

Newport High School Orchestra Syllabus

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Welcome to Newport Orchestra! This promises to be an exciting year for all of us, and to have the best possible results, please read this information carefully.

Orchestra Goals:

- To solidify fundamentals (playing position, music reading)
- To improve technique (intonation, tone production)
- To grow musically (expressiveness, awareness of music theory and historical style)
- To learn to contribute as an individual, in small groups, and in the large ensemble

EVERY STUDENT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ORCHESTRA BY:

- demonstrating *individual growth* through concentration, self-evaluation and home practice;
- enhancing *group achievement* through personal effort, analytical listening, and attendance at all rehearsals and concerts.

Grades will be based on:

- Class participation (20%)
- Assignments (20%)
- Assessments (30%)
- Performance (30%)

Classroom Responsibilities & Participation (40% of the overall grade)

The Newport Orchestras are known across the state and nation for achieving an incredibly high standard. This is achieved not only through *your individual achievements and growth*, but also through the group's *collective achievements and growth*. Our orchestra's continued success requires a commitment from each and every student to the following areas:

- Come to class prepared *physically*, meaning you have instrument and equipment, music in a black binder, pencils, etc., and be in your seat ready to play at the designated time.
- Come to class prepared *musically*. If progress is delayed because individuals are not ready then everyone suffers. Students are expected to practice on a regular basis to make satisfactory progress. *Minimum* practice time should be 180 minutes per week. Daily participation points and playing tests both reflect practice time, *so please be prepared!*
- Come to class prepared *mentally*. That means your focus is on this class when you enter the room and on your responsibilities as an ensemble member.
- Monitor your own behavior. There is a time to relax, have fun, share a laugh, etc.—and there is a time to work. Do not let your personal needs or issues negatively impact the group. NEWPORT'S POLICY REGARDING PHONES AND ELECTRONICS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. (*See your handbook for details.*)

Performances (30% of the overall grade)

- Participation is required at all scheduled orchestra activities. Concerts are at the core of our curriculum and evaluation process. Performance learning experiences cannot be duplicated, so it is vital that **every** student attend each entire concert.
- Performances are a test of our progress *as a group* in a performance setting. We rehearse with specific ensemble members and come to rely upon the sound made in combination with them. If even one person is missing, it affects the confidence of everyone involved.
- Concerts are scheduled before the year starts, and for many reasons cannot be moved. **Mark our concert dates into your calendar and keep our dates free from conflicts.** An unexcused absence from a concert will strongly impact your performance grade and significantly lower your overall points.

Excused Concert Absences include:

- Severe personal illness – an immediate phone call or email from parent(s) is required.
- Sudden family emergencies – an immediate phone call or email from parent(s) is required.
- Unavoidable and significant prior conflict (e.g. family wedding) – You must notify me as soon as possible, **but no later than four weeks prior to the performance.** Be sure to check your calendars carefully to avoid problems! NEVER BOOK ANOTHER EVENT DURING A CONCERT DATE...IT IS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.

Performance expectations:

- Be on time. Attendance will be taken at the “call time.” Lateness will lower your grade.
- Bring your own instrument (including rock stops) and music. *Do not depend on using a school instrument or your stand partner’s music.* Missing items will reduce your grade.
- Be dressed in the appropriate performance attire. Being out of “dress code” will result in a lower performance grade. You may be excluded from the performance and given an unexcused absence if attire is inappropriate.
- When not performing, remain in the auditorium and listen respectfully at all times (including no use of electronics).
- Everyone stays on site until all personal and school equipment is taken care of properly.

Concert Dress:

Women – All black clothing, including shoes (no sandals or flip flops). Dressy pants, or knee length (or longer) dresses with **black** hose or **black** tights; (*no bare legs*). Shoulders covered. Chamber Orchestra will wear Chamber Gowns; may be checked out at NHS.

Men – Black shoes, black socks, and black pants.

- Chamber Orchestra: Full tuxedo for the guys (jacket, pants, white shirt, bow tie); may be checked out at NHS.
- Sinfonia: black button-down dress shirt and black jacket
- Newport Strings: black button-down dress shirt and long solid red necktie. Ties must be tied properly. Black shirts and neckties will need to be purchased on your own. (See Mr. Blough for assistance if necessary.)

