



2014-2015

J.E.B. Stuart High School

Orchestra

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www.charmsoffice.com

www.stuartorchestraboosters.blogspot.com

We are pleased to welcome you and your family to J.E.B. Stuart High School Orchestra Program. We have an exciting year planned with concerts, a trip to Universal Studios in Florida, and many opportunities for musical growth. Here is some important information regarding this course that will help you be successful this school year.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the development of skills and knowledge in the area of orchestral instrumental music; skills learned previously are strengthened and expanded. Students will perform music at various grade levels. A successful audition is required or teacher recommendation.

COURSE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can we express ideas and emotions through instrumental music?
- How can we ensure that our work with music is expressive and personalized rather than mechanical or robotic?
- How does the instrument we play offer both unique potential as well as unique challenges?
- How can we become a part of a musical ensemble, expressing ourselves individually as well as collaboratively?

COURSE TRANSFER GOALS

- Perform with good fundamental sound at all times
- Realize that major scales are the building blocks of the melodies and harmonies we use in music
- Utilize expanded range from scales in music
- Perform rhythmic note and rest patterns accurately within full length
- For a more detailed description of Fairfax County Program of Studies, please access the link provided, <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/guides/hs/index.htm>.

MATERIALS

Instrument in performance condition

Pencils, rosin, rock stops, tuners, etc.

Books (but not limited to)

Method book(s)

Sheet Music

Theory Workbook

SUPPORTS AVAILABLE (Students are expected to use these supports to enhance academic achievement).

- Before and after school enrichment, peer tutoring
- Private lessons (list available in orchestra room) - Inquire about private lesson scholarships!
- www.musictheory.net
- Internet (YouTube, iTunes)

GRADING DESIGN

The course grade is made up of four quarter grades and a Final Exam. These five grades may be weighted differently based on the amount or importance of content covered in each. We also understand that throughout each quarter, students may learn at different speeds and in different ways. Therefore, this course does have a system in place for students to possibly improve their grades. All details are included below:

GRADING CRITERIA

40% Summative assessment

30% Formative assessments

30% Diagnostic assessments

- Summative:
 - Concerts and performances
 - Festival Evaluations
 - Quarterly comprehensive skills test (written or playing)
 - One “project” due by 4th quarter– such as auditioning for Senior Regional Orchestra, District Honors Orchestra, Solo and Ensemble, or 8 private lessons.
- Formative:
 - Performance assessments designed to evaluate student progress and develop proficiency
 - Self-assessments of progress towards mastering concert music and other musical concepts
 - Peer feedback and reflection on group and individual progress
- Rehearsal Preparation and Classroom Engagement:
 - Warm-up exercises to strengthen established skills and prepare for the daily lesson objective (i.e. rhythmic reading drills, pitch exercises, etc.)
 - As-needed diagnostic run-throughs to identify areas of performance weakness
 - Sight-reading/singing exercises to determine direction of instruction

ABSENCE POLICY

- **Excused Missed Performance** – student will have one week upon return to school to complete the make-up assignment (i.e. performance of concert repertoire, written assessment, etc.) Valid excused absences are as follows: death in the family/hospitalization, or personal illness. All other excuses – including transportation, work, babysitting, etc. will be treated as unexcused absences.
- **Unexcused Missed Performance** – students have one week from missed performance to complete a make-up assignment. Maximum grade earned will be 50%.

FINAL EXAM

- This class will have a final exam that is 12% of the overall grade of the course. It will consist of two parts – one part demonstrates skill on the instrument and the other is written to demonstrate theory knowledge.
- Students who have maintained a 4.0 GPA in the class will be exempt from the final if they choose.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Students will use online resources (to include blackboard, Charms (www.charmsoffice.com) orchestra website, etc.) throughout the year.
- Students will show effort and perform at a high level during each class
- Students will be expected to maintain instrument in concert performance condition
- Students will be expected to practice outside of class time
- Students will be expected to revisit work when not mastered
- Students will work toward a consistent characteristic and mature sound
- Students are expected to understand and follow the attendance procedures of Stuart High School.
- Students are expected to adhere to the policy set forth in the FCPS Co-Curricular statement. (see below)

ATTENDANCE

Daily attendance in all classes and return times is imperative for academic success throughout each school year. Each unexcused tardy and unexcused absence means missed instruction, loss of work time, and ultimately leads to lower grades. These will lead to parent phone calls, detentions, and referrals as per school policy.

HONOR CODE

All Stuart students must take the Raider Pledge:

As a J.E.B. Stuart student, I pledge to be: honest, trustworthy, fair, respectful, and responsible in all academic pursuits.

