Course Syllabus 2020 - 2021

*Revised for Online Instruction*

*Due to COVID-19, information within this syllabus is subject to change*

**Courses:** Band (Beginning and Advanced), Orchestra, Choir, and Guitar

**Director:** Mr. Alex Patterson

**About these courses:** Within the framework of the **California State Board of Education Visual and Performing Arts Music Standards** (*Create, Perform, Respond, Connect*), students will learn performance technique, rehearsal and performance etiquette, and musical theory, vocabulary, history and concepts. Students will be presented with musical literature that is an appropriate challenge, as well as representative of different cultures, styles, and periods of music that is appropriate for their level of ability. These standards can be found online at https://www.sandiegounified.org/music.

**Course objectives:**

* Students will read, rehearse, and perform appropriate musical literature for their level of ability and ensemble instrumentation.
* Students will develop proper performance technique and apply it during personal practice and online practice.
* Students will develop musicianship skills and apply their knowledge through creating, responding, connecting, and performing
* Students will develop life skills such as teamwork, self-discipline, personal responsibility, focus, taking initiative, and much more.

**About the Class**

**School policies:** All school policies will be enforced in the music room, and will be followed strictly by Mr. Patterson. School polices can be found online at https://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/marston

**Recommended (but not required) supplies:**

* Instrument (for band and orchestra only)
* A plain binder with a folder or pocket, and about 15 – 20 clear sheet protectors
* Instrument maintenance materials (*these* *vary by instrument, details on page 6*)
* Musical practice supplies: tuner, metronome (*highly recommended*)
* Pencils or other useful writing utensils
* Performance attire (*details later in the syllabus*)
* **ORCHESTRA ONLY:** Clipped fingernails on the left hand at all times

**Instrument storage (for on-campus instruction):** Storage spaces are available in the instrumental music room for storage of instruments and music-related materials during the school day. ***All instrument cases should be clearly labeled with the student’s name.*** Students will need to bring their instruments home some nights and on weekends for personal practice, however, instruments can be left overnight in the instrumental music room if necessary. **NO BOOKS, FOOD, OR ITEMS UNRELATED TO THE CLASS ARE ALLOWED IN STORAGE SPACES!**

**Music books, sheet music, learning materials, and online platforms:** Method books and musical literature will be provided by the school as needed. Students should keep all sheet music in the clear sheet protectors in their music binder. *Any lost or damaged music books may result in reimbursing the Marston Music Program.* Students will primarily be commuting with Mr. Patterson through **Google Classroom** and **Zoom**.

**Google Classroom**: All announcements, sheet music, syllabus, media, and other materials related to music courses can be found in each class’ Google Classroom.

**Instrument availability:** Marston Middle School can provide instruments free of charge. Students/families may optionally rent or purchase an instrument to help alleviate the need for the school to provide instruments. If you’d like to rent or buy an instrument, or need repairs on an already rented or owned instrument, Mr. Patterson will assist you in locating a music store.

**Instrumentation and ensemble balance:** To maintain balance in each ensemble, students are sometimes invited to learn a new instrument (usually related to their primary instrument) in the event their ensemble is in need of certain instrumentalists. An unbalanced ensemble is like a baseball team with too many pitchers and no outfielders, so assistance in this area is greatly appreciated.

**Performance attire** (for all band/orchestra/choir in any and all performance situations)**:**

**Top:** Plain white button down shirt or blouse

**Bottom:** Plain black slacks (not jeans) or skirt that covers the knees

**Socks:** Plain black socks that cover the space from shoes to pants or plain black nylons/tights/leggings for students choosing to wear a skirt

**Shoes:** Plain black shoes with closed toes (***completely*** black – NO CONVERSE, VANS, OR OTHER SNEAKERS)

*\*Currently no public performances / large gatherings have been scheduled.\**

**Private lessons and outside ensembles:** Private lessons and participation in outside ensembles are **highly encouraged**! These activities help students gain skills quicker than just class rehearsal time and personal practice. Information on these ensembles and references to private teachers are available from Mr. Patterson.

**Donations and Fundraising**: Students and parents are encouraged to participate in fundraising and make donations to the Marston Middle School Music program to help cover the program’s expenses. Students may be asked to attend events at which fundraising will occur throughout the school year, and may optionally participate in fundraising to benefit the Marston Music program. If you’re interested in financially supporting the Marston Music program, please contact Mr. Patterson for information on how to do so. Your financial support is not a requirement for your student’s participation in Marston Instrumental Music.

