

# Honors Symphony Orchestra

2023-24

## Course Description

To have fun making music together as an ensemble. Students will continue to strengthen their playing technique on stringed instruments. Repertoire represents a variety of styles, cultures and time periods at the high school level. Students will analyze and critique, collaborate with their peers and problem-solve to improve personal and ensemble performance. Juniors and seniors have the option to receive Honors weighting calculated in their GPA by completing additional projects. All rehearsals and concerts are mandatory. Symphony Orchestra students may be asked to perform in the community and surrounding areas, in addition to school concerts.

## Course Expectations

- Have fun making beautiful music!
- Committing to self and ensemble to do personal best
- Accepting that mistakes will happen and that's OK
- Asking questions if unsure about anything
- Participating through performance, including sharing strategies and ideas in rehearsal
- Completing assignments on time
- Practicing - A little progress each day adds up to big results. Set aside time to practice each day.
- Bring instrument and music to school each day

## Materials Needed

Instrument and bow in working order

Music

Pencil

Rosin

Shoulder rest (violin/viola)

Mute

Cleaning cloth

Black folder

## Cell Phone Policy

In accordance with school policy. Everyone assigned a pocket in which to place their phone during rehearsal; to be used for taking attendance (unless directed by teacher as a learning device in rehearsal).

## Concerts

Concerts are a culminating activity. All students are required to attend and will be graded.

Winter Concert - Dec. 18, 7:00 p.m. (snow date-Dec. 21)

Spring Concert - May 21, 7:00 p.m.

Concert Dress: White shirt and black pants/skirt, black shoes (skirts should be at least knee length to allow for proper playing posture)

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*Office hours by appointment*

*Google Classroom Code - 5ck35rn*

## Grading Scale

### Summative Assessments 70%

*Playing tests and quizzes (i.e. excerpts from repertoire, scales and arpeggios, sight-reading, concerts)*

### Formative Assessments 30%

*Playing quizzes, worksheets, technique exercises, musical terminology*

*\* Areas of focus include rhythm, pitch, tone, bowing and articulation, dynamics, tempo, interpretation/expression, shifting*

## Fine Arts Department Late Work Policy:

Completing assignments is a necessary component of the class being able to move forward. Students are expected to submit all assignments and assessments on time. 10% will be deducted for each school day an assignment/assessment is late. The expectation is that you will contact the teacher if there are extenuating circumstances.

## Habits and Mindsets of a Successful Musician

1. Always willing to learn
2. Giving best effort
3. Have patience about progress
4. Mistakes can help me learn
5. This is going to take some practice but I can do it
6. Apply strategies and techniques learned in class
7. Attention to detail
8. Open minded
9. Accepting critique and feedback
10. Always looking forward

## Additional Opportunities:

### NHS Musical - March 14-17

*Pit Orchestra, acting, tech crew, set crew, costumes*

### CMEA Festivals:

*Western Region Auditions - Nov. 11 (West Hill HS, Stamford)*

*Western Region Festival - Jan. 12-13 (Greenwich HS)*

*All-State Auditions - Feb. 3 (North Haven HS)*

*All-State Music Festival - Ap. 4-6 (Hartford)*

### Regional Youth Orchestras:

*Danbury Community Orchestra*

*Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras (Bridgeport)*

*Ridgefield Symphony Youth Orchestra*

### Tri-M Music Honor Society

