LATHROP HIGH SCHOOL

Chamber Orchestra Syllabus

Teacher: Mr. Hovest

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[www.lathrophighmusic.com](http://www.lathrophighmusic.com)

**Introduction**

Chamber Orchestra is an advanced ensemble at Lathrop with the goal of performing professional level string orchestra literature. In addition, students will have an advanced knowledge of music theory and understanding of their instrument. It is my goal that students will have the skills to participate in any ensemble they wish upon graduation of Lathrop. We represent Lathrop at public functions and concerts.

**Expectations**

* In all the Lathrop orchestras, students are expected to come to class with a positive and willing attitude. This is very important in music making so that everyone in the group feels welcome.
* In addition to a positive attitude, students are expected to have their instrument, music, and a pencil at every class. We cannot function as an ensemble without these things.
* It is my expectation that members of the ensemble are willing to make mistakes. It is very easy to give up before you start when you are in a group of your peers.
* Students are strongly encouraged to have their own voice and to speak it when appropriate.

**Consequences**

* Verbal Warning
* Student/Teacher Conference
* Phone call to parent – parent conference
* Referral to office for administrative discipline

**Cell Phones**

Cell phones may be used as tuners \***only**\*. Once we are finished tuning cell phones are not to be visible or in use during class time. Cell phone use will result in me taking the device away for the remainder of the class period. After the 2nd offense the phone will be taken to the administrative office and can be retrieved by a parent or guardian.

**Grades**

Grades are based on daily participation, assignments, and concerts.

* Because one of the major functions of this ensemble is to present concerts, and because every member plays such a vital role in the ensemble, concerts are worth 150 points. We will have a dress rehearsal the day before the concert, which is worth 50 points.
* Students can earn up to 5 points per day by being on time, having their instrument and supplies (music, rosin, shoulder rest, a pencil), and actively participating during class. If one or some of these aspects are missing, your grade will be adjusted accordingly.
* Assignments will be given per the discretion of the director, for points decided by the director.

**Extra Credit**

* Attend a concert and bring back a program with your name printed on it (worth 10 points, 50 points maximum).
* Create and submit an audition CD for All-State (worth 30 points).
* Participate in the Region VI solo and ensemble festival (worth 30 points).
* Research a music topic and do a 1 page write-up. Run the topic by me for approval first!(worth 10 points, 50 points maximum)

**Uniforms**

Chamber Orchestra will wear uniforms for all concerts, which means a financial investment from families. We will order tuxedos and dresses from “Southeastern performance apparel”, which will be $70 for dresses and $105 for tuxes.

**Attendance**

Unexcused tardies will lose you 2 points from your daily grade. Reduced daily points due to illness, activities, or pre arranged excused absences can be made up by completing an “Absence” practice form, which will need to be signed by your parent. It is my hope that you and your parent will not “forge” these forms for points. \***If you are absent but not excused you may not make up the daily points missed**\*

**Concerts**

The orchestra will present four concerts during the year, as well as playing at Lathrop’s graduation. We *greatly appreciate* when parents attend these concerts.

\*For circumstances such as extreme illness or a family emergency, the student must communicate with the director in advance of the concert to discuss an alternative assignment. Note - having to work, lack of transportation, or other instances that could and should have been planned ahead, will NOT be excused absences.

Fall Concert - Mandatory dress rehearsal October 2nd

Fall Concert – October 3rd, 7pm (6pm call for students)

Winter Concert - Mandatory dress rehearsal December 10th

Winter Concert – December 11th, 7pm (6pm call for students)

Music in our Schools Month - Mandatory dress rehearsal March 4th

Music in our Schools Month - Concert – March 5th, 7pm (6pm call for students)

Spring Concert - Mandatory dress rehearsal April 22nd

Spring concert – April 23rd, 7pm (6pm call for students)

Lathrop Graduation – May 15th \***this is also a required performance**\*

**Please fill out and return to Mr. Hovest by Tuesday, September 17th. (10 points)**

**(please keep the first two pages for your records and only return this page)**

**Acknowledgement:**

I have read the syllabus and I am willing to do what is expected of me. I am aware that my participation as an ensemble member is essential to be a part of this group and lack of participation in any way will result in grade deductions.

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Student Name Student Signature

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Date

Parent/Guardian Portion

I have read the syllabus and I understand what is expected of my child and the responsibilities it may place on me, including providing transportation to and from performances and after school rehearsals. I understand that this class requires commitments outside of the school day and those commitments are attached to the grades for this class.

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Parent Name Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Home Phone Number Cell Phone

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E-mail Address