

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
VIPA 2622, Orchestra
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. Prior string experience or instructor approval is required for this course.

Curricular Mapping:

This is an advanced level course for students to continue learning to perform and present their skills and knowledge on 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 more advanced instrument ensembles 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. Perform level-appropriate literature.
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: Course material will be provided by your instructor and available in the classroom.
- 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
- Concert Clothing (see below)

Course Outline and Requirements:

1.0 Review of string instrument Rudiments

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

2.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble Level III

- 2.1 Level III Techniques
- 2.2 Level III Literature

3.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble Level IV

- 3.1 Level IV Techniques
- 3.2 Level IV Literature

4.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble [Quartet studies]

- 4.1 Single Quartets
- 4.2 Double Quartets
- 4.3 Symphonic Orchestra 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. Class work that is unfinished will need to be made up outside of class. A performance calendar will be provided at the beginning of the year (subject to updates and changes). Please refer to “Performance Policies” below.

Final Exam: Each semester will culminate in a major 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: Performances promote ensemble musical growth. They will be posted on the Instrumental Arts Calendar. 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 the Parent-Student 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 your work.
- Students are expected to be in the door at the top of the stairs when the bell rings otherwise you will be marked "Tardy." The Curricular grade is affected by daily attendance.

Spring Performance Tour:

- Students enrolled in Mustang Band and Orchestra, or their Worship Arts equivalent, are encouraged to participate in the Spring Performance Tour to Southern California from January 4-8, 2016.
- Cost will be approximately \$800
- There will be one school-sanctioned fundraiser for students to earn money towards the trip
- There are no scholarships available beyond money earned through fundraising

Performance Policies:

- Performances are mandatory. Conflicts require that you submit an Excused Absence Request Form two (2) weeks prior to the event, when possible. Failure to give timely notification will result in a 20% deduction in the makeup Performance grade for approved absences. Make-ups will be arranged on an individual basis.
- An unexcused absence for any Extra-Curricular Activity will result in the student receiving a "0" for the event.
- Standard performance clothing for this course will be required. Students not meeting dress code *may be asked to not perform*, resulting in a "0." See "Concert Clothing" below.

Concert Clothing:

Boys:

- Boys will be provided with Tuxedo Jackets, Pants, Shirts, Ties, and Cummerbunds (non-Jazz) or Vests (Jazz only). These are the property of MVCS and must be returned upon dropping the course or following the final concert of the year (whichever comes first).

- Tuxedos are dry clean only. Please wash the pleated shirt traditionally. All uniforms are professionally cleaned over the summer.
- Fees for unreturned/damaged items are as follows:
 - Tuxedo Jacket - \$65, Tuxedo Pants - \$35, Vest (Jazz) - \$35, Wing Tip Shirt - \$20, Bowtie - \$5, Cummerbund - \$10, Garment Bag - \$15
- Required Personal Clothing: Black Dress Shoes, Black Socks, and a Plain White Undershirt
 - *Up to 100% of your concert grade may be lost due to improper attire*

Girls:

- Required Personal Clothing:
 - Option 1 – Long Black Dress (floor length), black dress shoes
 - Option 2 – Black Dress Pants and a solid black/white dressy top, black dress shoes
- Tops must be modest and fit properly, covering the back, cleavage, and midriff.
- Straps must be at least 1½ inches wide and cover bra straps.
- Undergarments must not be visible.
- Girls are not provided concert clothing. However, a pre-approved concert dress will be loaned to any girl unable to provide their own uniform. Fees up to \$150 for unreturned/damaged dresses (details provided upon borrowing dress).
 - *Up to 100% of your concert grade may be lost due to improper attire*

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.