

2021-2022 Honors Orchestra Orchestra Handbook & Syllabus

PLEASE NOTE:

All students and parents must read and know the policies herein. All students must turn in the signature sheet proving that it was read. **Students will not participate in any performances until the signature sheet is turned in**, which will be reflected in the grades.



Omaha North High School
Rose Rydberg, Director of Orchestras
531-299-8921
rose.rydberg@ops.org

**Omaha North High School
Honors Orchestra
Orchestra
Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Rose Rydberg
E-mail: rose.rydberg@ops.org
Phone Number: 531-299-8921
Plan Period: A1
Classroom: 125

Course Description

This course is offered to ninth through twelfth grade students with advanced abilities secured through several years of instrumental participation. The orchestra will include rehearsal and performance of outstanding symphonic literature from the representative periods of music history. This literature provides for the development of both individual and ensemble skills including technique, musicianship, professionalism and participation. Membership for Honors Orchestra is achieved by audition only. Performances are required as an extension of classroom activities.

Instructional Philosophy

I believe my students will walk away from high school with a love and appreciation of music. It is my goal that each student achieves mastery of his/her instrument so he or she may pursue music as a lifelong activity. The teacher alone cannot make this happen. It takes the entire group to be successful, therefore, everyone needs to do their part in helping the group get better by coming to rehearsal prepared. **We strive to create a positive environment of respect, accountability, and creativity.**

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." - Aristotle

Content Standards

1. Goal: Demonstrate through performance a characteristic tone that blends with the ensemble.
2. Goal: Demonstrate through performance basic elements of playing technique.
3. Goal: Recognize, demonstrate and describe basic musical terms and symbols.
4. Goal: Recognize and perform basic rhythm patterns within the appropriate style.
5. Goal: Study, perform and listen to literature that includes music of a variety of styles, textures, and periods.
6. Goal: Demonstrate accurate performance on an appropriately assigned part of an ensemble.
7. Goal: Demonstrate proper instrument care and maintenance.

Course Expectations

All students are expected to **attend all performances** (listed below; dates subject to change, additional performances may be added). **Any absences must be discussed with Mrs. Rydberg and reported in writing 48 hours prior to the performance** to determine excused or unexcused status. Lack of written notice 48 hours in advance will automatically result in an unexcused absence, but written notice 48 hours in advance does not guarantee an excused absence. Considerable reasons for excused absences **include illness, death in the family, or emergency**. Inexcusable reasons include (but are not limited to) **work, lack of a ride, homework, sporting event, family or community functions** (extracurricular events, such as athletic practices or competitions, cheerleading practices or performances, Robotics practices or competitions, and other similar events **do not supersede performances**, which are graded). **Tardies for any reason that fall between call-time and performance time** will result in 0.5 points removed from the total performance grade (3.5 out of 4). **Tardies for any reason that fall during or after performance time** will be considered an absence.

- August 16 – September 6: NMEA All-State Audition Registration Application Window Open (\$20)
- September 7 – 13: NMEA All-State Audition Registration Application Window with Late Fee (\$40)
- Saturday, September 11: UNO All-State Help Session, 9-11am at UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center
- September 15 – 25: NMEA All-State Auditions Recorded and submitted by teacher
- **Thursday, October 21: Fall Orchestra Concert**, 6:30pm performance
- Wednesday – Friday, November 17-19: NMEA All-State Music Festival & Convention (select students from audition process)
- November 29 – December 2: All City Auditions, exact date TBA (All are eligible to audition, Honors Orchestra are REQUIRED to audition)
- **Saturday, December 11: Winter Music Concerts & Chili Feed**, 3:30pm Concert, 5:00pm Chili Feed, 6:30pm Concert
- **Sunday, January 9 or 16, exact TBD: 8th Grade Open House, 1-4pm (Honors Orchestra only)**
- Tuesday, January 25: All City Rehearsal, evening at TAC/Central (TBA – select students from audition process)
- Saturday, January 29 (tentative): UNO BOCH Festival, tentative date, audition required
- Thursday, February 3: All City Rehearsal, evening at TAC/Central (TBA – select students from audition process)
- Friday, February 4: All City Rehearsal during the school day at TAC (select students from audition process)
- Saturday, February 5: All City Music Festival at the Holland Performing Arts Center (select students from audition process)
- **Monday, April 11: Orchestra Adjudication**, hosted at North
- Saturday, April 2 (tentative): UNO String Olympics (select solo and small ensembles)
- **Tuesday, April 19 through Saturday, April 23: District Music Contest**, more details to follow, (Honors Orchestra to perform & select solos and small ensembles from orchestras)
- **Wednesday, April 27 (tentative): NHS Induction Ceremony**, time TBA (**Honors Orchestra only**)
- **Tuesday, May 10: Spring Orchestra Concert and Awards Night**, 6:30pm
- **Friday, May 20 (tentative): Vikings of Distinction, (full ensemble during day, Honors Orchestra principal players/stands in evening, INCLUDING SENIORS)**

