



South County High School  
**Orchestra Syllabus for 2020-2021 Distance Learning**  
*Concert Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra,  
Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra*

**TEACHER CONTACT INFO**

Marci Swift, Orchestra Director  
703-446-1985; [mlswift@fcps.edu](mailto:mlswift@fcps.edu)  
[www.schsorchestra.org](http://www.schsorchestra.org)

*Office Hours (by appointment):*

- M – 8-11am
- Tu/Th – 9:45am-1pm
- W/F – 11:15am-1pm

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the SCHS Orchestra program, and the 2020-2021 school year. Please refer to the information below, as it clearly outlines the expectations and guidelines for Orchestra this year. In addition, please be sure to read the [SCHS Orchestra Handbook](#) in its' entirety. The handbook contains more in-depth details about the Orchestra program and the expectations for once we return to in-person instruction. After reviewing both documents, please complete the Parent and Student links at the end of this Syllabus by Monday, 9/14. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns as the year progresses. I look forward to working with you all this year!

**1. VIRTUAL LEARNING**

Parents, please follow this [link](#) to give permission for your student to access supplemental tech tools. These tools are critical to creating an effective, engaging virtual classroom experience.

**2. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Performance in Orchestra
Prerequisite	Audition with Director of Orchestra (Advanced Level Only)

**3. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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. Should in-school learning resume, rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours will be required as part of this course.

**4. MATERIALS**

<i>Required Materials</i>	Instrument and bow in good working condition, rosin, tuning app, metronome, shoulder rest (violin, viola), end pin stop (cello, bass)
<i>Suggested Materials</i>	Music stand, practice mute, extra set of strings
<i>Software Used</i>	Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, Google Classroom, Smart Music, Flipgrid, Open Shot

**5. GRADING SCALE**

A (93-100) = 4.0	C (73-76) = 2.0
A- (90-92) = 3.7	C- (70-72) = 1.7
B+ (87-89) = 3.3	D+ (67-69) = 1.3
B (83-86) = 3.0	D (64-66) = 1.0
B- (80-82) = 2.7	F (0-63) = 0.0
C+ (77-79) = 2.3	

**6. GRADEBOOK INFORMATION**

A rolling (*cumulative*) gradebook will be utilized, which allows for progress towards a final mark that captures the total picture of student grades, regardless of length of quarter or number of assignments in each quarter. A rolling gradebook allows for *flexibility and equitable grading practices* given the uncertainty of schedules & likelihood of distance learning for some or all students during the 2020-21SY.

- **Cumulative** - Grades from each quarter carry over and build upon the previous quarter
- **Quarter grades** are a snapshot of a student's current progress in the course and demonstrate performance to that date, not just the quarter.

- **Final grades** are determined by a combination of all assignments and assessments throughout the year, regardless of the quarter the work was completed.

A 55 is the minimum grade with an assignment that has been turned in with reasonable effort as determined by the CT. A 40 will be designated for assignments that do not show evidence of effort.

Homework for practice or preparation for instruction may account for no more than 10% of the grade.

Teachers are expected to grade assignments and post grades within seven school days after the due date with the understanding that major projects/papers may require additional time to ensure quality feedback.

FCPS requires teachers to record a minimum of 9 grades over the course of a quarter.

#### **Grade Breakdown for Orchestra:**

- **20% - Rehearsal/Class Etiquette** – All students are expected to participate properly during all synchronous classes. Proper use of microphone and camera will ensure that all participants are heard as intended by the instructor. Students must have their instrument and other materials available as instructed.
- **30% - Individual Performance Assessments (IPAs)** - All students will join the Google Classroom for their ensemble. All IPAs will be assigned and posted there. IPAs will be completed in SmartMusic, Flipgrid and Google Classroom. IPAs will be video and/or audio. Students may use their school issued laptop or personal recording device to submit.
- **30% - Ensemble Performance Assessments (EPAs)** – All students will be required to submit quarterly ensemble performances. These will be done virtually via various software platforms. These ensembles may be duets, trios, quartets, etc.
- **20% - Classwork and Written Assignments** - All students will be required to complete written classwork during synchronous class time. These assignments include, but are not limited to music theory, dictation and musical listening, and critical music analysis. Any work not completed during class time may be completed by the next class period for full credit.

