

Houck Advanced Orchestra

COURSE SYLLABUS

2016-2017

Mrs. Brown, Director

BROWN_RITA@salkeiz.k12.or.us

WORK PHONE: 503-399-3446

COURSE GOALS: To further refine and enhance the playing and musical technique of each student through a variety of in class and out of class experiences.

CLASS TIME: We will meet everyday from 9:12-10:09 AM (Periods 3/4)

REQUIRED MATERIALS : 3 Ring Binder Paper Instrument Pencil Music

A Name Tag on Your Instrument Case is Required

GRADING: Grading is based on three areas: Performance, Tests/Quizzes, and Homework. Students can access their current grades online and should see me right away if they have any concerns.

PERFORMANCE: 60%

The performance grade includes classroom performance points, concert performance, and any written assignments that are completed in the classroom. Students are expected to...

- ◆ Be on time to class (This includes setting up their instrument and music in a timely manner)
- ◆ Have all required materials (Instrument, music, notebook, pencil, etc.)
- ◆ Be an attentive and productive member of the orchestra
- ◆ Attend all concerts
- ◆ Attend sectionals and orchestra retreats

*Students who miss a class or sectional due to an excused absence will have one week to make up the time by coming either before or after school to practice in the orchestra room.

CONCERT /EVENT ATTENDANCE:

Concert attendance is mandatory.

Every member in the orchestra is important! We're a team and any one person's absence can be highly disruptive to the performance. Students are required to attend the entire performance which will be a significant portion of the grade. Students who miss a concert due to an excused absence will have the chance to make up the points in a variety of ways at the director's discretion. Examples of make-up work assignments can be provided upon request.

Acceptable reasons for missing a concert are: ILLNESS, RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, EMERGENCY

In order to qualify as an excused absence, a written note from the parent must be presented to Mrs. Brown before the concert, or if an emergency, within two days after the concert. Email is acceptable.

SECTIONALS

Students are required to attend sectionals and retreats as scheduled.

Students must come see me if they have a conflict with a scheduled sectional and we can arrange a make-up session. Unexcused absences from sectionals will result in a call home and if repeatedly absent, more severe consequences will occur. Sectionals will be held after school and will begin the third week of school. A schedule will be handed out in advance.

TESTS and QUIZZES: 25%

This category covers all formal playing tests (pre-recorded or live), all playing quizzes (short snippet tests with advanced notice), and any informal pop quizzes. Any student that does not pass a playing test or quiz must take it again until the material is learned. Students receiving a C or better on a test may take it again at their leisure for a higher grade and by making an appointment to come in before or after school. Written tests also fall into this category.

HOMEWORK: 15%

Practice Cards, listening assignments, or any extra musical assignment (music compositions, special reports, etc..) that is completed outside of class time will fall under this category.

WILD CARD (or Extra Credit)

Extra credit can be earned in many different ways. Below are just some examples for students wishing to increase their classroom grade. Students can always run other ideas by me to see if they count as well.

All-City Audition/Participation	Private Lessons	Playing at a wedding
Outside Performances (Church, Community Groups, Youth Symphony, etc..)		
Attending a Concert (at another school, professional, etc..)		
Helping out at another concert	Solo and Ensemble Participation	
Performing at the Elementary Schools	Performing at Teen Scene or a Family Dinner Night	

CONCERT ATTIRE

MEN

BLACK DRESS PANTS
WHITE BUTTON SHIRT w/COLLAR
BLACK DRESS SHOES
BLACK SOCKS

LADIES

BLACK DRESS PANTS OR LONG SKIRT
WHITE BUTTON SHIRT w/COLLAR
BLACK DRESS SHOES
BLACK SOCKS OR STOCKINGS

A school cummerbund and bow tie will be issued to each student.

ABSOLUTELY NO JEANS , TENNIS SHOES, OR T-SHIRTS ALLOWED!

PURPOSE: We wear a uniform to present a spectacular image and to show we take pride in our performance. It also keeps the audience focused on what we are playing rather than what we are wearing. Students not dressed in the correct attire may not be allowed to perform, in which event their concert grade for that performance will drop 50%.