All consequences for violating the Raider Pledge will be dealt with in accordance with the Stuart Honor Code. For a full description of the honor code, please visit <http://www.fcps.edu/StuartHS/pages/about/honor-code.html>.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please take a few minutes to read and discuss this syllabus with your child. After reviewing it, please sign below and have your child return this sheet to his/her teacher. Thank you for your support and please call or e-mail if I can assist you in any way to make orchestra a positive experience for your child this school year.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Haynes

We have read and understand the Syllabus, requirements and expectations.

Student name (please print)

Parent/Guardian (please print)

Student signature

Parent/Guardian signature

Home Telephone #

Business Telephone #

Parent/Guardian Email Address (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY** SO WE CAN CONTACT YOU)

Orchestra NOTES

CO-CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS STATEMENT

All students in orchestra classes are required to participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day. This is stated in the Program of Studies (POS) for orchestral music and is considered a co-curricular requirement, and will be graded as a regular school day rehearsal. Students participating in extra-curricular activities are not excused from orchestra rehearsals and performances outside of the school day. Students involved in other school-sponsored activities will be allowed to share their time between orchestra and other activities. A reasonable accommodation will be agreed upon by the coach/sponsor, the orchestra director, and the director of student activities BEFORE the conflict arises. If the student does not inform the teacher and coach/sponsor of the conflict at least TWO weeks in advance so that an accommodation may be discussed, absence from the orchestra activity will be considered unexcused. In general, a performance, match, or game takes precedence over a practice or general rehearsal.

COURSE FEE

Every orchestra student will be assessed a \$50 course fee. Please make checks payable to STUART HIGH SCHOOL. You will receive a receipt when your course fee is turned in to your instructor. Fees are due NO LATER than **September 12th**.

INSTRUMENT RENTALS

Instruments will be loaned to students if a student cannot bring one from home. Maintenance and replacement of instruments/accessories is expensive, and **expectations are high that all students will show care and respect for their instruments. Damages incurred to instruments by students will be subject to additional fees.**

The annual instrument rental is \$96. **Please bring in \$96 by Friday, September 5TH, 2014. Students will not be assigned an instrument until the fee is brought in.** Checks should be made payable to STUART HIGH SCHOOL. All students will be given a receipt when all rental fees have been turned in to your instructor.

IF YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE/REDUCED LUNCH – then the annual rental fee is \$20.

Students who choose to use their own instrument must either bring it to and from school daily, or accept the inherent risk involved with leaving it at school. It is advised that you bring a lock for your instrument locker – and keep it locked.

UNIFORMS

Every orchestra student will be fitted for a uniform and have one assigned to them for the year. The uniforms are kept at school in the boosters closets. Uniforms are not to be kept at home. Please come prepared to change into your uniform when you arrive for concerts and then return the uniform to the uniform closet after your performance. All students will need to provide their own black socks/tights and black shoes. Any lost or damaged uniforms will be assessed a repair or replacement cost.

ORCHESTRA CHECKLIST (Check all that apply and turn in)

FEES

_____ I have attached the course fee of \$50 (made out to Stuart HS) and need a receipt.

UNIFORM

_____ I am a new member to the orchestra and will need to be fitted for a uniform.

_____ I am a returning member of the orchestra and (as far as I know) my uniform still fits.

_____ I am a returning member of the orchestra and I know that I will have to be sized for a new uniform/parts to a new uniform.

_____ I have lost/outgrown my orchestra T-Shirt and I have enclosed \$10 for a new shirt and I need a receipt. Circle correct size XS S M L XL

INSTRUMENT

_____ I am bringing my own instrument from home and will not need to rent an instrument through the school.

_____ I own my own instrument at home, but would like to also rent an instrument through the school. I have enclosed the instrument contract and the appropriate instrument fee. I have made checks out to Stuart High School and I need a receipt.

_____ I do not own an Instrument and would like to rent an instrument through the school. I have enclosed the instrument contract and the appropriate instrument fee. I have made checks out to Stuart High School and I need a receipt.

OTHER

_____ I will be present for TAG DAY.

_____ My parent(s) would like to volunteer to help out with TAG DAY.

_____ I am interested in taking private lessons and need a list of private teachers.

_____ I am interested in auditioning for Senior Regional Orchestra. (Sept. 30th)

_____ I am interested in auditioning for District Honors Orchestra (circle for J or S)

_____ I am interested in helping out as a music librarian this year for my group.

_____ I am interested in helping out with organizing uniforms this year for my group.

_____ I have gone to www.charmsoffice.com and updated/entered my general information.

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I have read the 2014-2015 Orchestra syllabus and the Co-Curricular Statement and agree to its terms and policies. I know that I need to work on my music at home to be able to represent myself in the best way as a student and a musician. I understand that I need to put forth my best effort and work hard to continue to meet the level of excellence that the J.E.B. Stuart High School Music Department has come to achieve.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_