Granada Band and Orchestra Class Syllabus

Effective 2025-2026 Academic School Year

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Academic Achievement Expectations: Students enrolled in the music program are required to maintain a minimum grade of C in all their other academic classes. If a student receives a D or F in any class, they may face academic probation. Earning below a C in music class will result in loss of field trip and other extracurricular event privileges. Three or more failing grades will result in removal from the music program.

Course Descriptions (parents, please note the name of the class your child is in this year):

Period 2 – Advanced Orchestra: Advanced level class on violin, viola, cello, bass. Grades 7–8 only. Admission by audition with at least one year of experience required. This class includes more field trips and performances. Students must maintain high performance standards to stay in the class.

Period 3 – Symphonic Band: For intermediate band students returning from last year and for new grade 7–8 beginning band students. Focuses on improving skills and introducing new students to band instruments. Returning students may switch to a different band instrument from last year.

Period 4 – Wind Ensemble: Advanced band class, wind, brass, or percussion instruments, admission by audition only. Grades 7–8 only. This class includes more field trips and performances. Requires regular practice and meeting high performance expectations.

Period 5 – Beginning Strings: An introductory strings class for 6th graders or returning 7–8th grader intermediate orchestra students. Instruments include violin, viola, cello, and bass. Returning students may choose a different orchestra instrument from last year.

Period 6 – Beginning Band: 6th grade only band class: An introductory class on wind, brass, or percussion instruments.

Jazz Band: Meets after school (day will be voted on soon) from 2:45–3:45 PM. Only one excused absence per quarter is allowed, with advance notice, to retain spot. Audition required to join.

Note: All students must complete an audition in May to be placed in an ensemble for the 2026-2027 school year. Also, Mr. Silva reserves the right to recommend a class change if the student is currently enrolled in Wind Ensemble or Advanced Orchestra and is not meeting the requirements for these advanced level courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the school year, each student in this class will be able to:

1. Improve music reading and tone quality
2. Play all 12 major scales
3. Develop better intonation (solo & ensemble)
4. Learn audition preparation skills
5. Sight-read grade 1–2 music
6. Critically evaluate performances
7. Build pride and enjoyment in playing

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Must be brought to class every single day. Students will receive a **warning** the first time they forget any of their materials. The second time, they will be issued a **detention and loss of participation points**. Consistently forgetting materials will result in **parent conference** and could lead to being removed from this class.

- **Black 1" binder** for music (will check on **Fri, Aug 22** – worth 10 points)
- 10 plastic sheet protectors
- 2–3 mechanical pencils (no pens/markers)

- Instrument in good condition, labeled with full name
- Instrument-specific supplies:
    - **Woodwinds:** At least 5 reeds (#2½ or higher), cleaning rod/swab, cork grease
    - **Brass:** Valve oil, slide grease, cleaning snake, trumpet straight mute
    - **Percussion:** SD-1 sticks & practice pad
    - **Strings:** Rosin (instrument-specific), shoulder rest (violin/viola), full spare string set
- **Metronome/Tuner:** Korg TM-60 or TM-50 with name labeled (Advanced classes check **Aug 22**, Beginning classes check **Sept 26**)

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES: Failure to follow classroom procedures will result in a **warning** (first time), **Detention** (second time), or parent phone call or **conference**. Excessive behavior issues can result in referral and/or class suspension.

1. Drop instruments in Room 48 between 7:30–7:55 AM (no office drop-offs).
2. Line up outside quietly and wait for permission to enter.
3. Backpacks on hooks outside; only binder & pencil in class.
4. Be ready before the bell: instrument set up, music organized, pencil on stand.
5. Warm up only when instructed; no unnecessary loud playing.
6. At the podium signal, go to rest position and listen.
7. Pack up only when dismissed; return instruments to locker or take home.

CLASSROOM RULES: **All students are expected to show good behavior and be positive role models to each other.** Failure to follow ANY of our class rules will result in a **written warning** the first time. On the second offense, the student will automatically be issued a **detention**. Serious or subsequent offenses will result in a **parent phone call or conference** and possible **removal from the program**.

WEIGHTED GRADING CRITERIA: STUDENTS TAKING THIS ELECTIVE WILL BE ISSUED A LETTER GRADE (A, B, C, D, F)

- **Classwork/Participation (15%)**
    - Students will begin with 100 participation points at the start of each quarter. Forgetting instrument/music at home, tardiness, disrupting the class, or failing to be an active participant in the learning process will result in deduction of these points. (-10 points for forgetting instrument to class, -5 points for not bringing music to class, -2 points for not bringing pencil.)
    - There will be unannounced **music folder and pencil checks** that will go toward the participation points. Students must always have their music and a pencil to earn full participation points.
    - Written work will be issued in class for completion.
- **Quizzes (25%)** will be administered to check for progress in learning new music. We will have formal in-person, individual live playing exams about 2-3 times a month.
    - **Make Up Quizzes**: It is the responsibility of the student to make up a quiz if they are absent (Mr. Silva will **not** remind students). Students who need to make up a quiz must make it up during class time within 1 week of their return after the absence. Students who are absent during the day of a quiz will not have the option to retake outside of class time, please keep this in mind. Be prepared for quiz days so you are ready and to alleviate any nerves or anxiety. Practicing before the quiz will help you be successful!
    - **Retakes**: Students may retake a quiz if they would like to improve their original score. Students must re-take the quiz within 1 week of the first attempt of the quiz.
- **Performances (45%)** - Performances are the heart of our band and orchestra program. This is a performance class. We focus on showcasing our music in front of a live audience, not just learning in the classroom.
    - Mandatory: All students must attend and perform in the 2–4 concerts listed on our program calendar. Each concert is worth 100 points.
    - This year, research essays will NOT be accepted as an alternate assignment for missing a concert.

