

The logo features a stylized treble clef and musical notes in the background. Overlaid on this is the text: "Sultana High School" in a bold, serif font; "Instrumental Music Program" in a bold, sans-serif font; "String Orchestra" in a regular, sans-serif font; and "Syllabus" in a regular, sans-serif font.

**Sultana High School**  
**Instrumental Music Program**  
String Orchestra  
Syllabus

Mr. Joe Costantino	Room H-805	(760) 947-6777 x4278	joe.costantino@hesperiausd.org
--------------------	------------	----------------------	--------------------------------

## **WELCOME!**

Welcome to another exciting and sure-to-be successful school year here at Sultana High! I look forward to making and exploring wonderful music together! I am glad you have chosen a path in music, because it can be one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences you can have during your high school career! Music education offers an approach to developing the ‘whole student’ through experiences not offered in other areas of the curriculum. Making music requires the student to engage many senses all at the same time to achieve creative potential, a dimension of higher cognition unique to the music classroom. Additionally, music education provides a democratic atmosphere where each student’s contribution and voice is crucial not only to the ensemble’s musical endeavors but to the overall classroom community as well. Through music making students have the opportunity to be exposed to and experience a variety of different cultures.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class provides opportunities for string instrument players to continue the study and mastery of their instrument, and apply them through performance. We will explore classical and contemporary orchestral music and further your development as a musician in a variety of ways, including the use of group and individual technique studies, the performance of both traditional and contemporary string orchestra and ensemble literature, the critique and analysis of other musical performances, and the research of various related music topics. This course will also allow for the opportunity for musical & personal growth as both individuals and as a group, and will be a rigorous performing ensemble with high expectations of success.

## **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

In my classroom, there are three guiding principles for a safe and effective learning environment that all students and the teacher will abide by at all times. These three principles (which will be discussed in great detail at the beginning and throughout the year) are known as “Mr. C’s Keys”. Each student will do the following at all times:

- 1) contribute to an emotionally safe environment
- 2) contribute to a physically safe environment, and
- 3) respect all property and facilities.

In addition, students are expected to follow certain guidelines, called the “Do’s and Don’ts”, throughout the year:

### **DO'S:**

- Come to class on time and prepared to rehearse, including having all the proper materials
- Try your personal best at all times
- Have a positive attitude
- Ask questions when you have them
- Respect and be courteous to all your classmates and teacher
- Follow Mr. C’s Keys and all school-wide rules

### **DON'TS:**

- Eat, drink or chew gum in the classroom or before playing your instrument
- Have any electronic devices turned on or visible in the class under any circumstance
- Disrupt the learning process for other students by being inconsiderate or disrespectful to others or the teacher, including talking or entering the room tardy
- Use foul or inappropriate behavior

## **BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Students will be expected to follow Mr. C's Keys, the Do's and Don'ts, and all school-wide rules at all times. Failure to follow these procedures will result in proper disciplinary action, as outlined in the Student Handbook. For all others, the following consequences will be in effect:

### Consequences:

1. Verbal warning
2. 15 minute lunch detention & phone call home
3. 30 minute after school detention & parent-teacher conference
4. Referral to the office

Severe Clause: Any student who fights, damages school property (including that of the teacher or another student), or is disrespectful as determined by the teacher, will be sent to the office immediately with a referral.

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

All students are expected to have ALL materials with them in class, each day.

1. Your instrument and all necessary parts in working order
2. All music, warm-ups, etudes, and exercises in their folder
3. A working pencil with eraser
4. Tuner & metronome
5. Rosin, cleaning cloth
6. Replacement strings
7. **Enthusiasm, positive attitude, & willingness to learn and make great music together!**

## **ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION & GRADING POLICIES**

**Attendance is Important!:** Attendance is an integral part of improving as a musician and as an ensemble. It is said that you do not come to class every day to learn your own part – you come to learn *everyone else's*. If a student is absent, they cannot participate in or contribute to the rehearsal, so their participation grade will suffer. Each student will be held to the school-wide attendance policy, in addition to my own. Every day, each student will start off with 5 points for being present in class with their required materials. An unexcused absence will result in that student not earning those 5 points for the day. It is each student's responsibility to make up the work they have missed due to unexcused absences. At the end of each grading period, the total points earned will be divided by total points possible, and that will be converted into a percentage, which will make up their participation grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken at the start of each period, during the daily Warm Ups. The ensemble seating chart will be used, and any student not in their assigned seats at the start of warm-ups will be marked absent or tardy. As per the SHS Student Handbook, pg. 17, "*Athletes, cast members, choir members, etc... must attend 4 class periods on the day of a competition, play, performance, etc... or he/she may not be eligible to participate in the competition or performance.*" All musicians will be held to this.

**Tardy Policy:** For every tardy, 2 points will be subtracted from that student's 5 participation points for the day. This is in addition to the school tardy policy, which is found on pg. 19 of the SHS Student Handbook.

**Extracurricular GPA Requirement:** The Program will follow the SHS extracurricular GPA eligibility, found on pg. 36 of the SHS Handbook.

**Grading Policy:** My Grading Policy is as follows:

A: 100% - 90%   B: 89% - 80%   C: 79% - 70%   D: 69% - 60%   F: 59% and below
Participation: 50%    Concert Attendance: 25%    Assignments: 10%    Playing Assessments: 15%

**Forgetting Your Instrument:** Students will have one ‘freebie’ each grading period to forget their instrument. After this freebie, student will serve a 15-minute detention before school, after school, or during lunch. 3 points will also be deducted from their daily participation points. It is essential to always come prepared to class every day for the success of the ensemble.

**STUDENT & PARENT RESOURCES**

The Sultana High School website is an excellent resource for information. Students can use the school website for their various resources available to them. I encourage both parents and students to visit [www.sultanahighschool.com](http://www.sultanahighschool.com) often!

The Instrumental Music Program also has its own website. Students and parents are all encouraged to visit this website for up-to-date news and information on the program, as well as resources specific to each ensemble, practice tools, a calendar of events, and more! The band website address is [www.sultanaband.org](http://www.sultanaband.org).

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Thank you for your continued support in your child’s academic and musical success! The arts are a vital, enriching part of any child’s academic, social and personal development. The arts teach countless valuable lessons that your child will take with them on through adulthood. As parents, I ask that you support your child in all aspects of their education, including music, by encouraging and assisting them with their practicing and homework for all classes, having the proper materials with them each day, coming to school well-fed and dressed for success, and encouraging positive behavior, good communication, Mr. C’s Keys, and other positive behaviors expected of them. Also, volunteering says more than you think – show your student you care by volunteering often. The gift of volunteering benefits your child, the band program, and is a rewarding experience for yourself as well!

I am always here for your student and want them to have a successful academic, personal, and musical career. Please inform me if they are experiencing any major changes or disruptions in their life, or any other pertinent information you feel I may need to know to better educate them and provide a healthy, effective learning environment for them. I strive to provide the best possible musical education for your student that I am able to by getting to know each student on a personal level, and together we can make this happen! I thank you again for the opportunity to enrich your child’s life through the beauty of music!

Musically,  
Joe Costantino, “Mr. C”

-----  
*Please fill out, sign, detach, and return this portion to Mr. C*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing and submitting this form, I am indicating that I have read this syllabus in its entirety, will follow it to the best of my ability, and will keep it for future reference.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date