

Mrs. Fuller's

Orchestra Survival Guide

(Everything you need to know to survive orchestra class)

2019-2020



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Course Description

The orchestra at Crystal Lake is a vibrant and growing program. Instruction is offered on the violin, viola, cello and string bass. We perform many different types of music including classical, mariachi, fiddling and pop. The groups perform throughout the year. In addition, students from Crystal Lake Orchestra have participated in All County Orchestra, All State Orchestra, Solo and Ensemble and Music Performance Assessment. To participate it is recommended that you provide your own instrument, but some instruments are provided on a limited basis. If you want to learn to play an instrument, we will make it happen!

Course Overview

1. **Introduction to performance:** Instrument care, left hand technique, bow grip, characteristic tone quality, awareness of the characteristics of musical sound, language of music, reading and writing, performing
2. **Connections:** Connections with other cultures, role of music in culture, influences and interactions of music
3. **Creating musical ideas:** Improvisation, Transcription, Composition
4. **Evaluation:** Evaluation of musical performances, formulate and apply evaluations to personal performance

Grading Policy

1. Class Participation - 20%

- Students will receive a participation grade at the end of each week. They will be scored out of 10 points. Students may lose participation points for disruptive behavior, forgetting materials for class (i.e. music, instrument, pencil, etc.), or not being prepared to play their parts

2. Homework - 20%

- Students will be required to complete a weekly practice log. The logs are due every Monday, and students will also receive a new log for the week on Mondays. Practice logs are worth 10 points each. Students are required to practice **120 minutes** a week. The log also needs a parent signature to receive full credit. Students will lose a point for each day the log is late, with 3 points being the minimum they can earn. Late logs are always accepted during each grading quarter.

3. Quiz - 20%

- Throughout the year, students will be required to perform playing quizzes. Because this is a performance-based class, students will be asked to perform a small passage of music (such as a scale or excerpt from a piece). These playing quizzes will occur in front of the class. Students will ALWAYS be notified before a playing quiz (no pop quizzes!).

4. Performance/Test - 40%

- **In order to receive credit for a performance, students must attend** and participate in the concert, come prepared with the proper materials and attire, and demonstrate good concert etiquette throughout the concert. If a student is not able to attend a concert, that student and their parents should notify Mrs. Fuller as soon as possible. **A student may complete a make-up assignment to receive ½ credit for the concert.** In the case of a last minute emergency, the student who was unexpectedly absent at the concert will be asked to complete a make-up assignment as well. If there are any questions or concerns regarding concerts, please contact Mr. Fuller for clarification.

Classroom Expectations

1. Absolutely no food or drinks (other than a water bottle) in the band and orchestra rooms.
2. Gum is not permitted in the band and orchestra rooms.
3. Come to each class with your instrument, instrument accessories, music, and a pencil.
4. Cell phones are welcome in the band and orchestra rooms to use as tuners, metronomes, or research. However, cell phones should only be used in this way when instructed students to do so.
5. You are responsible for your instrument and belongings. Do not allow other students to touch your instrument.
6. Percussion instruments are not toys. ONLY PERCUSSIONISTS are allowed to touch the percussion instruments. Playing with the percussion instruments will result in disciplinary action.
7. Respect each other and Mrs. Fuller. Other People Matter!

Fingernail Policy

It is impossible to play a string instrument correctly with long fingernails. Therefore, orchestra students are required to keep their nails trimmed during the school year. If a student comes to orchestra class with long nails, the following steps will be taken.

1. First time - Mrs. Fuller will talk to the student privately with the expectation that the student will have trimmed nails by the next class.
2. Second time - Mrs. Fuller will contact parents about the issue.
3. Third time and following - The student will receive a zero for participation and parents will be contacted until the issue is resolved.

Concert Attire and Expectations

Every concert at Crystal Lake is free and open to anyone who would like to come support the students. Concerts are special, memorable events that students put a lot of time and effort into preparing. Below are a few guidelines for the audience that should be followed out of respect for the students.

1. Turn off cell phones or anything else that might make sound during the performance.
2. Clap when the conductor puts their arms down at their sides, not when you think the piece sounds like it's over.
3. If you need to get up for any reason, try to wait until the piece is over.
4. Do not talk, cheer, or whistle during a piece. However, you are welcome to do these things during the applause!

Concert Attire

- Crystal Lake orchestra polo (we will order these)
- Black pants/skirt. No leggings, shorts, jeans, or athletic pants. Skirts should be knee-length or longer.
- Black dress shoes. Dressy sandals are allowed. Boys should wear long, dark socks.

Important Dates

Monday, Sept. 9th- All State Auditions @ American Heritage School

December (TBA)- Band & Orchestra Fort Lauderdale Airport

Saturday, Dec. 7TH – Solo & Ensemble @ North Broward Prep

Wednesday, Dec. 11th- Band & Orchestra Winter Concert @ CLMS

January 8-11th- Florida Music Educator Association (FMEA)
Conference @ Tampa Convention Center

Thursday, Feb. 27th – Orchestra Music performance assessment (MPA)
@ Piper HS

January 28, 30 & Feb 4th- Rehearsal for All county Orchestra-
Location-TBA

Wednesday, Feb. 5th- All County Concert @ Coral Spring Center

Wednesday, May 13th- Band & Orchestra Spring Concert @ CLMS

Student and Parent Agreement Form

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read the information in this packet, and that you agree to support and follow these procedures, expectations, and guidelines throughout the school year. You are also acknowledging that you have received the dates for our performances this year. Finally, you are aware that you can contact Mrs. Fuller at any time with questions or concerns.

Student Name (printed)_____

Student Signature_____

Parent Signature_____

Date_____

Welcome (or welcome back) to orchestra! It's going to be a great year!