2026-2027 ORCHESTRA Syllabus

Evidence-Based Grading Course

Below is contact information for the teacher of this course. If you have questions or concerns about this course, please contact your classroom teacher directly via email.		
Teacher Name	**Email/Phone**	**Room Number**
Marci Swift	mlswift@fcps.edu/703-446-1985	G115

SCHS Schoolwide Policies

Please review the SCHS Common Policies carefully for school wide guidance on grading, late work, cell phones, technology, etc. Parents can access these policies directly on our website. We will follow these policies and guidelines in this course.Students can also access these details on our class Schoology page.

Note- This course follows Evidence-based Grading practices, so please pay careful attention to that section of the Common Policies.

Course Descriptions:

- *Concert Orchestra (923815)* - Intermediate level high school orchestra
- *Advanced Orchestra HN* (Requires successful audition) - Symphonic (923915); Philharmonic (923917); Chamber (923916)

Course Outline:

Students will learn how to produce characteristic tone quality on their instrument, develop skills in note and rhythm reading and demonstrate the ability to perform with proper intonation, articulation, balance, blend and musicianship through participation in orchestra. Please note, rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours will be required as part of this course (FCPS Regulation 3866). See Orchestra Calendar for all dates for the year.

Skill Descriptions:

The learning goals of this course are distilled into the following core skills/competencies. The course instruction is designed to build student mastery of these skills over time, with corrective instruction, remediation, and review embedded into daily instruction.

COURSE SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
POSTURE & POSITION	Students will demonstrate the ability to: play with correct instrument position; play with correct left hand position; play with correct right hand position (bow hold);
INTONATION	Students will demonstrate the ability to: read notes in melodic lines; identify key signatures and how they apply to scale finger patterns. Students will be able to play the correct notes in tune at the indicated fingering. They will play with an ensemble and adjust intonation within their section/ensemble. Students can accurately tune their instrument using fine tuners and/or pegs.
TONE QUALITY & BOW CONTROL	Students will demonstrate the ability to play using the correct bow control to create the desired tone quality. They will work balance/blend within the ensemble;
RHYTHM & TEMPO	Students will understand how time signatures function and demonstrate the ability to count and play rhythms correctly at the indicated tempo. They will watch the conductor for tempo and other musical instructions and adjust accordingly.
TECHNIQUE &	Students will demonstrate the ability to: show musical expression through use of

MUSICIANSHIP	dynamics and phrasing; recognize musical symbols and how they determine articulations and play them correctly on their instrument; play in style appropriate to the music being performed; perform using vibrato.

Skill Assessment Map:

This chart indicates when/how each skill will be assessed throughout the year. This is an approximation of when the skills will be assessed and may be subject to change.

SKILL	Quarter 1 MASQUERADE	Quarter 2 WINTER	Quarter 3 ASSESSMENT	Quarter 4 SPRING
POSTURE/POSITION	✔	✔	✔	✔
INTONATION	✔	✔	✔	✔
TONE QUALITY & BOW CONTROL	✔	✔	✔	✔
RHYTHM & TEMPO	✔	✔	✔	✔
TECHNIQUE & MUSICIANSHIP	✔	✔	✔	✔

Class Materials:

- Required Materials -
  - Instrument and bow in good working condition. Rosin, tuning app, metronome, shoulder rest (violin, viola), end-pin stop (cello, bass); Instruments are available for rent through FCPS/SCHS. See Mrs. Swift for information.
  - All students must have concert black for performances. Approved options: Floor-length black dress, or dress below the knees with BLACK tights. Black dress pants (no denim) and long sleeve or 3/4 sleeve black blouse/dress shirt. Black close-toed dress shoes (no Converses, Keds or any other all black sneaker). Open-toed sandals are acceptable with dark tights or pantyhose. Only back socks should be worn. No bare shoulders, no plunging necklines, and no midriffs should be visible.
- Suggested Materials - Music stand, practice mute, extra set of strings.
- Software Used - Schoology, Music First Classroom (Sight Reading Factory, Noteflight)
- There is a class fee of $50 associated with this course (Covers consumable items (method book, orchestra t-shirt, music, guest clinicians, Music First subscription, student techs for concert, etc.)
  - Student fees will be invoiced directly through MySchoolBucks and are to be paid through the MySchoolBucks system. Payments can be made via credit card. Invoices are expected to be uploaded by mid-September. Students who need to pay by cash or check should speak to their instructor directly.
  - Students who qualify for free & reduced meals may also qualify to have their class fees waived or reduced by completing the consent to share form and returning it to the Student Services office. Hard copies of this form are also available in the Student Services office.

Course-specific Grading Information:

Please refer to the SCHS common policies for detailed grading policies (also linked at the top of this document). Specific information for this course is listed below.

- **Grade Break Down**
  - Summative (70%) - Individual Performance Assessments (IPAs), Ensemble Performance Assessments (EPAs).

    - Formative (20%) - SRF Assessments, Scale Assessments, After School Rehearsals, Classwork (Theory Activities).
    - Practice (10%) - Rehearsal Etiquette (being prepared for class/rehearsal with all materials and participating in a manner conducive to music learning).
- **Late Work Policy** - Students have 10 schools from the due date to submit late work at a 10% penalty.
- **Extra Help** is available before school (7:30-8am) or after school (3-3:30pm) Monday through Friday or during Stallion Time.
- Students enrolled in an Advanced level ensemble (indicated with HN) will earn a .5 gpa bump. As a result, these courses have additional requirements. These requirements will be met by volunteering for a variety of performance based events throughout the year. A complete list will be provided on Schoology and updated throughout the school year. Students must complete one activity during quarter 1, one during quarter 2 and one during quarter 3/4. A verification form (on Schoology) for each quarter must be completed for validation.

Testing Information:

- **Final Exam -** ALL students are required to take the final exam for this class on the scheduled day as follows:
    - Chamber Music Project: All students will select, prepare, practice a piece of music over several weeks in class and perform for the class on the scheduled final exam day.

After reviewing the information in the Syllabus please complete THIS FORM by Friday, Sep 11, 2026.