result in a failing grade.
 - Students **must maintain passing grades** in all of their classes to participate in off-campus extracurricular activities and field trips.
- **Graded Activities:**
 - Daily Participation - 5 points
 - Assignments - 10 points
 - Assessments, Projects, and Performances - 25 points

AREAS OF STUDY

Creating

Students are expected to

- Make a strong effort, keep an open mind, and explore their creativity.
- Be on time, prepared, and enthusiastic for each class.

Performing

Students are expected to:

- Participate in every performance for their group.
- Be prepared by practicing, studying music, and completing all work.

Responding

Students will analyze, evaluate, and reflect on their own and others' performances to improve.

Connecting

Students will explore how music relates to their lives and the world.

Students will be encouraged to:

- Build positive relationships.
- Work collaboratively toward shared goals.
- **ROAR** and represent Carter High School and Rialto Unified School District by being **Responsible, Open-Minded, Ambitious, and Respectful**.

POLICIES

MAKE-UP WORK & MISSED PERFORMANCES

It's important to stay on top of assignments and performances so you can keep up with the class.

Please follow these guidelines if you're absent:

- Request makeup work the first day back by checking Google Classroom and speaking with Dr. Barnes.
- One extra day per day absent is allowed to complete missed work.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All classwork and homework must be your own. Follow these guidelines to avoid academic dishonesty:

- Do your own work — no copying from other students or outside sources.
- Cite all quotes from books, articles, or online sources.
- The use of AI is not allowed for written assignments or reflections unless specifically approved; Dr. Barnes will explain acceptable uses.
- Cheating or plagiarism = zero on the assignment, no make-up allowed, and possible disciplinary action.



TARDIES

You are considered tardy if you are not inside the classroom before the tardy bell stops ringing. Tardies disrupt learning, so please arrive on time. Dr. Barnes will follow the official CHS Tardy Policy:

Number of Tardies	What Happens	Follow-Up
1–2	Marked in Synergy	Quick reminder from Dr. Barnes about expectations
3–5	Marked in Synergy	Teacher counsels student & contacts parent
6	Referral to admin; Step-Up assigned	Admin calls, emails, and sends letter to parent
7	2 Step-Ups and/or community service assigned	Admin calls, emails, and sends letter to parent
8	4 Step-Ups assigned	Parent conference with admin (SART/SARB)

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, headphones, and other personal electronics must be put away and out of sight as soon as you enter the classroom with the exception of your school laptop. Our focus is on music and rehearsal, not screens.

Per the Rialto Unified School District Mobile Communication Device Policy, students may use devices only during non-instructional time. The time we spend in class is **instructional time**, so cell phones should remain stored in your backpacks.

- With the exception of the school-issued laptops, cell phones, head phones, bluetooth ear buds, tablets, and other personal electronic devices are not to be used in the classroom.
- Unauthorized use will result in the device being confiscated by Campus Safety.
- Confiscated devices require parent/guardian pickup.
- Inappropriate or defiant use may also lead to more serious interventions including class suspension and administrator referral.

RESTROOM POLICY

- Restroom breaks during class interrupt learning and are discouraged.
- Use the restroom before school, during passing periods, lunch, or after school.
- Students may only leave class for emergencies.
- No restroom breaks during the first or last 15 minutes of class.

FOOD, DRINKS, GUM, CANDY

- No food, drinks (except plain water), gum, or candy allowed in the classroom.
- Use the 7-minute passing period before class to grab snacks.
- **Bringing water bottles to class is encouraged.**

CLASSROOM STANDARDS & EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to follow all school rules with a focus on our ROAR values:

- Be Responsible and Safe
 - Watch where you walk; be careful around instruments, music stands, and other students.
 - Respect personal space and belongings.
 - Do not touch items that aren't yours.
- Have an Open Mind and Be Positive
 - Try new things and consider different perspectives.
 - Encourage your ensemble members.
 - Speak kindly and think before you speak.

- Be Ambitious and On Time
 - Give 100% effort in all tasks—perfection is not expected, effort is!
 - Arrive early and be prepared to start on time.
- Be Respectful and Patient
 - Respect everyone, even if you disagree or don't like them.
 - Be patient with your classmates as everyone learns at their own pace.
- Take Pride in Your Work
 - Keep your music folder and instrument organized and cared for.
 - Keep the classroom and storage areas clean.
 - Throw away trash and clean up after yourself.
 - Submit neat and timely work.

Remember: THINK before you speak or act!

REWARDS:	Progressive Discipline Plan:
Pride in Your Work!	1. Verbal Warning
Respect from Others!	2. Verbal Redirection and Student Conference
Fun Field Trips!	3. Seat Change/ Detention
Making Life-long Friends!	4. Parent Contact
School Spirit Rewards!	5. Class Suspension/ Parent Contact/ Office Referral

SUPPLIES

To be successful, students must come to class **prepared every day** with the following:

- **Laptops:** Bring your laptop and charger daily to access Google Classroom and class materials. Charging outlets are available.
- **Writing Tools:** Bring a sharpened pencil with a good eraser to mark music and complete assignments. Pens (black or blue ink) are for writing reflections and other writing tasks only—do not use pens to mark music.

Welcome to the Carter High School Performing Arts Program! I am SO excited to spend this year with you learning about music! If you ever have any questions, please feel free to email me at sbarnes@rialtousd.org.

RESPECTFUL * OPEN-MINDED * AMBITIOUS * RESPONSIBLE

