**Orchestra Syllabus 2019-2020**

Northern High School

Ms. Rowader

growader@northernyork.org

717-432-8691 x2236

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I am excited to meet you and start working with you. Below you will find the information you need to be successful in orchestra. Our goal in orchestra is to grow our skills in individual performance techniques and fundamental musical knowledge, as well as the ability to perform successfully as a member of an ensemble.

# Rehearsals

The orchestra rehearses daily from 7:40-8:30AM. You are expected to be in your seat and have your instrument out before the morning announcements begin. Rehearsal will begin immediately following the announcements, so please take care of all your bathroom and locker needs before the bell rings. Please be on time in the morning and allow yourself ample time to be prepared to play as soon as the bell rings, or you will lose points.

You will start each marking period with 100 points for rehearsals. Points can be deducted based on the following:

-Tardy/Not in seat with instrument out by the bell **-3 points**

-No instrument **-5 points** -No music **-3 Points** -No pencil **-2 points**

-Talking, not participating, on phone, doing other class work -**3 points**

# Lessons/Individual Practicing

Lessons will be available during students’ study halls on days that Ms. Rowader is at the high school (schedule to follow). Students should come to these lessons prepared to work on orchestra music, method books, or class assignments. There will be a schedule indicating which period your lesson will take place. You are responsible for signing in to each lesson and keeping track of how many lessons you attend. If your schedule does not correspond with Ms. Rowader’s schedule, at-home practice logs are available online, or you may make your own. A parent or guardian’s signature will indicate that you have practiced at least 180-minutes/marking period. *Please do not abuse the use of these practice logs, as face-to-face lesson time is crucial for musical development***.** Students are required to attend FOUR (4) lessons (or hand practice logs totaling 180-minutes) each marking period. 25 points will be awarded for each lesson and/or signed log.

**Assessments**

There will be a total of three performance assessments for the school year, each worth at least 100 points (some point values may vary). These assessments are a mandatory part of your grade, and can either be completed during study halls, during orchestra when time is given, or at home (more info to follow). These assessments are a way to track the individual progress of each student. The time line for assessments is as follows:

**1st Marking Period:** Students will be required to sight-read a short piece and play two (2) scales. This will take place in the beginning of the marking period.

**2nd Marking Period:** Students will be required to play selections from our Winter concert repertoire. Ms. Rowader will select the excerpts. Specific dates and requirements will be provided during the 2nd Marking Period.

**4th Marking Period:** Students will be required to play selections from our Spring concert repertoire. Ms. Rowader will select the excerpts. Specific dates and requirements will be provided during the 4th Marking Period.

# Concerts

Concert attendance is a part of your grade (150 points), and attendance is mandatory, unless an emergency arises. Please refer to the Northern Music Department Handbook for a list of excusable emergencies. You have chosen to be a part of the orchestra, so it is your responsibility to mark the concert dates on your calendar. If you have a potential conflict with any of the dates below, let Ms. Rowader know in writing as soon as possible.

Concert Dates:

**-Thursday, December 5th, 2019 at 7pm**

Middle and High School Winter Orchestra Concert

**-Thursday, May 7th, 2020 at 7pm**

Middle and High School Spring Orchestra Concert

**-Date TBD**

Graduation at Christian Life Assembly

Dress for concerts is formal black. Please adhere to the school district’s dress code, and ***please avoid jeans and sneakers.***

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**Students and Parents/Guardians:** After reading this Syllabus, please go to the NYCSD website and read the Music Department Handbook (under the “For Students” tab, “Student Activities Guidelines”, “Music Department Handbook” at the bottom of the page) and then sign the Code of Conduct Signature Form and return to Ms. Rowader on or before September 6th, 2019.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. I am looking forward to a wonderful year of music-making.