

Intermediate Orchestra

2021-2022

Hopkins Junior High School - B115 - Period 6

Teacher Information

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Course description

Intermediate Orchestra is the first course in the comprehensive orchestra program at Hopkins JHS and Mission San Jose HS. It is an intermediate level performing class. Students are expected to practice their instruments daily for at least 20-25 minutes. Private lessons are strongly encouraged for all orchestra participants. Students in this class will continue their refinement of basic musical skills (tone production, music theory, and musicianship) through the performance of nuanced string orchestra music. The Hopkins orchestra program is considered to be one of the strongest in California!

Attendance

This class is part of a performance-based music program. **Rehearsal & concert performance attendance is mandatory!** Check the performance calendar below to avoid conflicts.

Winter Concert December 17, 2021

7:00 PM

Spring Concert June 3, 2022

7:00 PM

Please let Mr. Fok know as soon as possible if you absolutely cannot make a performance! Concerts are a way for students to show off their hard work and effort, and missed performances affect the entire ensemble.

Classroom Expectations and Procedures

General Expectations

- Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to play at the start of class. Those who are not ready will be marked tardy.
- All students must help with setup and storage of chairs, stands, and equipment before and after class.
- Students must have all materials on their stands at all times during class. This includes folder with music, method book, instrument, and a pencil.
- With the exception of water, no food, drink, or gum is allowed.

Beginning of Class

All procedures should be completed before director begins class, approximately two minutes after class bell.

1. Enter classroom quickly. Set up chair and stand for yourself. Help to put away any extra equipment lying around room.
2. Get instrument and music from storage area.
3. Set up instrument and arrange music in order listed on board.

End of Class

1. Put away instrument and music in storage area. Percussion should put away all equipment, mallets, sticks, etc.
2. Put away chair and stand in appropriate locations (if applicable).
3. Help put away extra chairs and stands
4. All equipment (instruments, music, chairs, stands, and percussion) should be completely put away before end-of-class bell.

General Music Room Rules

- With the exception of water, no food or drink is allowed in the music room. With the permission of Mr. Fok, students may be allowed to eat lunch in the room only if all food items are cleaned up completely.
- Non-percussionists are **not** allowed in the percussion section and should **never** touch percussion instruments or equipment. Percussionists should treat all instruments with care. *Nothing should ever be placed on any percussion equipment.*
- Students should never open lockers not belonging to them. Students should also never touch instruments or equipment not belonging to them, even if given permission.
- Please ask for permission before using the whiteboard or any other school equipment.
- **DO NOT CLIMB THE LADDERS IN THE STORAGE ROOMS!**

Performance Expectations

- All performances are mandatory.
- There will be a call time for every concert, performance, and event. You must be on time (roll will be taken)
- Dress appropriately for every concert, performance, and event (See Concert Attire).
- Ensure that your instrument is in working order, and have all extra supplies before arrival at every concert, performance, and event.
- All students will help in set-up and tear down. Specific duties will be assigned.
- All classroom policies and guidelines apply at all times.

Concert Attire

Student may wear either of the following:

- White long-sleeve dress shirt with collar. long black tie, black slacks, black socks and black dress shoes (no suits or suits jackets)
- Long black dress (at least to mid-calf) OR black dressy shirt, black skirts or pants, black dress shoes

If students wish to wear something different, please ask Mr. Fok.

Private Lessons

Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons, especially if they are playing a new instrument!

This helps the student progress faster on their instrument and increases the enjoyment of performing. Private lessons allow students to learn instrument-specific techniques from a specialist, and give students more musical opportunities (like honor orchestras, recitals, etc.) *Private lessons are essential to the music program's continued success.* More information is available from the director.

Music and Equipment Responsibility

- Each member of the ensemble will receive a music folder and will be responsible for keeping all music in good and orderly condition.
- Each student's instrument case must be marked with their own name and kept in the proper storage area. Students are expected to treat their instrument with care and respect and are **never allowed to touch or play another student's instrument, even if the student believes that permission has been given.**
- Students or family members should not attempt to fix broken instruments on their own. Instructors will be available to help diagnose problems and recommend repair services as needed.

Grading

With the exception of Performance Attendance, all grading will largely be progressive based, so that a student that improves academically or musically over the course of the semester will have their grade reflect that progress attained. A student that improves significantly will receive a high grade.

		A	93.0-100.0%
		A-	90.0-92.9%
		B+	87.0-89.9%
		B	83.0-86.9%
		B-	80.0-82.9%
Playing Tests	35%	C+	77.0-79.9%
Assignments and Practice Sheets	30%	C	73.0-76.9%
Performance Attendance	20%	C-	70.0-72.9%
Work Habits	15%	D+	67.0-69.9%
		D	63.0-66.9%
		D-	60.0-62.9%
		F	Below 60.0%

Playing Tests

Students will be formally assessed a few times per quarter to track progress and evaluate areas of growth. Tests will be selected from the method book, scale sheets, or from music currently being rehearsed. Students will test individually or in groups during class time, or as a recording assignment, and are expected to write a short reflection analyzing their performance.

Assignments and Practice Logs

A practice log will be handed out and will be turned in every two weeks. The "minimum recommended practice time" for middle school musicians is 20-30 minutes per day.

- Set a focus of musical achievement for each week (i.e. performing a passage at a given tempo, achieving good tone, increasing range, etc.). The second week's focus should be based on the results of the prior week's practicing.
- Students must submit a short reflection after each session discussing what they worked on.
- Parents must sign the practice sheet each week.

