**Orchestra Syllabus 2019-2020**

Northern Middle School

Ms. Rowader

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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 on days **1 and 4** during CST times. You are expected to arrive on time to rehearsal. You will need your instrument, a pencil, and your music. You will be provided a folder to keep your music in, and spot to keep your folder when not in use. Please come to rehearsals ready to make music.

You will start each marking period with 100 points for rehearsals. Points may be deducted if you are missing the following items.

**Instrument:** 5 points **Pencil:** 2 points **Music:** 3 points

# Lessons

Lessons will be available on certain cycle days (schedule to follow).Students should come to these lessons prepared to work from orchestra music, method books, or class assignments. There will be a schedule available soon. Students are required to have at least 4 (four) lessons for each marking period. Each lesson is worth a total of 25 points. If for some reason you have trouble coming during your assigned time, a practice log may be completed in place of a lesson (practice logs are also available online). **Only two lessons can be counted on a lesson log per marking period – do not abuse the use of the practice log.**

**Assessments**

There will be three playing assessment grades for the year, each worth up to 100 points. These assessments are a mandatory part of your grade and will be completed during scheduled lessons or recorded and submitted digitally. They are a way to track the individual progress of each student. The time line for playing tests is as follows:

**1st Marking Period:** Students will be required to play two scales, chosen by Ms. Rowader. This grade is pass/fail and is a way for Ms. Rowader to get to know you as a musician. If you attempt to play the scales, you will pass. If you do not play the scales, you will receive a failing grade. You have the entire first marking period to complete this assessment.

**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

Dress for concerts is all 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.