NOTE: If students have trouble finding performance attire, please consult Mrs. Brown as soon as possible.

You are the music while the music lasts. ... T.S. Elliott

**2016-2017 CALENDAR
PERFORMANCE AND EVENT DATES**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2016	7 PM	FALL CONCERT	HOUCK GYM
THURSDAY DECEMBER 1, 2016	TBA	MIDDLE SCHOOL ALL-CITY ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS	WALDO
FRIDAY DECEMBER 9, 2016	6PM	MUSIC DEPT. WINTERFEST!	HOUCK
TBA	TBA	ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL TBA	TBA
WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 2017	5:30-9 PM	DISTRICT MS ADVANCED ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL	MCKAY HS
SATURDAY MAY 13, 2017	9AM	HOUCK/PARRISH COMBINED ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL	PARRISH AUDITORIUM
TUESDAY MAY 16, 2017	7 PM STUDENTS ARRIVE AT 6 PM	NORTH/PARRISH/HOUCK AREA ROUND-UP CONCERT	NORTH HS
WEDNESDAY JUNE 7, 2017	6 PM, STUDENTS ARRIVE AT 5:30 PM	HOUCK FINAL CONCERT AND AWARDS NIGHT	TBA

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Salem-Keizer is a great place to study music. We are renowned as having a top-notch program in our district. To further accommodate our above and beyond students, we have some extra performance opportunities!

Middle School All-City Orchestra:

This is an audition only group of students from around the entire district. Students, if selected by a panel of judges, will get to rehearse for three days with a respected and well known music educator and will perform at a concert in February. The concert is filmed and aired on CCTV. **It is an honor to be selected into this group!** I highly encourage all of my students to audition and any student willing to do this will be given extra instruction from myself and extra credit for taking the audition.

Auditions to be announced at a later date.

OMEA DISTRICT IV SOLO and ENSEMBLE:

This event is for students wishing to perform and be critiqued on their solos or as a group of students. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to challenge themselves and to get feedback on their playing from someone other than their regular teacher.

Any student or student groups wishing to perform at this event will receive extra instruction from myself and extra credit.

LOCAL AREA PERFORMANCE GROUPS:

In Salem, we have several area performance groups offering concerts all the time! A list of these groups will be handed out during class.

In addition, the Oregon Symphony performs in Salem and offers students discounted tickets. It's a great opportunity to see a professional orchestra right here at home!

PRIVATE LESSONS

There are many fine independent teachers in the Salem area. If you are interested in taking private lessons, Mrs. Brown can provide you with a list of resources to get you started on your search. Benefits to taking lessons include learning at a faster rate on your instrument, one on one instruction with a qualified musician, and it can make you more competitive when the time comes for applying for college admittance and scholarships.

A painter paints pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence.

....Leopold Stokowski

Student and Parent Commitment Form

Student Name _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Phone _____

Parent's Email _____

Parents and Students, please initial the following statements indicating you've read and understand the Houck Advanced Orchestra Policies.. Return to Mrs. Brown by September 23, 2016.

P *S*

___ ___ I understand that orchestra is a **full year** commitment

___ ___ I understand that I will need a white button down collared shirt, black pants or long skirt, and black dress shoes for my concert uniform. I also understand that jeans, t-shirts, and tennis shoes are unacceptable and may result in being pulled from the concert.

___ ___ I understand that concert attendance is mandatory and the only excusable reason for missing must fall under one of these categories: *Illness, Family Emergency, Religious Holiday.*

___ ___ I understand that if I have an excusable absence from a concert, I may make up the points through a variety of ways to be determined by Mrs. Brown.

___ ___ I understand that my parents must notify Mrs. Brown if I am to be gone from a concert before I'm not there or within two days of the concert, either through a written note or an email.

___ ___ I understand that sectional attendance is a required part of being in Advanced Orchestra. I also understand that failure to attend will result in consequences deemed necessary by the director.

___ ___ I have received the yearly calendar of events.

___ ___ I'm looking forward to a great year in orchestra!!!

Student Signature _____

DATE _____

Parent Signature _____

DATE _____

Please list any questions or concerns on the back of this form.