

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
VIPA 1621, Ensemble - Handbells
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. Instructor approval (often in the form of an audition) is a prerequisite for this course.

Curricular Mapping:

This is an advanced level course for students to learn to play handbells and handchimes. As musical understanding and proficiency are established and abilities increase, students are prepared and given the opportunity to audition for participation in the 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, 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 Texts, Apps, and mvcsinstrumentalarts.blogspot.com:

- Texts: Sheet music will be provided to students. There is no required text for this class.
- Apps: Metronome (Free or Paid)
- Please register your email with mvcsinstrumentalarts.blogspot.com to receive vital Instrumental Arts event information and updates.

Materials:

- clean black gloves
- all music in music folder
- sharpened pencil

Course Outline and Requirements:

1.0 Review of handbell instrument rudiments

- 1.1 Postures
- 1.2 Instrument Carriage
- 1.3 Basic Bell Techniques

1.4 Musical nomenclature

2.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble Level III

- 2.1 Level III Techniques
- 2.2 Level III Literature
- 2.3 Related History and Theory

3.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble Level IV

- 3.1 Level IV Techniques
- 3.2 Level IV Literature
- 3.3 Related History and Theory

4.0 Musicianship, Fundamentals, and Ensemble Mixed Levels

- 4.1 Small Ensemble

5.0 Ensemble Fundamentals

- 5.1 Performances and Exams
- 5.2 Music 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.

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:

- Rehearsal Schedule: Every Friday 3:30-5:30 p.m.
 - Rehearsals may be moved to an earlier time or to a different day due to school events. All schedule change information will be emailed and posted to the blog.
- Students are expected to attend every rehearsal. If unable to attend, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor two (2) days in advance. Absence of notice may result in a "0" grade for that rehearsal. Consistently missing rehearsals due to excused or unexcused events may lead to removal from the ensemble. Students are responsible for knowing their parts even when they miss a rehearsal.
- Students are expected to be in the door at the top of the stairs when the rehearsal time is reached otherwise you will be marked "Tardy." The Curricular grade is affected by attendance.

Performance Policies:

- Performances are mandatory. The major performances are posted on the Instrumental Arts Calendar. Do not take this course if you will miss any of the major performances.
- An unexcused absence for any Extra-Curricular Activity will result in the student receiving a "0" for the event. If you will miss a minor performance, please submit an Excused Absence Request Form two (2) weeks in advance of the expected absence.
- 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:

- Required Personal Clothing:

- o Long Black Dress Shirt, Long Black Dress Pants, Black Belt, Black Dress Shoes, and Black Socks
- o *Up to 100% of your concert grade may be lost due to improper attire*

Girls:

- Required Personal Clothing:
 - o Option 1 – Long Black Dress (floor length), black dress shoes
 - o 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).
 - o *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.