**Honors Orchestra**

Overton High School

**Course Information: 2024-2025**

| **Ms. R. Johnson** | **Contact:** | **Planning time:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Room:**308 | nicholsjohnsonr@scsk12.org | 12:25pm-1:20pm |

**Course Descriptive**

This course is a year-long class. This class will have high standards for performance and include fundamentals and enhancement of string orchestra playing, including violin, viola, cello and bass. Students will learn to *develop an appreciation of music*, *build skills for efficient practicing*, f*ollow a conductor*, and *increase music literacy* - including music reading, recognizing articulations and musical styles, and understanding musical terms. Students will receive exposure to music's relation to history and art. Emphasis will also be placed on exposing each student to a variety of performing experiences and music in which to apply these skills. Participation is required for all concerts and 8th period rehearsals relating to competition.

***CAPA ORCHESTRA-*** Orchestra Dues are $100 and are due by September 30. Dues are non- refundable.

Students who are new to the school may arrange a special audition upon arrival. Participation in private lessons is **strongly** recommended. If you wish to participate in lessons, the Overton HS Orchestra has partnered with local professional musicians to provide lessons at a discounted rate! These lessons may take place at the school during the 8th hour between 2:15pm-3:15pm.

**Orchestra Course Objectives:**

Students will learn to develop:

* A positive sense and an appreciation of music
* Music literacy – interpreting, reading, and sight-reading music
* Efficient practicing techniques
* Skills necessary to perform solo or in a group
* The ability to recognize articulations and musical styles
* Knowledge of musical terms
* Sight reading skills

Emphasis will also be placed on exposing each student to a variety of performance experiences and music in which to apply these skills.

**Required texts and other readings**: Orchestra literature and pedagogy pieces that reinforce scales, rhythms, etc. will be provided. Students may need to purchase solo literature for contests as well as any preferred Strings Method book, Essential Elements Book 3 and the Essential Elements Gold book.

**Supplies**

Personal instruments are recommended and all possible measures will be taken to ensure their safety while at school. Parents are responsible for the timely upkeep of their student’s personal or borrowed instrument. District cellos and basses will be available to play at school, but each student also needs to have an instrument to practice on at home.

District instruments are available for student use and may be checked out from Miss Johnson. Availability is limited and there is a School instrumental rental fee of **$75** for the entire school year. Students are responsible for any breakage or damage while in their care. A contract will need to be signed for liability.

Students will be required to purchase:

· A shoulder rest for violins or violas

· A rock stop for cellists and basses

· Rosin (all instruments – violins, violas, cellos, and basses)

· An orchestral mute (violins, violas, and cellos)

· Strings for the instrument

· Concert Black Attire

**Concert Dress Code**

Ladies: Long black dress, skirt, or dress slacks with a black blouse, sweater, or jacket. Modest necklines and sleeves (no sleeveless). Black socks or nylons and black dress shoes.

Young Men: Black Tuxedo, white shirt, with black bow tie. Black dress shoes and black socks. Can be purchased at tuxedowholesaler.com

For anyone needing concert clothes: Please let Ms. Johnson know if there is a financial need and we will work to get you what you need.

**Course Outline**

Over the course of a semester, students will:

· Know the importance of good tone production and bowing

· Develop a good concept of intonation and the importance of balance and blend

· Gain the ability to choose appropriate fingering and position

· Learn different bow techniques, vibrato, and how to play harmonics

· Know music theory and history and its relation to other arts

· Demonstrate knowledge of Scales and Key signatures

· Develop an understanding of the importance of hand position and proper technique

Students will demonstrate knowledge by:

· Performing scales and assigned sections from in-class pieces

· Performing solos and duets

· Attending and participating in contests – solo and orchestral i.e. All-West and UofM Honors Orchestra, or All City Orchestra, Solo and Ensemble.

· Attending and participating in concerts

· Theory and music history assessments on paper

· Sight reading – in class, and in individual assessment.