Class Rules and Expectations

- **Absolute respect** for Mrs. Rydberg, teaching staff or guests, other members of the ensemble, music and instruments is expected at all times.
- **Cell phones and other electronic devices** are not permitted and will be taken away upon notice. Any violation of these rules will result first in a warning, second in a phone call home, third in a referral to the student's administrator for further consequences, and finally in permanent removal from the class.
- **All students will be in their seats with their instruments and supplies out and ready for use within five minutes of the start bell.**
- All students will provide a pass from the office or the tardy station upon late arrival to class. Any student who arrives late without a pass will be sent to the tardy station to obtain one.
- All students will **participate in warm-ups and rehearsals** with either their own or a school-owned instrument. If no such instrument is available, students will be required to record a minute-by-minute details of the rehearsal to be turned in to Mrs. Rydberg for check and practiced at home by the students. Students will be asked to return the record with parent or guardian signature the next day for a participation grade. Phone calls home will be made to alert parents or guardians of the lack of instrument and to verify that the make-up procedure is completed.
- **Orchestra students are required to keep a regular practice routine. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to work with their children in following through on practice expectations.** In order to achieve excellence and have a good overall sound, it is imperative that each orchestra member commit to daily practice. Just playing during class is not enough to hone your abilities and really listen to and improve your sound. If daily practice is not an option, I expect you to practice on the weekends (Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday) and on school breaks. It is important that you do this to a) build the physical strength and endurance necessary to play the instrument well, b) to learn your part thoroughly so the orchestra sounds its best, and c) improve as a musician so you can get the full benefit that lifelong musicianship has to offer. I will not assign practice cards, but instead expect you to shoulder the responsibility to make our orchestra THE BEST. Omaha North High Orchestra students are expected to maintain a high level of technical and musical ability. In order to achieve the highest possible ability level, students MUST practice at home.
- All students will participate in preparing the rehearsal room for the next period, including stacking chairs and stands neatly on their racks, securing instruments and music in lockers and music shelves provided, and cleaning any trash.
- All students will remain in the classroom until Mrs. Rydberg dismisses them.
- Restroom passes are for emergency only.
- Passes to see other teachers or to leave the school must be delivered to Mrs. Rydberg prior to the start of rehearsal, and such visits will be subject to rehearsal schedule and needs.
- **Only water** is allowed by students in the rehearsal room. **No other food or drink** will be allowed into the rehearsal room by students at any time.
- All text books and materials handed out by Mrs. Rydberg must be **taken care of** by students and **returned** at the end of the year. Any item returned **damaged** (markings other than pencil, rips, folds, etc.) or without a student name will result in a **\$2 fine** for each item. Any folder **lost** or returned **damaged** will result in a **\$25 fine**.

- **Orchestra members are expected to wear the following “Concert Black” attire for each performance** (lacking in any item will result in sending the student home to change and return for the performance):
 - **Option 1:**
 - Plain black, floor to mid-calf length gown/dress with long or 3/4 sleeves.
 - OR
 - Long or mid-calf plain black skirt, or plain black dress slacks (no jeans or workout pants), with a plain black top having long or 3/4 sleeves
 - Black dress shoes. No open-toed shoes or sandals.
 - No plunging necklines, rising slits (dress and skirt slits must not exceed six inches in length), low-cut backs, or displays of midriff.
 - Plain black should be interpreted as meaning solid black, with no stripes or other patterns, sequins or sparkles.
 - **Option 2:**
 - Black dress slacks (no jeans or work-out pants).
 - Pressed white long-sleeve button-down dress shirt (no polos) with white undershirt.
 - Black bow tie.
 - Black suit jacket or blazer (**Honors Orchestra Only**).
 - Black belt
 - Black dress socks (no ankle socks).
 - Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes, cowboy, work or combat boots).

Required Materials

The following materials are necessary for each class period.