#### **7. COMMENT CODES FOR SIS**

- **NTI (Not Turned In)** - Student has not yet turned in the assignment. This comment carries a score of 40. The comment is removed when the assignment is turned in.
- **L1, L2, L3, L4 (Late by day)** - The student handed in the assignment late. There is a 5% penalty for each day the assignment is late. L1 (5% off), L2 (10% off), L3 (15% off), L4 (20% off).
- **AB (Absent)** - The student was not present in class, and the missing work must be completed. This comment code carries no penalty and can be changed to a grade or NTI if the assignment does not get turned in.
- **EXM (Excused/Exempt)** - The student has been excused from doing this assignment. There is no penalty associated with this code.
- **NYG (Not Yet Graded)** - The student has turned in the assignment, but the assignment has not yet been graded. This comment code is removed when scored.

#### **8. ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES**

At South County High School, students will no longer be afforded the opportunity to earn extra credit for tasks that are not related to the curriculum. We will allow students to participate in Enrichment Activities. Enrichment activities are for a student who has completed an activity during the course of study that is beyond the required work in the classroom in order to further his or her understanding of a concept. It is counted as a separate grade and ties to a skill in that content area. Students will not be given extra points or grades for activities such as bringing in classroom materials, providing parent signatures, participating in fundraising/charitable events or participating in non-curricular activities. Enrichment Activities should always benefit a student. If a student does poorly on the optional Enrichment Activity, no grade should be entered.

#### **9. LATE WORK POLICY**

Teachers expect students to complete and turn in assignments even when late. Students have 10 school days to turn in late work.

- If a student does not turn in an assignment, the placeholder NTI (Not Turned In) should be entered into the grade book.
- Students will be assessed 5% penalty each class period it is late for a maximum of a 20% grade reduction.

- If a student has been given multiple opportunities to complete work and has not done so, a 40% will be entered into the gradebook.

#### **10. MAKE UP WORK POLICY**

Students have one school day for each excused absence to make up missed work for full credit.

#### **11. RETAKE POLICY**

A student scoring lower than 80%, has up to 10 school days to retake a summative assessment. The highest score a student earns will be recorded.

#### **12. FINAL EXAM**

A student who has earned an A at the end of the year for a course will be exempt from taking the final exam. A culminating project or activity will be given in place of the final exam. Students enrolled in courses that have a culminating project/activity (i.e. a portfolio project) that lasts over the course of multiple units or quarters will still be required to complete the final exam.

#### **13. ACADEMIC HONESTY**

South County High School is a premier school where all students must uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. They must complete all academic assignments and assessments with integrity and be accountable for their actions by submitting authentic work. For violations of cheating/plagiarism, we will follow the South County Academic Honesty policy.

On the first offense of cheating or plagiarism, the student will earn a 40 with the opportunity to retake or redo the assessment. The teacher will contact the parents/guardians of the student, as well as the administrator, notifying them of the infraction. After notification has been made, the student will have up to 5 school days to redo the assessment with the opportunity to earn up to 80% of the earned grade on the second chance assessment. For example, if the student earns a 90% on the second assessment, they would earn a 72% on that assessment.

On the second offense of cheating or plagiarism, the student will earn a 40 for that assessment without the opportunity to redo. The teacher will notify the parents/guardians as well as the administrator.

#### **14. TECHNOLOGY/CELL PHONE EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to participate properly during synchronous classes. During class time, all technology/devices should be used for assignments completion only. Failure to comply may result in administrative intervention.

[PARENTAL COURSE AGREEMENT](#)

[STUDENT COURSE AGREEMENT](#)