Through this, students will gain an understanding of the importance of stage presence, the ability to evaluate self, and an understanding of orchestral repertoire. Daily assignments include in class performances, reading and literacy, music theory sheets, playing tests on solos and scales, and ear training exercises.

Homework includes individual practice and concert reviews.

**Grading Policies**

Each student’s grade will be determined by performances, in-class work, improvement, playing tests, and written tests. These grades will be averaged together to determine the final grade. A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%.

The following percentages will apply in grading:

1. Performance (summative assessment) 40%
2. In-class work (formative assessment) 40%
3. Improvement (formative assessment) 10%
4. Tests (summative assessment) 10%

**Concert Performance:** Since each member of the orchestra plays a vital part, the success of our orchestra depends on everyone attending each concert/performance. A student’s grade will be lowered for being late, talking, improper dress, not following directions, or improper behavior. Performances are required. Performance is evidence of practice and improvement made, and demonstration of learning gains. If a student conflict should arise, parental contact one week prior to the performance date is necessary. Excused absences of Concert Performance will require make-up work. An example of make-up work would be for the student to record themselves playing excerpts of the orchestral concert music.

**HOMEWORK (PRACTICE) POLICY:**

Students are required to practice ***at least*** 30 minutes each day. Students need to practice scales and also school literature. Practicing an instrument is an important part of the learning process. Class time is reserved for instruction, ensemble rehearsal, and instrumental sectional work. Improvement necessary for students requires out of class practice on technique and musicality. Practice is assigned homework in orchestra and is a requirement of the class.

**Extra rehearsals:** 8th period is a requirement for all CAPA students. 8th period will take place from 2:15pm -3:15 pm each day except for Wednesdays in Room 308. In the event that there is no 8th period, parents and students will be notified.

**ORCHESTRA CLASS EXPECTATION AGREEMENT**

I am expected to come to class prepared to learn and with a good attitude. I am expected to stay focused and not disrupt the class in any way that prevents my peers from getting the quality education that all students deserve. Additionally, I am expected as a musician to practice perseverance, self-motivation, and determination and apply these principles to my learning.

I have read course information for Ms. Johnson Honors Orchestra Class. My signature below indicates that I understand the requirements and policies for this course. I agree to adhere to them throughout the school year. As an Overton HS CAPA student, I am aware of the high expectations. My signature indicates that I am prepared to meet those expectations.

**Student Name:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**To Parents:**

Greetings! My name is Rachel Johnson, and I will be your child’s Orchestra Director for the 2023-2024 school year. For over 7 years I have taught as a licensed music teacher in Memphis. I also have traveled, and played as a professional musician across the U.S. and Europe, I now am Program Coordinator for a local non-profit organization that is geared towards allowing all children the opportunity to learn, love and appreciate Jazz music specifically. This year, I have the privilege of teaching your student. My education consists of a Bachelor’s degree in Musicology and Psychology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Currently, I am a graduate student in Education at the University of Memphis. As a Memphis Native, I believe in our cities communities and peoples ability to learn and become successful, I have made it my mission to provide students with a quality music education that prepares them for the academic rigor they will face in higher education settings.

An education in music is an investment, did you know the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school are music students? Colleges offer large scholarships to students who have attained a certain proficiency in music. I know first hand how music develops a students curiosity, helps them to problem solve, and cultivate grit. I have high expectations of the work and effort your child extends in Orchestra class. My goal is simple—to teach music and help develop great musicians and students. In order to do this, I have set high expectations and requirements for this class. It is important that I have your support. I am aware that I cannot do my job well without your help. Please read this course information packet and sign below indicating that you agree to become my partner in furthering your child’s education.

I am always available, if you feel the need to check on your child’s progress. The fastest way to contact me is via email: [nicholsjohnsonr@scsk12.org](mailto:nicholsjohnsonr@scsk12.org) or on the remind app. Thank you in advance for your support and I look forward to working with you!

**Parent Name**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the best **phone** **number** to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have an **email address**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Are you interested in taking lessons?** Yes, I am or No, I will find my own private teacher.

**Instrument:** Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass **Please list preferred days for lessons:**

**T-Shirt Size**: XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL