

COURSE OUTLINE

FOR THE

GROVES HIGH SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRAS

2019/2020

In this class, there are four major objectives to be achieved by the student:

1. To develop the student's respect and mastery of their chosen instrument.
2. To achieve mastery of certain technical aspects of individual and orchestral playing.
3. To master and perform new repertoire.
4. To gain an understanding and appreciation of music as an art form.

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1. **Respect for the Instrument**

Students will work to develop an appreciation of the qualities and possibilities inherent to their instruments.

2. **Technical Training**

- Individual skills that should be mastered include:
 - Left-hand facility
 - Vibrato
 - Shifting
 - Trilling
 - Double stops
 - Chords
 - Bowing techniques
 - Detache
 - Marcato
 - Staccato
 - Legato
 - Spiccato
 - Tone quality
- Orchestral skills that will be mastered include:
 - Ensemble playing
 - Balance
 - Dynamics
 - Style and interpretation
 - Phrasing

3. **Learning and Performing New Repertoire**

We will study and perform many pieces throughout the year. It will be the responsibility of the student to master his or her own part, as well as to familiarize him or her with the piece as a whole in order to present a convincing and artful performance.

4. **Music as an Art**

In our preparation of pieces, we will approach music from an artistic standpoint, and work to achieve an understanding of the aesthetics of music as it applies to individual pieces and music in general.

Orchestra Requirements

Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required, but **strongly recommended**. They will **definitely** help the student to progress with their orchestra music. Private lessons will improve the student's technique, musicianship, while increasing their appreciation for all types of music. Attached is a list of local private teachers for all of the stringed instruments.

Attendance at Performances

Attached is a list containing performance dates, times, and locations. The listed performances are required of all orchestra students. **The only readily acceptable excuses for missing a performance include illness, religious observance, death in the family, or extreme emergency.** In regards to the previous scenarios, the student will be completely excused from the performance and no make-up will be necessary.

Please check the calendar carefully for personal conflicts (vacations, sports games/practices, etc.) well in advance to avoid last minute problems. Please contact me if you have any questions or personal conflicts at least **one month in advance** to avoid having your grade affected, as well as to potentially receive an alternate assignment.

Tardiness

Attendance will be taken as soon as the class bell rings. Any student who is not in the orchestra room (B10) when the bell rings will be marked tardy. All Groves tardy policies apply.

Classroom Behavior

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. After a verbal warning, students will be assigned a detention. Food and beverages (with the exception of water) are not allowed in the orchestra room. **The Groves cell phone policy will be strictly enforced during orchestra.**

Method Books

Students in both Symphony Orchestra and Concert orchestra will use **Essentials for Strings** (not Essential Elements) by Gerald Anderson (dark brown)[\$6.89 w/tax incl.], as well as **Essential Elements -Advanced Techniques for Strings** (light brown)[\$8.46 w/tax incl.]. *****Both books can be purchased IN CLASS on Thursday September 6th, and Friday September 7th. Please bring cash or a check made out to Wilson's Fine Violins.**

****Any student who does not purchase a book will receive a checked-out copy from Groves High School. The student will be responsible for the book if it is damaged.**

Equipment

Students need to have their instruments, music, rosin, and a **pencil** for every class. ****Students will need a 1", three-ring Black binder for their music.** Music must be organized in the binder, and available for every class. **Note: Groves High School cannot be responsible for lost or damaged student owned instruments (check your homeowners policy for coverage). Make sure that your instruments are clearly labeled, and that you are able to identify your instrument by serial number, or some other means.**

Uniforms

Performance uniforms are distributed by Groves High School. The men are responsible for having a white tuxedo shirt and a black bow tie*, the rest will be provided. Students will be responsible for wearing black dress shoes with their uniform, as well as black socks for the men. ***A representative from The Tux Shop will be at Groves during class on 9/23/19. Students will be able to purchase a tux shirt (\$20) and/or bow tie (\$5) at that time. Please pay with cash or check made out to: The Tux Shop.** If you are unable to purchase a tux shirt and/or bow tie, one will be provided.

****Items provided by the Groves Orchestra program will need to be returned. Students will be responsible for lost or damaged items.**

Mr. Shawver's Web Page

All details regarding upcoming activities for orchestra can be found on Mr. Shawver's web page: www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Domain/757
It can also be accessed through the Groves HS website.

Groves Orchestra Facebook Page

The Groves Orchestras have a Facebook page primarily to embrace and encourage the social nature of orchestra. To follow the Groves Orchestras just search **Groves Orchestras** and then choose like it.

Groves Orchestra Boosters

The Groves Orchestra Boosters (GOB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of the Groves High School Orchestra. **If you have a student in the Groves Orchestra, then you are a member of the Groves Orchestra Boosters.** The dates for the monthly GOB meetings are listed with the event dates. Please come and help support your student's musical education and experience. Additional information is attached.

