

# Granada Band and Orchestra Class Syllabus

Effective 2024-2025 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. Continued poor performance could result in removal from the music program. Earning below a C in music class will result in loss of field trip and other extracurricular event privileges.

## **PERIOD 2: ADVANCED ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION**

THE ADVANCED ORCHESTRA IS A YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE FOR EXPERIENCED STRING STUDENTS AT GRANADA MIDDLE SCHOOL. ADMISSION TO THIS CLASS REQUIRES AN AUDITION, AND STUDENTS MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF EXPERIENCE PLAYING VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS, OR PIANO. THIS ENSEMBLE SHOWCASES THE TOP LEVEL OF OUR MUSIC PROGRAM, AND STUDENTS MUST MEET RIGOROUS STANDARDS SET BY THE DIRECTOR TO RETAIN THEIR SPOT. THIS CLASS IS ONLY OPEN TO 7-8TH GRADE STUDENTS.

## **PERIOD 3: SYMPHONIC BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION**

THE SYMPHONIC BAND IS A YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE DESIGNED FOR RETURNING INTERMEDIATE BAND STUDENTS AT GRANADA MIDDLE SCHOOL, AS WELL AS NEW OR BEGINNING STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 AND 8. THIS COURSE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO ENHANCE THEIR MUSICAL ABILITIES ACQUIRED FROM LAST YEAR AS WELL AS INTRODUCE NEW SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS TO PLAYING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. THIS CLASS IS ONLY OPEN TO 7-8TH GRADE STUDENTS.

## **PERIOD 4: WIND ENSEMBLE COURSE DESCRIPTION**

THE WIND ENSEMBLE IS AN ADVANCED, YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE THAT REQUIRES STUDENTS TO PASS AN AUDITION FOR ACCEPTANCE. THIS ELITE GROUP REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF OUR MUSIC PROGRAM, FEATURING COMPLEX, HIGH-SCHOOL LEVEL MUSIC. MEMBERS MUST DEMONSTRATE CONSISTENT, DISCIPLINED PRACTICE AND MEET THE DIRECTOR'S HIGH EXPECTATIONS TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSITION IN THIS ACTIVE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE. THIS CLASS IS ONLY OPEN TO 7-8TH GRADE STUDENTS.

## **PERIOD 5: STRING ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTION**

THE STRING ORCHESTRA IS A YEAR-LONG INTRODUCTORY STRINGS ELECTIVE FOR SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS, OR SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS WITH SOME OR NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE. STUDENTS CAN CHOOSE TO PLAY THE VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, OR BASS. THIS COURSE FOCUSES ON FOUNDATIONAL ORCHESTRAL SKILLS AND ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE, AND IS MANDATORY FOR SIXTH GRADERS.

## **PERIOD 6: CONCERT BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION**

THE CONCERT BAND IS A YEAR-LONG INTRODUCTORY WINDS/BRASS/PERCUSSION ELECTIVE. THIS COURSE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A VARIETY OF WIND AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING FLUTE, CLARINET, SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, FRENCH HORN, TROMBONE, BARITONE, TUBA, AND PERCUSSION. IT EMPHASIZES MUSIC READING SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENSEMBLE PLAYING, AND IS MANDATORY FOR SIXTH GRADERS.

## **JAZZ BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION**

JAZZ BAND IS AN AFTER-SCHOOL ENSEMBLE SPECIALIZING IN JAZZ MUSIC AND IMPROVISATION. STUDENTS MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF EXPERIENCE IN OUR PROGRAM AND SUCCESSFULLY PASS AN AUDITION TO JOIN. REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT ALL REHEARSALS IS REQUIRED. REHEARSALS ARE HELD MONDAYS FROM 2:45-3:45 PM. ONE REHEARSAL CAN BE MISSED PER QUARTER WITH PRIOR ADVANCED NOTICE TO MR. SILVA OR THE STUDENT WILL LOSE THEIR SPOT IN THE JAZZ BAND.

**NOTE: ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE AN AUDITION IN MAY TO BE PLACED IN AN ENSEMBLE FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

Please note that 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. Learn or improve music reading skills
2. Improve their tone quality on instrument
3. Learn how to play 12 major scales
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. Further the sense of pride and enjoyment in playing an instrument
7. Sight-read music of medium level (grade level 1-2 out of 5)

8. Learn how to prepare for an audition

**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.

1. Black 1" ring binder dedicated for Band/Orchestra music ONLY (**must show to Mr. Silva on Friday, August 23** - Binder check will take place this day, 10 points)
2. 10 Individual plastic sheet covers to protect music from flying away or getting ruined
3. Preferably 2-3 mechanical pencils (to avoid needing to sharpen). **NO PENS, SHARPIES, or MARKERS!**
4. Instrument, ready to go, in good-working order, name tag with student first and last name attached.  
**Parents/guardians are not permitted to drop off musical instruments at the front office if student forgets at home!**
5. **Woodwinds:** Size 2 ½ (beginners) or higher # 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 (trumpets)
7. **Percussion:** Own pair of SD-1 sticks, and practice pad are required.
8. **Violin/Viola/Cello/Bass:** Rosin. Rosin is specific to each instrument. Shoulder rests - required of all violin and viola students. **Strings:** 1 **set** of extra strings (4 strings total). You are expected to have your own replacement set of strings.
9. All students in the program are required to have a metronome/tuner (Korg TM-60 or TM-50). Please write your child's first and last name by attaching a sticker, tape, or using a metallic marker to mark the device. Students in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Advanced Orchestra must show these to Mr. Silva on **Friday, August 23**. Beginning classes (String Orchestra and Concert Band) will show these items to Mr. Silva on **Friday, September 29th (you have more time)**. Students can find this on Amazon or at your local instrument music store.

