

SULTANA HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

2019-2020 String Orchestra Syllabus

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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, focusing on music fundamentals including note and rhythm reading, scales, and other fundamentals. 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. There will also be a minimum of three required concerts; Graduation performance; as well as the possibility of traveling to a Festival.

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. 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 classroom guidelines throughout the year:

DO'S:

- Come to class on time and prepared to rehearse each day, including having all proper materials
- Try your personal best at all times
- Have a positive attitude and don't give up on yourself
- Ask questions when you have them
- Respect and be courteous to all your classmates and teacher
- Follow the classroom expectations 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, unless being used for assignments or when allowed
- 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, inappropriate or derogatory language

BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students will be expected to follow all classroom expectations and all school-wide rules at all times. Failure to follow these procedures may result in proper disciplinary action, as outlined in the Student Handbook. For all others, the following classroom consequences may 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. I also reserve the right to skip consequence steps when deemed appropriate.

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, chinrest, stopper, cleaning cloth, extra strings, etc., relevant to your instrument
6. **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, *"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 in the SHS Student 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
Daily Participation: 5 pts Performances: 50-200 pts Sectionals: 25 pts Assignments/Tests: TBD

Concert Performances: Orchestra is a 'co-curricular' and performance-based class, so participation in after school concerts, weekly sectionals, and performances are a mandatory part of this class. Each student's grade is dependent on participation in these after school commitments. For all performances, students will need to wear the proper concert attire. Descriptions of that can be found in the Program Handbook, or the band website.

Sectionals: As part of this class, students will be expected to participate in weekly sectionals when assigned. Sectionals can consist of 1 hour after school, or two half hour lunch sessions. Sectionals must be held with at least 1 other person from the same section, unless prior teacher approval is given. Students present for the sectional must each complete a Sectional Log and submit by Friday of each week for credit. No late or make-up sectionals will be accepted, without prior teacher approval.

Forgetting Your Instrument: Students will have one 'freebie' each quarter to forget their instrument. After this freebie, students may be asked to serve a 15-minute detention before school, after school, or during lunch. They will also not receive participation points for the day. It is essential to always come prepared to class every day for the success of the student & ensemble.

Music Folders: Each student will be assigned their own leather-bound Sultana Instrumental Music folder for the duration they are enrolled in the class, and will fill out and submit a Folder Rental Agreement. This folder will be used exclusively for that student's music, pencil, and music-related books and worksheets. The folder will be returned in its same condition given to them the end of the year, and will contain no major damage. Students will be responsible for promptly replacing this folder if it is lost, stolen, or badly damaged.

Sultana Arts Academy: This course meets the requirements for a performing ensemble course within the 'Instrumental Music' track for the Sultana Arts Academy, and can be repeated as part of the program toward the Academy graduation medallion & honors.

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 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.

Students and Parents can also subscribe to Mr. Costantino’s class texting service, which is a mass texting and email communication service that allows you to receive notices from the teacher regarding the class. This is a free service (standard text messaging rates apply), and is a safe way for the teacher to stay in contact with students and parents without either party sharing their personal information. Text the number **81010** with the code **@shsbandpar** to subscribe.

Registering for this service is simple: Students and parents can text the code **@sultanaOR** to **81010** or email sultanaOR@mail.remind.com to receive the messages their student receives. To unsubscribe, reply with “unsubscribe @sultanaOR” to be removed from that group, or “stop” to be removed from all groups.

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, the following of all classroom and school rules and expectations, 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,
Mr. Costantino

----- CUT FORM HERE -----

STRING ORCHESTRA

2019-20 Year

Please fill out, sign, detach, and return this portion to Mr. Costantino

Student Name: _____ Parent Name: _____

Parent E-mail: _____ Parent Phone: _____

By signing and submitting this form, I am indicating that I have read and understand 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