



Hercules Middle School Music Course Syllabus 2019-2020



COURSE TITLE: **Hercules Middle School Orchestras**
(Beginning and Advanced)

TEACHER: Ms. Sharon Calonico

CONTACT INFORMATION:

E-mail: scalonico@wccusd.net (preferred method to reach me)

Telephone: (510) 231-1429 Ext. 25222

Hercules Music Department Website: <http://hmhsmusic.com>

Welcome to the Hercules Middle School music program! As a member of choir, orchestra or band, you will learn how to sing or play an instrument, explore how music works, learn about the music of cultures from all over the world and have fun working together and sharing music with family, friends and our community.

How to Be Successful, Have Fun and Get an A in This Music Class

In music classes, we work together as a team. We will be successful if every member of our team gives their best effort to help the group. It is similar to sports teams and different from most academic classes. Students are expected to be responsible, respectful of others and give their best effort each day. Here is how you can earn an A in Orchestra:

Be Responsible: Come to class on time and ready to learn with your music, instrument and a pencil.

Give Your Best Effort: You are graded on your effort and improvement and how you work as a member of the group. Some students learn quickly, others need more time and every student is important to the team. As long as you try your best, turn in assignments and do your part to help your group, you will succeed!

Participate in the Concerts: In music classes, the final exams for each quarter are our concerts. It is how we show what the group has accomplished and allows us to share music with our families, friends and community. Students also learn and become better musicians by listening to the other groups perform. **Concert participation is mandatory for every student.** There are 4-5 evening concerts each year; October, December, March, April and May.

Please read through the syllabus/handbook for details on grading and expectations. There is a contract included for you to sign and return by Wednesday August 28th. **This is the first homework assignment for the year and is worth 10 points.**

Please contact me at scalonico@wccusd.net if you have any questions. I am committed to providing every one of my students the support they need to be successful!

HERCULES MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC HANDBOOK AND SYLLABUS

COURSE MATERIALS PROVIDED:

Text Book: Essential Elements for Strings 2000. (Student is responsible for lost or damaged textbook)
Sheet music (Student is responsible for any lost or damaged music)
Instrument – Some school instruments are available to check out and borrow subject to availability.
Student is responsible for any damages or loss. Students not able to rent or purchase an instrument must attend the Instrument Information Meeting on Wed. August 28.

STUDENT PROVIDES:

Music Folder (8 ½"x11" to fit in backpack) and **Pencil** to keep in the folder.
Instrument (in good repair), rosin, shoulder rest. Extra set of strings, if possible.
Identification tag on his/her instrument (students must have tag to store instruments at school).
All students should have these items by Wednesday, September 4th - the date we will begin playing.

Instrument Information Meeting Wednesday, August 28 6:30 PM in the MS Music Room 207

This meeting is for parents of any student who does not have an instrument. We will discuss how to rent, buy or borrow a school instrument. I will also have information on the accessories that students provide for each instrument. If your child does not have an instrument, please plan to attend this meeting.

The stores listed below sell orchestra instruments and accessories:

Ifshin Violins (El Cerrito): (510) 277-3728 Online at: www.ifshinviolins.com
C & L Music (Concord): (925) 686-6122 Online at: www.calmusicinc.com
A&G Music (Oakland): 1(800) 727-3822 Online at: www.agmusic.com

GRADING:

School-wide scale: 90+ = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
59 and below = F

Percentages that comprise Grade:

Excellence comes from hard work, commitment, dedication and working together effectively as a group. Our common goal is to do our best! Your grade will be based on the contributions you make to the success of the group. Students will earn points in the following categories:

Rehearsal Participation 40% **Musical Progress 30%** **Performances 30%**

REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION 40%: 10 points daily

Students can earn the maximum daily points by following these music class expectations:
Attend class regularly, be on time to class, (ready to participate when the bell rings), be prepared for class with instrument, pencil, folder and music, participate in classroom discussions and activities, put materials away at the end of class, be respectful and kind and follow all class rules and school rules.

