**Hephzibah High School Syllabus**

Grading

Daily Grade 15 points for daily effort + 10 points for scale/arp quizzes=25 points/week

This means exactly what you think it does. Come in to class on time with an intent to learn and support each other. Check in and get your materials set up quickly—that means instrument out and tuned, bow out and rosined, music out and on your stand, theory or history out according to the assigned day. Do what the rest of the class is doing to the best of your ability, whether it is a written, aural or playing activity. No phones—new RCBOE rule. Do not leave the room without permission and take the filled-out pass board with you.

Attendance at All-County Rehearsals 25 points/week

All-County rehearsals at Tubman for Symphony Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra (and other specified rehearsals) and performances are required. However, if there is a legitimate reason you cannot attend an occasional rehearsal, a 90 minute practice video/audio recording can be submitted at the discretion of the director. If you do not submit one, it can trigger a student-parent-teacher conference. Not my rule—it’s an RCBOE new rule. If you are sick, you will only be excused from the rehearsal and video/audio recording IF YOU CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF YOUR GROUP. (Ms. Ellington for Symphony (706) 414-5074.) For recurrent conflicts, like sports practices, you need to give me a schedule from the conflicting activity **before** the first conflicting date and attend orchestra rehearsal on 50% of the conflicting dates. You need to address these things with me ahead of time and we will deal with them on a case by case basis.

Minor Grades varying points

There will be listening, criticism, history or theory lessons each week and the information mastery will be assessed regularly. Some assessments will be oral, which means that you need to **volunteer to answer questions** in class—you will get points based on your participation; and some assessments will be written, either in the form of quizzes or checking your listening journals.

Major Grades varying points

This may be a test, but it will more often be a performance of some sort. This includes: auditions, RCO concerts, and school or community-based concerts, and chamber performances.

Home Practice

Home practice is required for you to progress in orchestra. You know this. Now, you have a choice. You can be a so-so player, or you can be a great player. It all comes down to passion and application! Nobody actually wants to be a so-so player after being in orchestra for as long as you have, so if you are not there yet, you should ask yourself why. Are you motivated? Are you organized? Are you creating sounds you love? If not, why? I listen to you every day. Of course I can tell if you are practicing effectively, but we still communicate about your practicing to both feed your creative spirit and move you along the road to being a great player.

Required Materials

Instruments will be brought to class each day along with bow, rosin, pencil, cleaning cloth, music folder, binder and its’ contents. There has been an increasing problem of mites “eating” the hair off of bows due to rosin sharing. Share rosin at your own risk. Students are responsible for maintenance of his/her instrument, whether it is a personal or county instrument. Method books and history text will be provided by the teacher and must be kept in good condition. Replacement costs for these materials if lost or ruined are as follows:

Muller-Rusch $6.99

Advanced Techniques $9.95

High Tech for Strings $5.99

Learning Objectives

1. Students will learn to sing, alone and with others.
2. Students will learn to perform on stringed instruments, alone and with others.
3. Students will learn to read and notate music.
4. Students will learn to create music by improvising melodies and harmonies
5. Students will learn to listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate a wide variety of music.
6. Students will learn to understand the relationship between music and our history/culture, as well as the history/culture of others.
7. Students will learn to use music as a communication with others in our community.

Class Rules

1. Be kind. All of the time. To everyone.
2. Be on time.
3. Have all materials.
4. Be ready to work and set up quickly.
5. Keep the rehearsal area neat.
6. Save eating for the lunch room—this includes gum.
7. Keep left hand finger nails short.
8. Attend all All-County rehearsals and performances
9. Phones out will go to an administrator.

Timeline

First Nine Weeks: Introduction to and preparation of All-County audition music and relevant techniques. Harvest Concert, Star Wars Reads and other concerts. Introduction to and developing understanding of relevant aspects of music theory. Introduction to Music History.

Second Nine Weeks: Demonstrate mastery of All-County Christmas music. Apply knowledge of music theory to the performance of technical studies and performance pieces. Assess how these make you a better player.

Third Nine Weeks: Develop and demonstrate mastery of All-County Festival music. Continue music theory, history and analysis.

Fourth Nine Weeks: Develop and demonstrate mastery of Spring All-County music. Develop an understanding of the arranging process and apply it to a creation of your own.

Important Dates: Symphony Auditions—TBA

 District Solo & Ensemble Registration Deadline—TBA

Star Wars Reads—TBA

RCO Rehearsals Begin—TBA

Teacher of the Year Performance—TBA

Hispanic Festival at Tubman--TBA

No Rehearsal—10/15

All-State Auditions—TBA

Harvest Concert—10/29

Solo and Ensemble—TBA

Fiddle Festival—11/7

No rehearsal Thanksgiving Week

 Winter Concert—12/17

 All County Rehearsals Begin—1/7

 No Rehearsal—2/18

 All-County Clinic—2/21

Black History Performance—2/25

Pre-Festival Concert—3/13

 Festival—3/19

 Spring Clinic Concert—4/30

 Star Wars at the Hub Performance—5/8 ?

Rehearsal Times: Symphony 6:00-7:30