

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
VIPA 1612, Beginning Strings
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

This class is an integration of level-appropriate music reading fundamentals, instrumental playing technique, and musical production and performance of elements and experience. This course includes, but is not limited to, learning, understanding, retaining, and applying the musical elements of pitch production, musical nomenclature, melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, form, musical analysis, composition, history, style, and musicianship skills.

The qualifying requirements include an interview and skills assessment given by the instructor in order to evaluate the student's ability to achieve the requirements, expectations, and goals of the course. There is a formal audition prerequisite for this course.

Curricular Mapping:

This is an entry level course for students to learn to play a classical string instrument. As musical understanding and proficiency are established and abilities increase, students are prepared and given the opportunity to audition for participation in the more advanced instrument ensembles offered at the school and/or develop a lifelong appreciation of music and musicianship.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate proper posture, bowing, tone production, and instrumental techniques.
2. Read level appropriate musical nomenclature.
3. Successfully complete *All for Strings, Book One*.
4. Exhibit a consistent attitude of teamwork and *esprit de corps* in an instrumental ensemble.

Required Apps, Texts, and mvcsinstrumentalarts.blogspot.com:

- Apps: SmartMusic Subscription (\$40) and App (Free w/subscription), Metronome (Free or Paid), Chromatic Tuner (Free or Paid)
- Texts: Sheet music will be provided to students. Some honors or solo/ensemble music may need to be purchased by students for select events. There is no required text for this class.
- Please register your email with mvcsinstrumentalarts.blogspot.com to receive vital Instrumental Arts event information and updates.

Course Materials:

- Clean and functioning instrument

- All music in music folder
- Sharpened pencil
- All necessary strings, rosin, etc. for proper instrument functioning

Course Outline and Requirements:

1.0 Introduction to string instruments

- 1.1 Posture
- 1.2 Instrument Carriage
- 1.3 Bowing
- 1.4 Musical nomenclature

2.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble Level I

- 2.1 Level I Techniques
- 2.2 Level I Literature

3.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble Level I.5

- 3.1 Level I.5 Techniques
- 3.2 Level I.5 Literature

4.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble Level II

- 4.1 Level II Techniques
- 4.2 Level II Literature

5.0 Ensemble Fundamentals

- 5.1 Performances and Exams
- 5.2 Musical Studies and Projects

Grading:

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
Performances/Exams	30%	Quarter	40%
Curricular Activities	30%	Quarter	40%
Assignments	20%	Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	20%		

Explanation of Grade Book Categories:

Time Commitment: Students will not be required to complete more than an hour of practice/homework each week.

Final Exam: Each semester will culminate in an in-class performance. The Final Exam grade will be calculated based on that performance and a corresponding written component.

Curricular Activities: Students are expected to actively participate in all classroom activities (i.e. warm-ups, rehearsal, set-up, clean-up). Students are also expected to report to class on time with all necessary materials; music, pencils, iPad, instrument(s), as well as all necessary accessories for their particular instrument. Failure to be prepared, on time, and/or behave appropriately will negatively affect the Curricular grade.

Performances/Exams: There are no public performances. Exams will periodically evaluate students; they may be written or performance-based.

Assignments & Quizzes: Assignments and quizzes promote individual musical growth. Included in this grade are SmartMusic homework and quiz assignments. Students will be expected to meet with the teacher for individualized instruction during during Flex Time hours (1-2 times per semester).

High School Standard Grading Policy:

Please refer to the policy and procedures online in our handbook.

Class Policies:

Students shall:

- have NO gum, food, or beverages besides water
- always write on music with a pencil
- *Student is liable for the cost of replacing lost or damaged music*

Attendance Policies:

- Students are expected to be in class daily. If unable to attend, it is the student's responsibility to get the classwork and homework that was missed. Students have one day for every day absent to make up work.
- Students are expected to be in the door at the top of the stairs when the bell rings otherwise they will be marked "Tardy." The Curricular grade is affected by daily attendance.

School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs):

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as found in the Parent-Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of Monte Vista Christian School. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.