
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: ORCHESTRA

COURSE OVERVIEW AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Course Information

Orchestra is the ensemble class for string instrumentalists at the high school level. Literature is comprised of difficulty levels 2 to 4.5. Student musicians focus on developing tone production, articulation and bowing, phrasing, genre approaches, and musical public performance in a collaborative ensemble.

The focus of the course is geared towards individual/group musical performance. Students apply learned concepts and basic through advanced techniques to execute commensurate level orchestra literature.

Technology is used regularly to develop fundamental skills: intonation, tempo accuracy, technique

Course Textbook and Required Materials

- ☐ Orchestra Literature : TBD each year based on ensemble balance and skill - provided
- ☐ Essential Techniques-Hal Leonard
- ☐ The First Ten Minutes-RBC Publications
- ☐ Tuner and metronome - provided or permitted on personal device via apps
- ☐ Music stand & folder - provided
- ☐ Personal instrument (personally owned, borrowed, rented or school issued)
- ☐ Additional Supplies – rosin for bows

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
Tone Production Intonation	Bowing styles (legato, staccato, pesante) techniques (detache, staccato, spiccato, pizzicato, col legno) and correct finger placement Use of digital tuner	4 weeks
Scales and Technical Development	Major, minor, chromatic Application in 3rds Use of digital metronome	6 weeks

Articulation and Dynamics Rudiments	Staccato, legato, slur, hooked bowings- all addressed through appropriate bow usage. Volume spectrum from <i>pp</i> through <i>ff</i> Dynamic production assisted by bow speed, weight, and placement.	6 weeks
Ensemble Literature Music Vocabulary	Application of previous concepts applied to literature performance Appropriate genre interpretation Musical terms applied towards performance expression	20 weeks

****The course outline is subject to change based on the class skill level and/or school district calendar changes.***