



Baldwin-Whitehall School District Baldwin High School

Course Syllabus

TITLE: String Orchestra

Credit/Term: 1/ year

Course Number: 730

Grade Level: 9-12

The Baldwin High School String Orchestra is open to students of all skill levels who play the traditional stringed instruments of the symphony orchestra: violin, viola, cello and string bass. The String Orchestra is a curricular ensemble that meets daily during the school day throughout the year. Students will learn music fundamentals while studying a varied repertoire of music including both classical and modern selections. String Orchestra students perform at two to three annual concerts each year.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Mr. Gregory Steele

gsteele@bwschools.net

412-885-7500 x6412

Remind: Text @BHSSStOrch to 81010

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

The students taking the course will be expected to:

- Attend class daily
- Participate in all rehearsals and activities
- Complete all in and out of class assignments
- Practice at home as needed to achieve
- Participate in all concerts, commencement and other performances as scheduled
- Make up work when absent

STANDARDS/BENCHMARKS

Essential Skills

The students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to read musical notation
- Demonstrate the ability to identify music elements (scales, intervals, musical terms, etc.)
- Ability to perform high quality musical compositions in concert settings
- Develop proper technique and tone quality on a musical instrument
- Perform a wide variety of musical literature in a variety of settings

- Perform in an ensemble setting, with awareness of pitch, balance, blend, articulation, rhythmic accuracy, and intonation
- Identify and apply expressive elements in music
- Understand and use proper rehearsal techniques

EVALUATION and ASSESSMENT

- Class participation
- Participation in after-school/evening activities
- Daily observation of in class performance
- Individual and/or section performance tests on selected repertoire
- History/terminology quizzes
- Outside performance critiques
- Music checks
- Formal performances/concerts
- Final exam/commencement performance
- Individual student self-reflection and self-assessment

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS & CONSEQUENCES

Student will be expected to:

- Be respectful of all
- Follow all procedures and instructions
- Try their best and focus on the task at hand

Consequences for failing to meet these expectations can include a verbal warning, a 20 minute band detention, and/or disciplinary referral

PROCEDURES

- Musicians should enter through the outer storage room doors
- Once students acquire their instruments they should begin the daily “Go” activity
- When the director steps to the podium, class begins
- At the end of class, students will be dismissed to the storage room; they should return to their seats immediately after putting their instruments away
- Cell phones (photos, texting, calls) and food are not permitted during class
- Agendas will be used when students must leave class; you **MUST** speak to Mr. Steele and get his signature before leaving the class for any reason

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students must maintain passing grades in at least four full-credit courses in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities, including concerts. Additionally, any student who is failing a core subject (English, math, science, social studies) will be placed on academic probation; failure to show adequate effort and improvement while on probation can result in ineligibility. Students who are placed on social probation are also ineligible to participate in afterschool concerts and rehearsals.