**Student Rules and Procedures for Video Conferencing**

* Do not share meeting id and passwords with individuals who are not in the class.
* Every student’s image is confidential during the meeting, so do NOT share the link with anyone who is NOT part of the class, DO NOT TAKE SCREENSHOTS or pictures of your screen.
* Students should not like, follow, forward or share inappropriate use of images of students or teachers.
* Same rules apply to distance learning as in the classroom regarding language, taking turns, put-downs, bullying and intimidation.
* Be on time to meetings. Students who arrive late may not be admitted.
* When you want to ask a question, “Raise your hand.” It is a button on the bottom of the screen. When the teacher calls on you, you can unmute your mic, ask your question, and mute your mic when you finish speaking.
* Distractions in your environment will distract all of us. This is one of the reasons your mics will be muted. Please join meetings from a quiet environment free of background activity, phone-interruptions, or pets. I know that stay-at-home circumstances may make this difficult; do your best.
* Please come to the meetings in school appropriate clothing.
* Save your eating for other times. Sipping water won’t bother people, but chewing on chips or a sandwich definitely will.
* When you sign-in, please use the name that is on your school record. Your teacher will not admit you to the class if they don’t recognize your name.

**Citizenship Grading**

**Classroom guidelines:**

* R-E-S-P-E-C-T
  + Respect Mr. Patterson and all staff members
  + Respect your classmates (and their instruments)
  + Respect the music and creative environment (classroom, materials, and literature)
  + Respect yourself; put forth a good effort everyday
* Ask for, or provide, help when needed
  + Ask for help when you need it rather than pretending that you don’t
  + Offer help to others if you think they might need it
  + “Help others achieve their dreams and you will achieve yours.” - Les Brown
* Appropriate behavior and language
  + Participate and follow instructions
  + Avoid negative commentary
  + Control noises/distractions
  + Avoid cursing/swearing
* Food and drink
  + No food or drink in the classroom, except during lunchtime
  + Gum is unacceptable at all times
  + Food trash is unacceptable at all times
  + Water ***is*** allowed at all times

CITIZENSHIP GRADING STANDARDS

1. An Excellent (E) Student has outstanding classroom behaviors:

a. Always cooperates; works efficiently in any situation, whether in group activities or independently.

b. Completes work on time.

c. Promotes the welfare of the class. The class is better because this student is in it.

d. Uses time and material effectively.

e. Assumes responsibility for completing own work.

f. Is always courteous and trust worthy.

g. Consistently exhibits constructive attitude toward all school regulations and accepts

h. Takes correction in good spirit.

i. Has excellent attendance - no tardiness, no truancy, and absence due to illness only.

j. Is seated when the bell rings.

k. Waits for the teacher, not the bell, to dismiss class.

l. Walks in the halls.

m. Cares for school property.

n. Arrives at school clean, properly dressed, and ready for work.

o. Has the necessary tools or equipment in readiness for each class.

2. A Good (G)student:

a. Is always courteous.

b. Completes work on time.

c. Contributes to a positive atmosphere in the class.

d. Meets all or most of the requirements of the class.

e. Makes occasional contributions to class discussions.

f. Is on time to class daily and absences are excused.

g. Cooperates toward group activities.

h. Has the necessary tools or equipment in readiness for class.

3. A Satisfactory (S) student:

a. Is generally cooperative with teacher and peers.

b. Completes work on time.

c. Is courteous in most situations.

d. Is on time to class.

e. Attends school regularly (absences are excused).

f. Shows self-control and self-discipline, accepts corrections in the right spirit.

g. May deviate from the above standards sometimes but conforms when directed by the teacher.

h. Needs more encouragement than a "G" student and has to be reminded of his/her responsibilities.

4. A student who Needs (N) to Improve:

a. Sometimes hinders the progress of the class.

b. Is discourteous and undependable at times.

c. Is irregular in attendance, has unexcused absences, and occasionally comes tardy to class.

d. Frequently needs supervision, lacks self-discipline.

e. Is often talkative and inattentive.

5. An Unsatisfactory (U) student:

a. Exhibits behavior patterns which do not fit in our school; causes class disruptions.

b. Is often rude, belligerent, or uncooperative with others.

c. Needs constant supervision, lacks self-control, and self-discipline.

D Is not trustworthy.

e. Misuses or destroys school property or that of other students.

f. Is habitually tardy.

g. Is truant.

h. Consistently refuses to accept correction from adults.

i. Has been insolent and/or defiant.

j. Has received more than one referral to office and yet continues to create a disturbance in class

**Academic Grading**

**Grading:** Attendance is of the utmost importance and weekly assignments/practice records will make up the majority of your grade. There will also be class work, homework (practicing), and assessments (quizzes and tests) that make up a part of your grade. These assessments will vary between musical performance tests and written music tests.