- Your instrument and bow, properly maintained and with all working parts
- Rosin
- Soft cloth
- Your music – provided by director
- Two pencils – sharpened and ready for use
- Shoulder rest (violins and violas) and rock stop (cellos and basses)

Recommended Materials

The following materials are recommended

- Extra strings
- Metronome
- Tuner
- Mute
- Humidifier

Texts

- *Sound Innovations for String Orchestra: Sound Development (Intermediate)*
- *Sound Innovations for String Orchestra: Sound Development (Advanced)*
- Various supplemental books for rehearsal and practice
- Various sheet music for performance

Assessment

- **Each rehearsal will be graded** (formative). Students will be graded according to the expectations in rehearsal concepts, etiquette, and levels. Grades will be recorded according to the rubric attached.
- **Each performance is graded** (summative with an added weight of x2, 3, or 4, dependent on type of performance). Each performance will include a **participation aspect and a musical aspect**. Students with an excused absence from a performance will be allowed two weeks to make up the musical aspect of the grade, but not the participation aspect, by performing the music for Mrs. Rydberg before or after school. Students are expected to approach Mrs. Rydberg about making up performance grades. Students with an unexcused absence will not be allowed to make up any part of the grade.
- **Playing tests will occur frequently** (formative with an added weight of x2) to determine progress and proficiency. All students will be expected to achieve a 3 or 4 on playing tests (graded according to the attached rubric). If a 3 or 4 is not achieved, students have one week to prepare and retake the playing test.
- **Quizzes will occur frequently** (formative with an added weight of x2).
- **Written finals will occur at the end of each semester** (summative with an added weight of x3). These finals will cover everything learned up to that point in the year, including musical terms and symbols, rhythms, and more.
- **Homework and in-class assignments** All students are expected to complete all homework, including any written or performance practice and classroom assignments.

OPS Secondary Grading Practices*

All coursework and assessments are judged based on the level of student learning from “below basic” to “advanced.” This course will provide multiple opportunities to achieve at the “proficient” to “advanced” levels. Students are evaluated based on a proficiency scale or project rubric. Proficiency scales for this course are available upon request (teacher will identify location such as portal, teacher website, attached, etc.).

There are three types of coursework*

- Practice: Assignments are brief and done at the beginning of learning to gain initial content (e.g., student responses in discussion or in written form, a valid sampling of ability on performance repertoire, technique exercises, etc.). Practice assignments are not generally graded for accuracy (descriptive feedback will be provided in class) and are not part of the grade. Teachers may keep track of practice work to check for completion, and students could also track their practice work. Practice work is at the student’s instructional level and may only include “Basic” (level 2) questions.
- Formative (35% of grade): Assessments/assignments occur during learning to inform and improve instruction. They are minor assignments (playing tests, pop-quizzes both written and performed). Formative assignments are graded for accuracy and descriptive feedback is provided. Formative work may be at the students’ instructional levels or at the level of the content standard. Formative assessments/assignments will have all levels of learning: Basic (2), Proficient (3), and Advanced (4), which means that for every formative assessment/assignment, students will be able to earn an Advanced (4) grade. Teachers will require students to redo work that is not of high quality to ensure rigor and high expectations. The students’ scores on assessment that was redone will be their final score.
- Summative (65% of the final grade): Assessments/assignments are major end-of-learning unit tests, projects, and performances used to determine mastery of content or skill. Summative assignments are graded on accuracy. Summative assignments assess the students’ progress on grade level standards and may not be written at the students’ instructional levels. Summative assessments/assignments will

have all levels of learning: Basic (2), Proficient (3), and Advanced (4), which means that for every formative assessment/assignment, students will be able to earn an Advanced (4) grade.

To maintain alignment of coursework to content standards, which is a key best practice for standards-based grading, teachers will utilize a standardized naming convention for each of the standards within a course. The content standard will be marked on each assignment, entered into Infinite Campus (District Grading Program) using all capital letters followed by a colon. After the colon will be the title of the coursework. At the end of the grading period, scores are converted to a letter grade using the following grading scale:

A=3.26-4.00
B=2.51-3.25
C=1.76-2.50
D=1.01-1.75
F=0.00-1.00

Redoing/Revising Student Coursework*

1. Students are responsible for completing all coursework and assessments as assigned.
2. Students will be allowed redos and revisions of coursework for full credit as long as they are turned in during that unit of study while a student still has an opportunity to benefit from the learning. When time permits, teachers should allow the redoing and revising of summative assessments.
3. Students are expected to complete assessments when given to the class, or if a student was justifiably absent, at a time designated by the teacher.
4. Redoing, retaking, or revising will be done at teacher discretion in consultation with the students and parents/guardian. Teachers may schedule students before, during, and after school to address needed areas of improvement if not convenient during class. The time and location for redoing, retaking, or revising will be done at the teacher's discretion in consultation with the student and parents/guardian.