Everyone – No tennis shoes, black jeans or stretch pants EVER. Concerts are for formal attire. Remember: It’s always better to be a bit “over-dressed” than “under-dressed.”

Assessments (30% of the overall grade)

The number and intensity of tests given in orchestra will vary according to the time of year, the specific demands of the music we play, and the group's overall work ethic and progress. Types of tests include:

- *Playing tests:* I will make specific assignments and test them. Sometimes you will play individually and other times you will play in small groups.
- *Music History exam:* Each year, there is a district-wide focus on one era of music history; this exam will be given in the spring.
- *Other assessments:* These are varied in nature and include activities such as music theory worksheets and response papers.
- Activities such as youth symphony membership, private lessons, attendance at concerts other than our own, and other valuable experiences earn credit towards a Varsity Letter in orchestra.

Retakes: Students can retake an assessment on which they have not done well. Retakes will be regraded and can earn up to 80% of the original points possible. See me if you want to retake an assignment WITHIN 1 week of receiving an assessment grade (NO EXCEPTIONS).

Required Materials:

- All students must have a water proof luggage tag on their instrument! (1st one provided by SONO, you can buy an additional one for \$5)
- All students must have an instrument and a bow in good working condition (including pegs that work properly and ample bow hair).
- All students must bring a black hard cover (included in your SONO fee and provided for you), 3-ring black binder with 2 pencils to class every day.
- Violin & viola students need rosin, a cleaning cloth, and a *mute* (available at local music stores but can also be purchased online at sharmusic.com or [Southwest Strings](http://SouthwestStrings)).
- Cello students need to bring their own instruments *and their own rock stops* to combined tutorials and to all performances.

Tutorials:

Students are welcome and encouraged to come in for extra practice, both individually and in groups. I will be available for assistance and am glad to offer extended instruction. Students who are absent for two or more consecutive rehearsal days need to check in and may be asked to attend tutorial to address missed concepts and get missed markings.

Practice Room Rules & Policies:

- Only currently enrolled music students may be in a music practice room.
- Practice rooms are only to be used for practicing MUSIC (not for homework or socializing)
- You are allowed in the music wing only when a music teacher is present.
- NO FOOD/DRINK (except water) IN THE MUSIC WING.
- Never put food or drinks (even closed) on top of the pianos.
- Clean up after yourself before you leave and close the door behind you on your way out.

NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA INFORMATION 2019 – 2020 Performance Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Orchestra</u>	<u>Event and Location</u>
September 17-27	All	All-State recordings at school
October 11	NS	Orchestra Festival at PLU all day
October 18-20	SO and CO	Retreat at WWU
Tuesday, October 29	All	Fall Concert at Newport, 7pm
Tuesday, December 10	SO	Music Department Concert at NHS, 7pm
Wednesday, December 11	NS and CO	Music Department Concert at NHS, 7pm
Saturday, January 25	All	Solo and Ensemble at International
Saturday, February 1	All	Knights In Vienna in Commons 12-11pm
Thursday, February 13	CO and NP	UW-ASTA Festival at UW Meany Hall
February 13-15	by audition	All-State Orchestra in Yakima
Tuesday, March 10	SO/CO	Festival Rehearsal 3-5 pm
Wednesday, March 11	NS	Tyee Invitational Concert, 7pm
Wednesday, March 11	SO/CO	Eastshore Orchestra I Festival at NHS
Thursday, March 12	NS	Concert Dress Rehearsal 3pm
Thursday, March 12	Tyee, SO/CO	Festival Concert in PAC 7pm
Saturday, March 14	NP/SO	Orchestra Festival at WWU all day
Tuesday, March 17	NS	Festival Rehearsal 3-5 pm
Thursday, March 19	NS	Eastshore Orchestra II Festival @ BHS
April 4-7	CO	Festival of Gold in Chicago
April 9	CO	Guest Artist Concert, 7pm
April 24-25	Winners	State Solo and Ensemble at CWU
Thursday, June 4	All	Grand Finale Concert at NHS PAC 7pm
Friday, June 5	All	Music Dept. Picnic at Lake Boren, 4pm

NS = Newport Strings (freshmen); S = Sinfonia; CO/NP = Chamber Orchestra/Newport Philharmonic; *others = not required but highly recommended for anyone interested.

TBA indicates "To Be Announced"; details will be communicated when finalized. Additional events may be added to this schedule; if so, you will be given as much advance notice as possible.