**Grading Scale:** A = 90% - 100% **Overall Grade Breakdown:** Weekly Assignments: 10 Points Each

B = 80% - 89% Weekly Practice Log Points: 10 points/week

C = 70% - 79% Quarterly Assessment (Playing Test): 50 Points

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% and under

**Homework/Practicing:** The expectation is that all students practice their class-related music outside of school hours on their primary instrument for an amount of time commensurate with the average amount of weekly homework for any given academic class. Students will submit an online weekly practice record that logs the number of minutes practiced over the course of the week **before the beginning of the first class of the week** (In most cases, Monday).

**Online grade access:** Online grade book will be accessible through PowerSchool Parent and Student portals.

**Performance assessments:** Performance assessments (a.k.a. “playing tests”) will occur once per quarter, and will be performed in class during regular class hours.

* Performances: *\*Currently no public performances / large gatherings have been scheduled.\**

**Obtaining an Instrument**

More than anything, I receive questions regarding instruments. In terms of acquiring an instrument, there are several options.

1. Fortunately, the San Diego Unified School District is able to provide students with instruments that can be used the entire academic year at no cost to the student or parent(s). While this option may seem appealing, and budget friendly, it is not always my first recommendation. These instruments have been used by students throughout the years and may have not been properly cared for and/or maintained. These instruments are able to be brought home for personal practice, however, if the instrument is damaged lost or stolen, it is the responsibility of the parent(s) to pay for any damages or a replacement instrument.
2. **Renting/Rent to own**. Many of the families whose students enroll in this program choose to rent the instrument from a music store for this initial period in their student’s learning. It is likely the rental instrument, paid monthly, will be a higher quality instrument. If any accidental damage occurs, it is very likely that the music retailer will repair and replace the instrument at no additional cost. Below is a list of recommended retailers.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Alan's Music Center**  8510 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa, CA 91942  (619) 466-1938 | **La Jolla Music**  7423 Girard Ave, La Jolla, CA 92037  (858) 459-3375 | **Bertrand's Music & Lessons**  9906 Carmel Mountain Rd, San Diego, CA 92129  (858) 780-1812 | **Sam Ash**  3418 College Ave, San Diego, CA 92115  (619) 573-9669 |

**RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR EACH INSTRUMENT**

**Flute**

* Cleaning rod (*should be included with any rented/purchased instrument*)
* Cleaning cloth for the interior of the instrument

**Single Reeds (all types of clarinets and all types of saxophones)**

* Reeds for your specific instrument (*one for current use, and at least two back-ups*)
  + Reed strength varies based on the skill level of the player
    - Generally 2 – 2.5
* Cork grease
* Pull-through cleaning swab for your specific instrument with string and weight
* Reed guard (*not absolutely necessary, but recommended to extend the life of reeds*)

**Double Reeds (oboes and bassoons)**

* Reeds for your specific instrument (*one for current use, and at least one back-up*)
  + Reed strength varies based on the skill level of the player
  + Most middle school students use medium-soft or medium strength
* Cork grease
* Pull-through cleaning swab for your specific instrument with string and weight

**Brass (trumpets, French horns, trombones, baritones, and tubas)**

* Oil (*regular, not synthetic*)
  + Valve oil for trumpets/baritones/tubas, rotary oil for French horns
* Tuning slide grease
* Soft cleaning cloth for the exterior of the instrument
* **For trombones only:**
  + Playing slide grease or cream
  + Small spray bottle with water

**Percussion**

* Drum sticks (*Vic Firth SD1 Generals or similar, with* ***wooden tips – not vinyl/plastic***)
* Practice pad for home practice

**Violins and Violas**

* Shoulder rest, pad, or sponge
* Violin/Viola bow rosin
* One extra set of strings for your specific instrument and instrument size

**Cellos and Basses**

* End pin holder (*nicknames for these include “hockey puck,” “doughnut,” “rock stop,” etc.)*
* Bow rosin (*be aware that* *cellos and basses use different types of rosin*)

Syllabus Agreement

A digital copy of the syllabus can be found on Mr. Patterson’s web page on the Marston Middle School Website. [**https://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/marston/alex-patterson**](https://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/marston/alex-patterson)

**And** in all **Google Classrooms** (Link in Mr. Patterson’s Faculty page).

Please complete these forms ***in*** ***pen/ink*** and return to Mr. Patterson by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**If you’d like a printed copy of the syllabus, please email Mr. Patterson at** [**apatterson@sandi.net**](mailto:apatterson@sandi.net)**, leave a message with your request at 858.273.2030 ext. 2403, or have your student request one during class.**

We have read the Marston Middle School Instrumental Music course syllabus. We agree to all rules, regulations, and requirements for participation in the Marston Music program for the 2020 – 2021 school year, and understand that failure to abide by these guidelines may result in lower academic and/or citizenship grades, referrals, or other actions.