MUSIC CLASS RULES:

- M – Make Smart Choices
- U – Use Good Manners and Respect Others
- S – Speak When the Teacher Allows It
- I – Involve Yourself in Activities
- C – Come to Class Prepared to Learn

CONSEQUENCES for not following class expectations, procedures and rules:

- 1. Warning**
- 2. Loss of rehearsal points**
- 3. Detention and parent notification**
- 4. Referral**

MUSICAL PROGRESS 30%:

This includes playing tests, written work, quizzes, written tests and homework. **Students are expected to practice outside of class to prepare for tests, rehearsals and concerts.** Rehearsals are a time for us to work together and learn **each other's parts** so that we can create musical performances, not for students to practice individually. We will improve and achieve excellence as a group if each member is responsible for doing (and learning!) his or her part.

PERFORMANCES 30%:

Attendance is expected at all scheduled performances

The success of a music program is based on student participation. The culmination of class rehearsals and home practice is a student's demonstration of skills in concerts, assemblies and study trips. Concerts are the tests and final exams for a performing arts class and are part of the school curriculum. Performances assess whether or not a student has mastered the skills learned in class. As responsible members of the music program, **all students are expected to attend every performance.**

A calendar with concert dates is included in this packet so that students may make arrangements to participate. **All scheduled concerts are required events. Parents: please put all concert dates on your family calendar. You must notify me in writing within one week of the student being giving this letter if you have a conflict with any of the dates given if you would like to request an excused absence.** Birthday celebrations, student jobs, lack of transportation, and family events scheduled at the last minute do not constitute excused absences. Additional performances may be added during the year. If a student is unable to attend a rehearsal or performance, **I must receive a written note including the reason the child is unable to attend no later than 1 week after the day that a rehearsal or performance schedule is given to the student.** Otherwise, the student will be expected to participate in the rehearsal/ performance. Absences may be excused in case of emergency. The student must make up the excused absence by scheduling an appointment with the director to perform the concert pieces within 5 days of returning to school. The grade received will be the concert assignment grade. Emergencies consist of severe illness, hospitalization, and death in the family. A written note and verification by a doctor in the case of illness is required when these occur. Students will receive a grade for each concert based on the following: being on time, wearing proper concert attire, demonstrating proper concert behavior, and contributing to the success of the performance.

Performance Attire:

Boys: Black dress pants, white collared shirt, black socks, black dress shoes.

Girls: Long black dress pants, or long skirt (below the knee when seated), white blouse with sleeves, black dress shoes.

*Fall Showcase Concert Attire: Appropriate Halloween costume or concert uniform as above.

Turning in Assignments

Occasional written assignments are turned in at the end of class. If homework is given, it will be due to the teacher at the beginning of the next class session.

Late Assignments:

You may make up missed tests, assignments or performances due to EXCUSED absences by performing the test or performance for the director, or by turning in missed written assignments **within 2 days of the absence**. You must contact the director to arrange a makeup appointment. **Unexcused absences may not be made up.**

Extra Credit:

Students may receive extra credit toward their participation grade at the discretion of the director by completing a music department service assignment or attending and reporting on performances outside of class. Extra credit assignments must be approved in advance by the director. **Unexcused absences may not be made up.**

PARENT NOTIFICATION:

You will be contacted by phone or email if there are issues concerning your child's unacceptable attendance, tardiness, behavior, and/or academic performance. You will also be notified if your child is in danger of failing the course (grade below a "C"). Please check your child's grade regularly on PowerSchool and contact me if you have concerns regarding your child's grade.

ABSENCES:

Attendance in a music class is extremely important. The learning that happens is done in a "team" setting in the group rehearsals; there are very few written assignments. Students with UNEXCUSED ABSENCES will lose their rehearsal points for the day and may not make up the lost points. Students with EXCUSED ABSENCES, (excused by parent note turned into the office and marked as excused in PowerSchool), must meet with the teacher to get the assignment/music rehearsed for that day and will receive points for the absence. The student is expected to turn in any assigned written work within 2 days of returning to school and is responsible for learning all material practiced in class that day. Teacher may request that the student demonstrate that he/she has practiced the music that was rehearsed the day of the absence by taking a quiz.





