

Granada Middle School
Band and Orchestra Syllabus

[2020-2021 School Year - "Keeping the band/orchestra playing through distance learning"]

Respect ♦ Diligence ♦ Perseverance ♦ Responsibility ♦ Helpfulness ♦ Excellence

Instructor: Mr. Rudy Silva **Email:** rsilva@ewcsd.org **Website:** GMSmusic.org

SATISFACTORY GRADE REQUIREMENT: All students enrolled in this class must maintain at least an A, B, or C in all of their academic core classes in order to keep their spot in this class. Students who receive any D's or F's, are subject to removal from this class. This will also result in the student being placed into a study skills class.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Chamber Orchestra is an advanced level year-long enrichment elective for returning string students at Granada Middle School. Students must have completed an audition to be accepted into this class. Students enrolled in this class must have at least one year of experience playing a violin, viola, cello, bass, or piano. Students in this class represent the high caliber of our music program and must meet the expectations of the director in order to keep their spot in this ensemble. The music we will study will be highly advanced (high-school level music).

CONCERT ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Concert Orchestra is an intermediate level year-long enrichment elective for returning string students at Granada Middle School. Students must have completed an audition to be accepted into this class. Students enrolled in this class must have at least one year of experience playing a violin, viola, cello, bass, or piano. Students in this class represent the high caliber of our music program and must meet the expectations of the director in order to keep their spot in this ensemble.

WIND ENSEMBLE COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Wind Ensemble is an advanced level year-long enrichment elective, and students must have completed an audition to be accepted into this class. Students in this class represent the high caliber of our music program and must meet the expectations of the director in order to keep their spot in this ensemble. The music we will study will be highly advanced (high-school level music). Daily, consistent practice is mandatory to keep your spot in this ensemble.

CONCERT BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Concert Band class is a year-long enrichment elective for students at Granada Middle School who have one year of experience or no musical experience. The students in this class will have the option of playing flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, trombone, tuba, or percussion.

STRING ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION: The String Orchestra class is a year-long enrichment elective for students at Granada Middle School who have one year of experience or no musical experience. The students in this class will have the option of playing violin, viola, cello, or bass.

All students will be required to complete an audition in May to be placed into an ensemble for the 2021-2022 school year. This could possibly take place online via video submissions.

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

1. Learn and improve reading music notation, music symbols, and music vocabulary
2. Develop and improve a characteristic sound on a musical instrument
3. Learn major scales (one octave for beginners, and more than one octave for advanced).
4. Improve intonation (playing their instrument in tune, as a soloist and within the ensemble)

5. Critically evaluate performances and accept constructive criticism from qualified music professionals
6. Develop confidence in playing your instrument in front of a live audience (online).
7. Sight-read music of easy level (grade level ½ to 1)
8. Learn how to prepare for an audition (or online video audition).

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Students must have the following materials with them each day of class (whether online or in-person). Students will receive a **warning** the first time they forget a material. Consistently forgetting materials will result in a **parent conference** and could lead to being removed from this class.

1. Black 1" ring binder (**due by Friday, August 21**. Binder check will take place via Zoom this day, 10 participation points)
2. 10 Individual plastic sheet covers to protect music from flying away or getting ruined
3. 2-3 pencils (mechanical pencils preferred to avoid needing to sharpen). No pens/markers.
4. Instrument, ready to go, in good-working order. Attach a luggage tag with your name.
5. **Woodwinds:** Size 2.5 to 3 ½ reeds (you must own at least 5 reeds), cleaning rod/swab, cork grease
6. **Brass:** Your own small bottle of valve oil, slide grease, cleaning snake, straight mute (for advanced trumpets)
7. **Percussion:** Bell kit or small piano, your own pair of SD-1 sticks, and practice pad are required.
8. **Violin/Viola/Cello/Bass:** Rosin, Shoulder rests - required of all violin and viola students.
Strings: 1 **set** of extra strings (4 strings total).
9. Metronome and tuner

ZOOM/ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING RULES:

1. Arrive on time, if not early, for your scheduled meeting with your charged Chromebook.
2. Find a space to work with the least amount of distraction.
3. Always come prepared with your instrument, music, and a pencil, unless otherwise instructed.
4. Mute your microphone when you are not speaking, and raise your hand to speak.
5. Follow school dress code.
6. Always sign in with your first and last name. Students whom the teacher cannot identify will not be admitted to the Zoom meeting, which will result in loss of points for the day.
7. Students are required to have their camera turned on for the entire duration of the Zoom meeting, clearly showing their face, to ensure active listening and participation.
8. Show good behavior and be positive role models to each other. Be respectful of your peers and your teacher.

CONSEQUENCES: Failure to follow any of our rules will result in a **warning** the first time. On the second offense, the parent will receive a phone call and the student could be removed from the class meeting. Serious or subsequent offences will result in a **parent phone call or conference** and possible **removal from the program**.

WEIGHTED GRADING CRITERIA: Students enrolled in this class will receive a letter grade, and grades will be weighted. This means that some assignments will be worth more than others.

Participation Points are earned based on the student's attendance to online Zoom meetings **and** also actively participating with online activities and assignments. Advanced students will be required to attend sectionals during office hours, which count as a part of the participation grade.

Citizenship/behavior, attitude, and preparedness to each class are also factored into this portion of the grade. Forgetting instrument or music, tardiness, disrupting the class, or failing to be an active participant in the learning process will result in loss of participation points.

- **Live Quizzes** will be administered to check for progress with learning new music. We will have playing exams about once a week. This means that students will be asked to play an assigned portion of their music live, through Zoom. All students will be required to actively participate while other students are taking their quiz (keep your microphone muted when another student is taking their quiz). A **project** will be issued during the second semester (more details to come).
 - **Make Up Quizzes:** It is the responsibility of the student to make up a quiz if they are absent. Make up quizzes will take place the day after the original quiz date.
 - **Retakes:** There are **no** retakes for quizzes. Please be sure you practice and be sufficiently prepared for the original quiz date.
- **Recording Projects** will be due via Flip Grid. Recording projects will be worth 50 points each. Mr. Silva will be using these video submissions to put together an online concert of our students. Recording projects must be turned in on time to get full credit. Videos that are turned in more than 1 day late will not be accepted. There will be a 10 point penalty for late videos.
- **Note, if we are able to hold concerts later this year:** Call time is a half hour before the start of the concert. Late or no-show students will lose a fraction of the points or all points toward performance grade. Students who do not wear all parts of the attire will also lose points for the performance score. Most performances will be worth 100 points.
- **Practice Logs** must be filled on a hard copy which will be then submitted online. Similar to a reading log, you will fill out every day to keep track of daily practice on your instrument. These are due on the first Monday of every month and must be signed by a parent/guardian in order to receive credit. Logs can be turned in up to one day late **with a 10 point penalty**. After that, the student will **NOT** be allowed to turn in the practice log and will lose all of the points possible for that assignment.
- **Practice logs must be submitted via Google Classroom on the following fall semester dates:** *September 8 (no school Monday), October 5, November 9, and December 7, 2020.*
- **Spring semester practice log deadlines are:** *February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, and May 17 (2-week log), 2021.*

The student's grade is weighted as follows:

Category	% of total grade
Participation <i>(Zoom Attendance and active participation and completion of classwork)</i>	15
Quizzes and Smart Music Assignments <i>(Smart Music only for Periods 2-4)</i>	20
Performances (including Recording Projects)	30
Practice Logs	35

- There will be **no** extra credit offered in this class for this school year. -

Remember, certain categories have a larger impact on your grade. For example, not turning in a practice log will significantly lower your grade because it is worth 35% of your overall grade.