Work Habits

Work habits is graded based on the timeliness of turned in assignments, and overall participation. If a student turns in an assignment late, their grade on the assignment will not be

affected, instead, late work will be reflected in the work habits grade. Each day an assignment is late will lower the work habits grade for that assignment by 10%, to a maximum deduction of 50%. Work habits appears as a summative grade twice each quarter, based on the general trends of the student.

Auditions

Auditions will be held during September. Audition material will be provided by Mr. Fok, and will generally consist of some scales and a selection of music. Scales must be memorized for auditions.

Remember: everything is an audition.

Instrument Purchases

During the year, students and parents may decide to purchase new instruments or upgrade their instruments. Because there are so many different brands available, it is extremely important to discuss any instrument purchases with Mr. Fok before making them. Sometimes, music stores may try to sell instruments that are of extremely poor quality and cannot be repaired if they need adjustment. Also, some instruments are built using better materials and construction techniques. Consult Mr. Fok first before buying an instrument!

Covid-19 Guidelines

Students must adhere to all social distancing guidelines as outlined by the district. Masks must be worn at all times. Do not exchange food/drink, do not play each other's instruments.

Brass players, use the towel to empty your spit valve onto. We are using a temporary space, so we must maintain the facility as best as we can until we are able to return to Hopkins.

Required Materials

All students

- Tuner and Metronome (Korg TM60BK)
- Music stand (Hamilton KB400N)
- Pencil
- *Essential Elements Interactive for Strings Book 1*
- *Essential Elements Interactive for Strings Book 2*

Violin/viola

- Shoulder rest
- Rosin
- Bow
- Extra strings

Cello

- Rosin
- Bow
- Rock stop
- Extra strings

Bass

- Rosin
- Bow
- Rock stop

Some school instruments may be available for student use during class time. Students who play large instruments should discuss this with Mr. Fok as soon as possible

Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Workshop

Jazz Ensemble is an auditioned class that meets before school on Tuesday and Thursday at 7:15 AM. Students must plan on arriving by 7:10 AM to set up. All students are welcome to try out for Jazz Ensemble. Instrumentation includes the following: Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, Piano, Bass, and Drum Set. This class has a very limited instrumentation, so not all interested students will be accepted depending on the number of students trying out.

Jazz Workshop is also an auditioned class (certain instruments may be accepted with director approval and without the need to audition). It meets before school on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:15 AM. Instrumentation includes the following: Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, Piano, Bass, and Drum Set. Other instruments may be accepted with director approval. There may be additional rehearsals added as needed prior to performances. Some instruments may not need to audition for entrance into Jazz Workshop.

Both Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Workshop will be offered in the spring, audition information forthcoming.

Music Class Sequence: Mission Attendance Area FUSD

4th Grade: Elementary Beginning String Orchestra

This class provides an introduction to the instrument and establishes basics, including music reading, tone production, correct playing techniques, and basic performance techniques. The first meeting of this class will involve an instrument selection process to establish a balanced ensemble. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools (Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission San Jose, and Mission Valley).

5th Grade: Elementary Intermediate String Orchestra

This class is a continuation of Orchestra, picking up from the end of Beginning Strings. It continues with more advanced topics related to music reading, playing techniques, and tone production. There is also a focus on harmony and musical independence. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools.

6th Grade: Elementary Advanced String Orchestra

This class is a continuation of Intermediate Orchestra, picking up from the end of Intermediate Strings. It continues more detailed refinement of skills including music reading, tone production, and more advanced playing techniques. There is continuing focus on harmony, musical independence, and musicality. Students in this class are expected to perform at a high elementary level. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools.

7th Grade: Hopkins JHS Intermediate Orchestra

This class represents the first opportunity for students to have music classes as part of their daily school schedule. Classes meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. Continuation and refinement of skills such as tone production, ensemble balance, blend, and intonation are focused upon. Also, students learn and master an advanced level of music reading, notation, and theory. This ensemble performs at a very high level, and requires a lot of musical growth during the year. This class is not to be confused with Elementary Intermediate Orchestra, as they are not the same! Intermediate Orchestra performs in a minimum of 2 evening concerts per year, and travels to the local CMEA Orchestra Festival, and a Music in the Parks Festival at Great America in the spring.

8th Grade: Hopkins JHS Advanced Orchestra & Full Orchestra

This is the second in the comprehensive Orchestra sequence at Hopkins JHS. Classes again meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. This class continues refinement of all previously learned skills. There is also an introduction of more advanced performance and music reading concepts. This class is designed to prepare students to participate in the orchestra at Mission San Jose High School, and performs at a very high level. Advanced Orchestra performs at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, including the Mission Attendance Area Concert at Ohlone College. This ensemble also participates in the spring CMEA Orchestra Festival, and travels to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) to participate in the Music in the Parks festival in May. Students in this class are part of the Hopkins Full Orchestra, where members of Symphonic Band are brought in to rehearse with the string players.

There are many exceptions to this sequence, and students always have the option of testing into a higher level if there is space in the class. Students may also begin the sequence at any time in elementary school. However, it is strongly recommended that students begin an instrument in 4th or 5th grade. We no longer accept 6th grade students in the "Beginning Orchestra" class.

Donations

The Hopkins Music Department does not receive any funding from Hopkins PFA, and nothing from the FUSD other than a small budget for "Band Repair". While \$75 is the suggested amount per family, we would appreciate any level of contribution.

Hopkins Band & Orchestra Boosters (HBOB) handles all the funds for the Hopkins music program. HBOB is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please support your student's music education by making a donation to HBOB when you complete the online "Student Information & Contract Form" below.

<https://musicathopkins.com/programs/junior-high-ensembles/hopkins-info-form/>