

La Cañada High School – 7/8 Orchestra

2018-2019 Course Syllabus

Course Description:

The purpose of the 7/8 Orchestra is to train students in the proper use of instrumental techniques in an orchestral setting. Students will learn how to play their instrument with a good tone, read rhythms and pitches, and perform throughout the year to showcase all of these skills. Performances outside of school hours are a requirement of this class.

Contact Information:

Please feel free to contact me at any time should you have any questions. Please note that I will be spending the majority of my day at the elementary schools this year, so may not always be on campus.

Instructor: Jimmie Myers
Office: 106
E-mail: jmyers@lcsd.net

Required Materials:

All Students are required to have the following items in their cases at all times:

- Set of extra strings
- Cleaning cloth
- Rosin
- Shoulder rest (Violins and Violas only)
- Pencil

Grading:

Grading Policy – Grades for this course will be given in the following categories:

60% Attendance/Participation

Includes playing, listening, and working towards making better music by following class rules and working together with peers and the teacher.*

Students will receive one (1) participation point for each day that they are present in class. If a student is tardy (not in his/her seat and set up by the time we start tuning), he/she will only receive a half point (.5) for the day (students later than 20 minutes will be marked absent). Because of the nature of the class, participation points cannot be made up, regardless if the absence/tardy is excused or unexcused.

This category also includes performing in concerts throughout the year.**
Concert participation is weighted significantly heavier than daily participation.

40% Homework/Projects/Exams – Written/performance exams and any other assignments given throughout the year by the teacher.***

- * Poor Behavior will not be tolerated and will be grounds for dismissal.
- ** Emergencies and conflicts do happen and this will be taken into account. See Attendance Policy.
- *** Includes written and playing exams. Late work will be accepted for a reduced grade.

Grading Scale – I will be using a traditional plus/minus grading system.

Testing and Policies – Tests may consist of either playing or written exams, and will be related to what we are studying at the time. The school Academic Honesty Policy will be followed, should any such cases arise.

Homework – Unlike the majority of the classes you will take, there will be relatively little written homework given for this class. Instead, students are expected to practice a minimum of four days per week for at least 30 minutes. While students are not required to maintain a practice record, performance exams will be given regularly, so students will always have an upcoming performance exam to practice for.

Behavior/Citizenship:

All students (and the teacher) are expected to abide by the following expectations:

- Be on time to **all** rehearsals and performances
- Members are expected, as a part of their grade, to attend and participate in ALL scheduled performances
- Bring your instrument, supplies, and music to all rehearsals and performances
- Keep your instrument in good working condition
- Pay attention and give your best effort
- Practice your music at home (30 minutes 4 times a week)
- Do not bring any food or drink (water is allowed)
- Interact with peers and the teacher in a positive and caring manner

Following these expectations will make for a much more enjoyable class for *all* students and the teacher, and will result in an “O” or an “S” in citizenship. If a student chooses not to follow these expectations, the following course of action may be taken, and will result in an “N” or a “U” in citizenship:

First offense	Verbal warning
Second offense	Student conference with teacher
Third offense	Telephone call/e-mail to parents
Fourth offense	Student referral

Fifth offense

Meeting with student, parents, and Principal

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is an absolute necessity at both rehearsals and performances and poor attendance and/or tardiness will not be tolerated (note that attendance at these activities accounts for 60% of your final grade). This class is *not* an “optional” class – students receive a grade just as they do for their other classes. Students should not miss class to make-up work or tests from other classes. Students that do not attend zero period 7/8 Orchestra, but are present for the rest of their classes for a school day will be marked **truant**.

In cases of **documentable emergencies** (i.e. emergency doctor’s appointments, illness, death in the family, etc.), a note must be provided to the instructor upon your first class back, and the absence will be marked as “excused.” **Whenever possible, please notify Mr. Myers of any impending absences as early as possible. Early notification will often result in fewer points lost.**

Make-up work will be accepted according to school policy. Late work will be accepted for a reduced grade. Remember: it is better to turn an assignment in late than not at all!

Performance Schedule

Students are responsible for performing in concerts on the following dates during the 2016-17 school year. *Members are expected, as a part of their grade, to attend and participate in ALL scheduled performances.* The following is a list of all currently scheduled performances. If a student cannot be at a performance, the teacher(s) should be notified as early as possible. With exception for extreme circumstances, at least three (3) weeks notice must be given for all conflicts, or the absence cannot be excused. Note that missing a performance is akin to missing the final exam for other classes. As a result of the nature of performances, missed performances cannot be made up and all absences, whether unexcused or excused, will result in lost points (the amount determined by the type of absence and prior notification given). Dates/times are subject to change and additional performances may be added throughout the school year:

7-12 Fall Orchestra Concert	Wednesday, October 17	7:00 PM	LCHS
Winter Concert	Wednesday, December 12	7:00 PM	LCHS
Dinner Show	Saturday, February 9	5:00 PM	LC Country Club
Spring Festival Concert	Wednesday, March 13	6:00 PM	LCHS
Festival	Friday, March 15	All day at	LCHS
Elementary Tour	March/April TBA	TBA	TBA
7-12 Pops Concert	Tuesday, May 14	7:00 PM	

Other possible concerts include an in school assembly and/or Disneyland performance.

Concert Dress

Students will need to have the following attire for concerts and performances:

Boys

- Black dress slacks
- Black belt
- White dress shirt
- **Black socks**
- Black dress shoes (absolutely NO tennis shoes, sneakers, etc.)
- Long tie (dark preferred)
- Tuxedo jacket (provided)

Girls

- Black skirt (below knee)
- White blouse
- Black dress footwear
- *Please, NO dresses*

We will wear this attire for performances throughout the year. Please make sure to try on your concert attire ahead of time to ensure that it fits comfortably. ***If any article of clothing is deemed inappropriate by the teacher (e.g. white socks, short skirts, sneakers, etc.), you may be asked to find alternate attire, have your performance grade lowered, and/or even asked to not participate in the concert, (resulting in an absence for the concert and your grade being lowered significantly).***

Music Parents Association Donations

The La Cañada High School Instrumental Music Program and Music Parents Association (MPA) would not be able to operate without YOUR continued support. Your generous donations help to fund our program and allow us to do things like: purchase music, purchase/repair instruments and supplies, enter festivals, outside school performances, etc. There is a requested donation of \$75 for all 7-8 students in the Instrumental Music Program, which includes a t-shirt, class parties, and membership to the MPA. If you need financial assistance, please contact Mr. Stone and/or Mr. Myers.