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

1. All students **MUST** drop off their instrument to room 48 between 7:40-8 AM before school begins. No students are permitted to take their instrument to any of their classes, no exceptions. Parents are not permitted to drop off instruments to the front office if you forget your instrument at home.
2. Line up outside in your assigned line. Wait for permission to enter the classroom in a quiet, respectful manner.
3. Get your instrument from your assigned locker first thing (know your lock combination!). If you have a larger instrument, take it out of the case, and put the case back into the locker to save space.
4. If you need a music stand, grab one from the stand rack and quickly go to your seat before the bell.
5. Hang your backpacks on the hooks outside our classroom. Backpacks may not be brought into our classroom. Only bring your music binder and a pencil into the room.
6. Set up your instrument, as instructed.
7. Place your music folder on your stand.
8. Put your pencil on your stand. Pencil checks are part of your grade!
9. Check the TV screen for agenda before the beginning of class and put your music/materials in the listed order. IF you forgot your music, you must share with your neighbor, or ask Mr. Silva for a copy **before the bell rings.**
10. Warm up: have your instrument/music/stand/pencil ready to go.
11. Do **NOT** play unnecessary sounds (purposefully squeaking, playing really high notes, or making funny sounds). This may result in a detention.
12. When the director gets on the podium, go to rest position: face forward, stop playing, listen **silently.**

13. When the director gives the stop signal, stop immediately and quietly go to rest position.
14. At the end of class, wait until you are dismissed to pack up.
15. Return your instrument to your locker, or take it with you. You are responsible for your belongings!
16. Pick up any trash and put all of your belongings in your backpack or locker.

**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.
  - A **project** will be issued once a semester (more details to come).
- **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%)** - Attendance and participation to the 2-4 mandatory performances outlined in our program calendar are a major component of the grade in this class. Each performance is worth 100 points. Failure to attend a concert will result in a lowered grade.
  - We appreciate keeping your child's schedule clear on concert dates, as this is the main reason our students are in the music program - to perform for an audience. Please refer to the music calendar of events to avoid scheduling conflicts. Please do not schedule any vacations or appointments during our set concert times. Late students will lose up to 15 points. Students who do not attend the concert will lose all 100 points for that concert score. If you see a conflict with the schedule because of a prior commitment already scheduled prior, please communicate this to Mr. Silva right away.
  - Students who do not wear all parts of the attire will also lose points for the performance score.
  - Illness - We ask that any students who are ill on the day of the concert not to attend. Please be sure to contact the attendance office to report the absence from school, and please email Mr. Silva to inform him of the illness. The student will be required to complete an alternate assignment in lieu of participation in the concert. **Students will earn partial credit (80% credit) for completing an alternate assignment in lieu of attending the concert performance.** Failure to submit the alternate assignment will result in zero points for the concert score.
- **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.

Logs can be turned in up to one day late **with a 10 point penalty**. No name will receive an automatic 10 point deduction. Beyond the 1 day late submission period, the student can submit the practice log **up until the end of the quarter in which it was due, for half credit**.

**Field Trips:**

Our music classes take a minimum of 1 field trip during the school year. Our string orchestra and concert band classes will perform at Knott's Berry Farm sometime in March or April. Our advanced music classes, including Advanced Orchestra, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble, will take at least one performing field trip sometime in the Spring Semester, to be announced pending a successful class audition to the Disneyland or California Adventure theme parks. **In order for students to be eligible for participation in field trips, the student must earn a C or higher in music class and have no missing assignments in music class. In addition, in order to be eligible for participation in a field trip, the student must exhibit positive behavior in music class. Mr. Silva reserves the right to deny a student the opportunity to attend a field trip if the student does not adhere to these requirements.**

Transportation policy on field trips: Any students who attend a band and orchestra field trip that is under the supervision of Mr. Silva this school year shall be required to ride on the school-provided bus from Granada to the intended destination, and at the conclusion of the field trip, all students must also ride back to Granada Middle School on the bus. Parents must keep in mind that students will not be allowed to get picked up by their parents at any of the field trip destinations (i.e. Knott's or Universal Studios).

**Students' overall grade in band/orchestra class is weighted. This means that some categories in the grade bear more weight than others. See the chart below to see which assignments will have a bigger impact on the overall grade. Please note there have been changes from last school year!**

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