*Indicates standardized language

Revised July 2013

Varsity Letters

A Varsity Letter can be achieved for Instrumental Ensemble, Orchestra and Honors Orchestra only by going beyond expectations listed above through meeting the following criteria:

- **Orchestra Varsity Letter**
 - Attendance to and participation in **all concerts and competitions**
 - Attendance to and participation in **all classroom and extracurricular rehearsals**
 - Meeting practice and performance expectations and with a **positive attitude and willingness to learn** and help the orchestra progress.
 - **Audition and participation** for festival orchestra performance opportunities (All-City, All-State, UNO BOCH Festival, Hastings Honor Orchestra, etc.) **OR** participation in the Omaha Area Youth Orchestras (OAYO)

Extracurricular Opportunities

- Students are encouraged to audition for and participate in **Honor Orchestras** to strengthen their skills, learn from a new instructor, and perform different music in a different setting.
 - **All-State Orchestra** (Nebraska State Music Educators run)
 - **All-City Orchestra** (OPS run)
 - Various **College Honors Orchestras** (see Mrs. Rydberg)

- Students are encouraged to participate in **extracurricular musical activities** that will strengthen and enrich their growth and performance level.
 - **Private lessons** that provide more focus on individual instrument technique. A **private instructor** list with names and contact info will be maintained and available at request from Mrs. Rydberg
 - **Omaha Area Youth Orchestras (OAYO)** provides string, wind, and percussion students an opportunity to perform in a full orchestra setting. Auditions for the various orchestras are held in April.

Band and Orchestra Parents & Students Organization (BOPS)

- To better help **promote, encourage, support, and provide for** the band students, the BOPS organization encourages students to participate in **monthly meetings** to share ideas and concerns.
- All students are expected to **participate in fundraising** opportunities set up by the Band and Orchestra Parents & Students (BOPS) organization. Fundraising is necessary to help provide music, equipment, travel and participation in band trips. **Please sign the fundraiser permission form found at the end of the syllabus.**

Secondary Proficiency Scale

Level of Performance	Score	Description
Advanced	4	<p>The student consistently demonstrates a thorough understanding of course content/grade level standard by making in-depth inferences and showing extended applications of the course content/grade level standard(s).</p> <p>The student performs consistently at a high level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency that is above the expected course content/grade level standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceeds expected course content/grade level standard Applies skills and strategies in new and unfamiliar situations
Proficient + (Approaching Advanced)	3.5	<p>The student demonstrates partial success at showing a thorough understanding of course content/grade level standard by making in-depth inferences and applications of the course content/grade level standard(s).</p> <p>The student performs with partial success at a high level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency that is above the expected course content/grade level standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates success toward exceeding course content/grade level standard Applies skills and strategies consistently in familiar situations, and at times, in unfamiliar situations
Proficient	3	<p>The student demonstrates a proficient understanding of the expected course content/grade level standard(s).</p> <p>The student performs at the level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency that is at the expected course content/grade level standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets expected course content/grade level standard Retains information and applies skills and strategies in familiar situations
Basic + (Approaching Proficient)	2.5	<p>The student demonstrates an adequate understanding of the information for the course content/grade level standard(s).</p> <p>The student performs with partial success at the level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency that is at the expected course content/grade level standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially meets expected course content/grade level standard Retains information and at times applies skills and strategies in familiar situations
Basic	2	<p>The student demonstrates a basic understanding of the information expected for the course content/grade level standard(s).</p> <p>The student performs the skills required for the course content/grade level standard at a basic level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially meets expected course content/grade level standard Retains information and simple processes in familiar situations
Approaching Basic	1.5	<p>The student demonstrates some basic understanding of the information expected for the course content/grade level standard(s).</p> <p>The student struggles to perform the skills required for the course content/grade level standard at a basic level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially meets some of expected course content/grade level standard Retains some information and simple processes in familiar situations
Below Basic	1	<p>The student demonstrates difficulty in understanding the information and performing the skills expected for the course/grade level standard(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performs below expected course content/grade level on the standard. Has difficulty retaining information and applying skills and strategies
Failing	0	<p>The student demonstrates little or no evidence of understanding the information or skills required for the course content/grade level standard(s).</p>

This page is purposely left blank for 2-sided printing

We have read and understand the 2021-2022 Omaha North High Magnet School Orchestra Syllabus, especially the sections on attendance, grade requirements, practice expectations, concert attire and schedule. The required concert dates are marked on our calendar(s). We understand that attendance at concerts is mandatory and we agree to abide by the classroom and grading guidelines. We also agree to support the orchestra by following a regular practice routine at home.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

I give permission to allow my student to participate in all Instrumental Ensemble, Orchestra or Honors Orchestra events happening at school and at other locations:

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

I give permission to allow my student to participate in all fundraising activities.

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Orchestra Member Information

Student Name: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

*Mrs. Rydberg sends a lot of important information/updates via email. Please make sure your email address is updated in Infinite Campus.

Student Email address: *Please check your school email regularly for orchestra news.

Parent Email address: _____

BEST Phone #: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____

Instrument: _____

Brand Name: _____

Serial Number: _____