

Irondale High School Orchestras

Varsity, Concert & Symphony

Director: Ms. Arnold

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Ensemble Descriptions:

Varsity Orchestra-9th Grade Students

Concert Orchestra-10th Grade Students

Symphony Orchestra-11th & 12th Grade Students

Chamber Orchestra-9th-12th Grade Students (audition-based)

Course Objectives:

*Build teamwork and confidence

*Motivate self and others to reach full potential

*Develop rhythm and pitch accuracy as an individual and as an ensemble

*Improve string techniques (bowing, articulation and style)

*Increase knowledge of music theory, music history and music terms

*Balance and blend together using phrasing and dynamics

*Express, feel and recognize the beauty and the power of music as a listener and as a performer

Rehearsal Expectations:

Participation in daily rehearsals is the key to our success as an ensemble. This includes being mentally and physically engaged during the rehearsals from tuning to warm-ups to playing our literature. Our success depends on everyone meeting these expectations. Each student will receive a daily participation grade based on the following criteria: Playing, Attitude and Conduct, Responsibility and Readiness.

Seating in orchestra will be on a rotating, paired basis that allows for maximum educational and musical benefits to the members of the orchestra. In order to achieve balance in the orchestra and to strengthen the overall success of the ensemble, students will not be seated in rank order. Students will change seats for each concert and rotate throughout the year. Strong players will be scattered throughout the section.

Section leaders must be good leaders, communicators, musicians and have strong listening skills. They will pass information from the conductor to the section including bowings and fingerings. They must be observant during rehearsals and initiate ideas for musical interpretation and technique. They are expected to be on time (if not early) to each rehearsal and performance in addition to being encouraging and helpful to their section.

Seating in the orchestra should not be taken too seriously. We are all here to work together and it does not matter where one sits to create great music. You will learn and gain from each other by sitting in different seats with different stand partners.

Performance Expectations:

Attendance is required for all performances scheduled for your ensemble. Performances are similar to a final in your other classes. It is impossible to 'make up' a performance experience. A sports team needs every player at the game and an orchestra needs every musician at the performance. We are a team!

Priority and Commitment: As part of a curricular school function, it is expected that a performance will take priority over all other activities, including group meetings, rehearsals, sports practices, non-school sporting events, jobs, parties and social activities.

Grading: Students will be evaluated in four areas: daily rehearsals, performance participation and evaluation, playing assessments, lessons/sectionals.

Performance Participation and Evaluation: 40%

Daily Rehearsals: 30%

Playing Assessments: 20%

Lessons/Sectionals: 10%

Individual Assignment Grade Configuration		
Gradebook Entry	Description	Point Value
A	Master Musician (exceeds expectations)	4
B	Intermediate Musician (meets expectations)	3
C	Apprentice (moving towards meeting expectations)	2
D	Novice (does not yet meet expectations)	1
I	Didn't show enough work to demonstrate proficiency	0
M	Missing Evidence of Proficiency	0

Other Opportunities:

Chamber Orchestra (audition-based)

All-State Orchestra (audition-based)

SEC Honors Orchestra (selected/Grades 11-12)

MNSOTA Honors Orchestra (audition-based/Grade 9)

State Solo and Ensemble Contest (Grades 10-12)

Senior Concerto Competition (audition-based/Grade 12)

Be responsible by having all orchestra events in your personal and family calendar.

Important Dates

Varsity Orchestra

Thursday, November 17	Fall Concert	7:00pm
Tuesday, February 28	Winter Concert	7:00pm
Monday, April 3	West Side Orchestra Festival	3:30pm-7:30pm (Performance @ 6:30)
Monday, May 22	Spring Concert	7:00pm

**We will also participate in the MNSOTA Tier 1 Music Festival. Date TBD*

Concert Orchestra

Friday, September 30	Disney Dress Rehearsal	3:30pm-5:00pm
Tuesday, October 4	Disney Pajama Concert	Daytime/6:30pm
Thursday, November 17	Fall Concert	7:00pm
Tuesday, February 28	Winter Concert	7:00pm
Saturday, March 4	Solo/Ensemble Contest	(optional)
Monday, April 3	West Side Orchestra Festival	3:30pm-7:30pm (Performance @ 6:30)
Monday, May 22	Spring Concert	7:00pm

Symphony Orchestra

Friday, September 30	Disney Dress Rehearsal	3:30pm-5:00pm
Tuesday, October 4	Disney Pajama Concert	Daytime/6:30pm
Thursday, November 17	Fall Concert	7:00pm
Thursday, December 15	Senior to Senior Concert	12:30pm
Tuesday, January 31	Combine Concert w/EW & HV	7:00pm
Monday, February 5	SEC Music Festival	All Day
Tuesday, February 28	Winter Concert	7:00pm
Saturday, March 4	Solo/Ensemble Contest	(optional)
Monday, April 3	West Side Orchestra Festival	3:30pm-7:30pm (Performance @ 6:30)
Monday, May 22	Spring Concert	7:30pm

