York Suburban High School
Course Syllabus

High School Orchestra
814

I. Course Description

Students in the High School Orchestra will have the opportunity to practice and develop performance skills—including scales, sight-reading, etudes, and left hand and bowing techniques. Students will perform various 'classical' styles (in addition to exploring alternative styles) in diverse settings—string orchestra, full/symphony orchestra, quartets/quintets.

II. Materials & Equipment

- Instrument (needed for every class)
- Music (kept in provided folders)
- Pencil (needed for every class)
- Scale, sight-reading, and etude sheets

III. Course Goals & Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Develop and utilize proper individual and ensemble playing/performance techniques
2. Develop and utilize good practice habits
3. Develop music reading skills
4. Develop an appreciation for various styles of music through performance
5. Perform a variety of orchestral and chamber (i.e.- small ensembles, quartets, etc.) literature appropriate to the ability level of the students

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

While students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency on scales, sight-reading, etudes, and left hand and bowing techniques, this class is still primarily a performance-based class—with literature to be performed for a test-grade in addition to the accompanying concert. This literature will be selected by the director. Concert Performances are listed by marking period.

1. MP1- No 'scheduled' concert performance—but there will be performances in-class and

other musical ‘gigging’ opportunities in school and in the community.

2. MP2- Holiday Concert in December
3. MP3- Mid-Winter Concert in February; opportunity to play in Musical Pit
4. MP4- Spring Concert in May

V. Assignments & Grading

Students are expected to practice all orchestra music and scale/sightreading material at home.

Student grades are determined using the following categories and weights.

1. Daily Participation (50%)
2. Performance Attendance (25%)
3. Individual Skills/Proficiencies (15%)
4. Class Assignments (10%)