Response Sheet (**FIRST GRADE!**)-

Please complete and return the attached "Response Sheet" to acknowledge your awareness of the orchestra expectations, and to confirm the attached dates. Any major conflicts should be reported at this time. A section of this sheet will be designated to the need of uniforms. Please return the Response Sheet to Mr. Shawver by the date provided. THIS IS YOUR FIRST GRADE FOR THIS COURSE (PASS/FAIL).

Orchestra Event Dates for 2019-2020

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
9/17/19	Booster/Camp Chap. Meeting	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
9/20-22/19	Orchestra Camp	Camp Copneconic	Weekend
9/23/19	Uniform Fittings	Groves Orchestra Room	During Class
10/9/19	Groves Orchestra Boosters	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
11/6/19	Groves Orchestra Boosters	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
11/21/19	Electric Mayhem Rehearsal	Groves Aud.	3:30-5:30pm
11/22/19	Groves Collage Concert	Groves Aud.	7:00pm
12/4/19	Groves Orchestra Boosters	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
12/18/19	Berkshire Winter Concert(Mayhem & Mentors)	Groves Aud.	7pm
1/8-10/20	Blue Lake Scholarship Auditions	Groves	During Class
1/8/20	Groves Orchestra Boosters	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
1/24-25/20	District Solo & Ensemble	Brighton HS	All Day
TBA	Elementary Tour (Mayhem)		All Day
2/12/20	Groves Orchestra Boosters	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
2/12/20	Groves/Berk Pre-Festival	Groves Aud.	During Class
2/28-29/20	District MSBOA Festival	Groves is Hosting	TBA
3/14/20	State Solo & Ensemble	TBA	All Day
3/17/20	Groves Orchestra Boosters	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
4/2/20	4 th Grade Instrument Night (Mayhem)	Groves Aud.	7:00pm
4/15/20	Groves Orchestra Boosters	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
5/1/20	Laser Tag	Zap Zone	7:00pm
5/6/20	Groves Orchestra Boosters	Groves Orchestra Room	7:00pm
5/12/20	Elementary Concert (Mayhem)	Groves Aud.	7:00pm
5/17/20	Forte 5k Fundraiser	Beverly Park	9:00am
5/19/20	Combined Rehearsal	Groves Aud.	3-5pm
5/20/20	Groves Orch. Spring Concert	Groves Aud.	7:00pm
5/31/20	COMMENCEMENT	Ultimate Soccer Arena	2-6pm
6/2/20	Orchestra Banquet	Glen Oaks	6:00pm
6/3/20	Berkshire Spring Concert(Mayhem & Mentors)	Groves Aud.	7pm

*****Dates, Times, and Locations are subject to change.**

Grading Procedures

50% - Participation

This is a course that relies on the active participation of the student. Students will be expected to attend, be prepared for, and actively participate in all rehearsals and performances. As stated on page 3, illness is the only viable excuse. I understand that there may be scheduling conflicts in the future. If this is ever the case, it is the student's responsibility to let me know at least **one month in advance** in order for **possible** accommodation and alternate assignment.

40% - Playing Tests

Playing tests will be given every 3 to 4 weeks, depending on the performance schedule. Grading on playing tests will not be easy, but will be fair. Students **do** have the option of retaking their test as many times as they choose before the marking period ends. Test retakes will be given after school.

10% - Miscellaneous Assignments

These include any music reports, reflection papers, presentations, and/or theory assignments and quizzes given throughout the year. This may also include the turning-in of important documents, such as the included **Response Sheet**.

Response Sheet- DUE 9/13/19

(FIRST GRADE – PASS/FAIL)

I _____ (student) have read the orchestra packet and clearly understand my responsibilities as a student in orchestra.

My parent _____ has also read the orchestra packet and understands the responsibilities of the student. The performance dates have also been observed for future reference.

* Uniform needed – circle one: Y / N

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Only provide email addresses to which you wish to receive information.

* Student's email address: _____

* Parent #1: Name: _____

* Email(s): _____

* Phone number(s): Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

* Parent #2 (if applicable): Name: _____

* Email(s): _____

* Phone number(s): Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

*Student signature

date

*Parent signature

date

Yes! I want to support the Groves Orchestra! *The Groves Orchestra Boosters supports the Orchestra throughout the school year in many ways to ensure a successful and enriching experience for our students. Your donations will help cover additional expenses that school district monies don't cover. For example, purchase of new instruments/supplies (electronic instruments), DSO sectionals, guest conductors/clinicians, Festival fees, and awards, etc. (Please check all that apply.)*

____ Friend of Haydn \$10

____ Benefactor of Bach \$100 and up

____ Sponsor of Mozart \$25

____ Other, please indicate amount \$ _____

____ Patron of Beethoven \$50

____ Help send a student to Toronto \$ _____

Please make your check payable to the **Groves Orchestra Boosters** and return with this form to Mr. Shawver.

Orchestra Parent Volunteers needed!

Due to the needs of our students, Mr. Shawver and the Orchestra Boosters Board expect all orchestra families to get involved and sign up for at least 1 volunteer position this school year. You will be receiving an email with a signupgenius.com link to volunteer.

Thank you for your support!