        - If You Miss a Concert:
            - Whether due to illness, scheduling conflict, or any other reason, the student must record their entire concert repertoire on video and submit it to Mr. Silva for review.
            - The video must be submitted via email (rsilva@ewcsd.org) no later than 1 week after the originally scheduled concert date is completed.
            - Successfully completing this video assignment will earn up to 80% credit for the concert.
            - Failure to submit the video will result in 0 points for that concert.
    - Punctuality: Arriving late will result in a deduction of up to 15 points.
    - Concert Attire: Missing or incomplete attire will result in a deduction from the performance score.
    - Scheduling Conflicts: Keep your child's schedule free for all concert dates. Do not plan vacations, appointments, or other events during these times.
        - If your child already has a prior commitment that conflicts with a concert, contact Mr. Silva **by September 1st.** After that date, any new scheduling conflicts will be handled using the concert-missing policy described above.
    - Illness: If your child is sick, do not attend the concert. Report the absence to the school's attendance office and email Mr. Silva. The video recording policy above still applies.
- **Practice Logs (15%)** must be filled out every day to keep track of daily practice. These are due on the first WEDNESDAY of every month and must be signed by a parent/guardian in order to receive credit.

Late Work Policy:

1 Day Late: Lose 25% of the grade (or 10 points, whichever is less).
More Than 1 Day Late: Only half credit is given.
End of Quarter: Any missing assignments become permanent zeros and cannot be made up.

Field Trip and Eligibility: All music classes take at least one field trip each year. Field Trips are mandatory.
Beginning String and Beginning Band: Knott's Berry Farm performance in March/April (date to be determined)
Advanced Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble: Spring trip (Disneyland or California Adventure), pending successful audition.
Advanced Orchestra and Wind Ensemble will also take these field trips: Ontario Airport Performance in December, SCSBOA Festival at Whittier HS in March and CMEA State Festival on April 18 (Saturday)
Field trips are required, but students **must meet the following requirements** to attend:

- C or higher in music class
- No missing music assignments, including practice logs or quizzes (all quizzes must be passed with 80%)
- Positive classroom behavior
- Director reserves the right to remove a student from the trip if requirements are not met

Students who do not meet these requirements **will not be permitted on the trip** and **must complete an alternate project instead**.
Transportation: All students must ride the school-provided bus to and from the event. No parent pickups or transportation to the field trip locations are permitted at the destination.

Category	% of total grade
Classwork/Participation	**15**
Quizzes	**25**
Practice Logs	**15**
Performances	**45**

DUE August 29, 2025
WORTH 75 POINTS

GMS Band and Orchestra Program Contract

Effective 2025-2026 Academic School Year

STUDENT FIRST/LAST NAME _____ **Date**_____ **Period**____

We, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s), understand that enrollment in the Granada Band and Orchestra Program is a full-year commitment (August–June). Unlike other electives, students remain enrolled for the entire academic year. Every member plays an essential role in our success, and leaving the program mid-year disrupts the progress of the entire group. Please consider this commitment carefully before signing.

Practice Expectations:

- Students must practice a minimum of 150 minutes each week. (Suggested 30 minutes daily at home)
- Practice should be consistent, which means daily. This is in addition to class time rehearsals.
- Practice logs (worth 15% of the grade) must be completed honestly and submitted monthly.
- Students must take their instrument home daily. Larger instrument players may practice 2–3 times per week during lunchtime at school but must make up the remaining minutes at home.
- Lack of consistent practice will lower the student's grade.

Class Preparation & Materials:

- Students must bring all required music materials to class daily.
- Instruments must be stored in Room 48 before school (not to be dropped off at the front office).
- Students must take care of their instrument and report issues immediately.
- Students are expected to be ready for any playing or written quizzes.

Performance Attendance

- Attendance at all concerts listed on the program calendar is mandatory (worth 45% of the grade).
- Mr. Silva will send reminders at least one week before each performance.
- Missing a performance will require an alternate assignment for partial credit (80%) unless excused for an emergency. The student must record their full concert repertoire within 1 week of the concert date.

Conduct & Academic Standing

- Students must consistently demonstrate MERIT-worthy behavior, showing respect toward peers, staff, and the program.
- Serious or repeated behavior issues may result in conferences, referrals, or removal from the program.
- Students must maintain a satisfactory GPA. 3 or more F's will result in loss of field trip privileges and/or removal from the music program.

By signing below, we agree to the commitments outlined in the class syllabus and above. This agreement must be signed and on file for the student to remain in the program. Valid for the 2025–2026 academic year.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE**_____

FATHER/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE_____ **DATE**_____

MOTHER/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE_____ **DATE**_____