Hercules Middle School -Performance Calendar 2019-2020

Please review these dates immediately and add them to your calendar now. Please notify Ms. Calonico in writing (see contract) no later than Wed. August 28, 2019 if you have any current conflicts with any dates listed below to request an excused absence from a performance.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Performing Groups</u> MS (Middle School) HS (High School)
Wed. August 28 , 2019	Parent Instrument Info Meeting	Music Room M207	6:30 -7:30 PM	Required for Parents of students needing instruments or those needing info on renting/buying
Wed. September 18 , 2019	Welcome Back Potluck!	MS Cafeteria	6-8:30 PM	All MS/HS music students and families
Wed. October 16 , 2019	Fall Showcase Concert	HS Gym	7 PM – 8:30 PM	All MS/HS Groups
Tues. December 10 , 2019	Winter Orchestra Concert and Area Festival	Middle School Cafeteria	7 – 8:30:30 PM	MS Beg and Adv Orchestras, Elementary Intermediate Orchestra
Wed. December 11 , 2019	Winter Band and Choir Concert and Area Festival	Middle School Cafeteria	7 – 8:30 PM	MS Beg and Adv Bands, MS Choir, Elementary Intermediate Band
March 3 or 4 , 2020 (confirmation pending)	All District Music Festival	Richmond Auditorium	7 – 9 PM	Selected MS and HS Band, Orchestra and Choir students
Tue. March 24 , 2020	MS Orchestra Spring Concert	Middle School Cafeteria	7 – 8:30 PM	MS Beg and Adv Orchestras
Wed. March 25 , 2020	MS Band/Choir Spring Concert	Middle School Cafeteria	7 – 8:30 PM	MS/HS Bands and Choirs
Wed. April 22 , 2020	Hercules Spring Area Festival	HS Gym	7 -9 PM	Hercules Elementary, Middle and High School Bands and Orchestras
Sat. May 2 , 2020	Music in the Parks Great America Trip	Great America	All Day! 6:30 AM – 9:15 PM	MS Advanced Band and Advanced Orchestra
Wed. May 20 , 2020	Middle School Pops and Awards Concert	HS Gym	7 – 9 PM	All Middle School Bands, Choir and Orchestras
Thurs. June 4 , 2020 (probable date – Confirmation pending)	8 th Grade Celebration	HS Gym	5 – 7:30 PM	MS Choir (and possibly selected musicians from ADV Band and Orchestra)

PARENTAL REVIEW CONFIRMATION – due by Wednesday August 28, 2019

(Please turn in to Ms. Calonico)

Assignment – 10 Points – this form is due by Wednesday August 28 for full credit.

Hercules Middle School Music Contract 2019-2020

I have read this Hercules Middle School Music Course Syllabus (and reviewed with my child).
I agree to the performance requirements, grading policy, performance attire criteria, and all other items included in this course outline, including the fact that attendance at performances and rehearsals is required to fulfill class grade requirements.

Teacher: Ms. Sharon Calonico

Course: Circle the correct orchestra class:

MS Beginning Orchestra

MS Advanced Orchestra

Student (print name): _____

Student (signature): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian (print name): _____

Parent/Guardian (signature): _____ Date: _____

Parent Contact Information:

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

To make sure we have your correct email address, please send an email to:
herculesmusicboosters@gmail.com. Include your child's name, grade and performing group.

_____ I have reviewed the performance dates for the year and there are no conflicts. My child will be at all of the performances listed on the calendar.

_____ I have reviewed the performance dates for the year and **currently** have the following conflict(s):

_____ I have signed up for Remind to receive texts and communication from Ms. Calonico.