

***Rock Bridge High School String Orchestra
2007-2008 Syllabus***



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Text: Advanced Technique for Strings-Technique and Style Studies for String Orchestra by Allen, Gillespie and Hayes.

Course Description

This class provides an opportunity for string instrument players to continue the study of their instrument through:

- The use of group and individual technique studies
- The performance of traditional and contemporary string orchestra and ensemble literature
- The critique and analysis of other musical performances
- The research of various related topics

Grading Scale and Class Grades

The grading scale for this class can be found in the Student Handbook for the Columbia Public Secondary Schools. Grades will be based upon the total points accumulated during the grading period and are earned in the following ways:

• **Class Participation** - Up to 5 points each class period. To earn these points the student must be in attendance, on time, have their instruments, music, pencil, and other necessary equipment, and participate in all class activities with proper classroom conduct and an excellent attitude. Students who miss a class due to an excused absence (as defined by the above mentioned Student Handbook) may recover these points by submitting a recording of their practice outside of class **or** a parent note, email or voice mail stating that they have heard the practice session. This practice time is to be a minimum of 30 minutes per absence and submitted within one week of the return to school.

• **Quizzes, Tests and Semester Exam** - There will be **written quizzes** (30 points each, to be completed in class) covering basic information about the scales/arpeggios and concert repertoire currently being studied, and **recorded playing tests** (70 points each, to be completed at home and turned in for grading) consisting of an assigned 3 octave scale and arpeggio. **Everyone will need access to some type of recording device for this class.** Acceptable forms have included: digital recorder, CD's, audio cassettes, VHS tapes, 3.5 floppies, flash drives, and mp3 players. If you need to borrow my cassette recorder or have a different recording format, please consult me as soon as possible. Please note: Recordings may be turned in early but **NO LATE RECORDINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED** (exception: student absence because of illness on the due date). **Semester exams** can include anything from the current semester's written quizzes and playing tests.

• **Written Assignments** - Each semester the student is expected to attend 2 concerts (besides our own) and submit the program plus a written critique within one week of the concert date (25 points each). Acceptable concerts include Columbia Public Schools junior and senior high instrumental and/or vocal concerts and musicals, concerts on the University of Missouri Concert Series, or recitals at the UM School of Music. Others may be approved in advance. Critiques should be two pages in length

(Times New Roman or Arial -12 font) and should discuss the musical performance from an “audience” or “music critic” point of view. Be sure to state WHY you “rated” something the way you did by backing it up with examples. Some possible topics to consider for each piece (or movement): dynamics, phrasing, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, bowings, program selections and their order, and overall flow of the concert.

• **Concerts** – Performances are worth 100 points each. To earn 100% of assigned concert points, the student must attend all extra rehearsals (if there are any called), be on time for the pre-performance warm-up, be attired appropriately (long-sleeved white shirt and tie, black slacks, black shoes and socks for the men and long-sleeved white shirt or blouse, black 3/4 or full length skirt or pants and black shoes for the women) and perform in the concert. **The number of points deducted for any infractions or absences will be at the sole discretion of the director.**

RBHS String Orchestra Schedule

(All events subject to change; additional events may be added)

Wednesday, October 17, 2007	Fall Concert, 7:00 pm, RBHS PAC
Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007 (FYI)	All State Orchestra auditions, day, UM campus
Friday, Dec. 7, 2007	Holiday TV taping, day, RBHS PAC
Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007	Winter Concert, 7:00 pm, RBHS PAC (w/choir)
Wed-Sat, Jan.23-26. 2008 (FYI)	All State Orchestra, Tan-Tar-A Resort
Wednesday, March 19, 2008	Spring Concert, 7:00 pm, RBHS PAC
Friday, April 4, 2008	District Solo/Ensemble Festival, Mexico
Saturday, April 5, 2008	Large Ensemble State Music Festival, Mexico
Thursday, April 24, 2008 (FYI)	Solo/Ensemble State Music Festival, Univ.of MO
Tuesday, April 29, 2008	District String Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm, RBHS
Wednesday, April 30, 2008 (FYI)	Spring Spectacular, Jesse Aud. 8:00 a.m.
Monday, May 19, 2008	Senior Farewell Concert, 7:00 pm, RBHS PAC
Monday, May 26, 2008	Baccalaureate, 7:00 pm, RBHS Gym

Conflicts with other Columbia Public School events should be brought to my attention immediately!

(Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus)

I have received a copy of the RBHS String Orchestra Syllabus 2007-2008 and have read and understand its contents.

Date _____ Student Signature _____

Date _____ Parent Signature _____

Parent Email Address (please print) _____