

Syllabus for Music Classes at Columbia River High School

Dave Keckes-Chartrey, Instructor

Objective:

To create *meaningful* expression of music using proper instrumental *technique* and *performance*.

Room Rules:

- (1) Respect yourself and other people.
- (2) Respect the room and its contents, whether they belong to you or someone else.
- (3) Follow directions.

Grading:

Grades are based upon three non-equal factors:

- (1) Performances: concerts and other public performances performed by the group are the equivalent of our final exam. Each performance will be worth five points and will cumulatively represent ***fifty percent*** of the student's semester grade. Points are awarded for attendance and participation at the performance, prompt arrival, and helpfulness in "tearing down" afterwards (please refer to section "c" below in reference to excuses).
 - (a) Students not participating fully in class the week before a performance may not be allowed to participate. Students must be in good standing with the building and district (i.e. not suspended or expelled, etc.) in order to participate in performances or to travel with the group.
 - (b) Attendance at all performances and extra rehearsals are required, unless pre-excused in advance.
 1. Excuses ***must be in writing*** (not email), and signed by the student and a legal guardian.
 2. Provisions for being late or leaving early must also meet this requirement. *Note also: district policy regarding bus travel requires that students not riding the bus must have notes in place in the classroom before leaving on the trip.*
 3. In all cases, Mr. K.C. reserves the right to accept or decline an excuse, in accordance with District policy, although all reasonable excuses will be accepted (i.e. death in the family = ok; brother's birthday party = not). If you have concerns about missing a performance, it behooves you to take care of filing your note as soon as possible before the performance in order to have it excused (this allows us time to make provisions for changing concert repertoire or finding a substitute for you).
 - (c) Maintaining an average classroom participation total of less than 13 points in the five previous school days may disqualify the student from participating with the group for public performances. Public performance necessitates a high level of preparation. Students with lower totals are not adequately prepared for performance. Missed performances will need to be made up according to the printed policy (see Mr. KC for details).
 - (d) ***Only one performance per semester may be missed for make-up***, so plan ahead.
- (2) Assignments and tests: will primarily be performance based, and will be either performed in class, written, or recorded (as an MP3 or other electronic format). If necessary, arrangements

may be made with Mr. K.C. for a private exam *at his convenience*. You will be graded on a rubric that will be provided before each exam. **Forty percent** of the student's semester grade is an average of assignment and test scores.

- (3) Classroom participation: attending every class/rehearsal, on time, with all of the materials necessary to make music. Classroom participation grades will be computed as an average of daily grades. Five points will be given every day for being in class with all materials and actively participating. No participation points will be awarded on days the student is absent, **whether excused or not**. At the end of the semester, the daily grades will be averaged to produce **ten percent** of the student's quarter grade. The points will be awarded daily as follows:
- (a) One point will be awarded daily for having all materials necessary for class. This includes all music that has been assigned to the student, their instrument in good working order, and everything necessary to make it work (i.e. reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, etc.). The student will also need to bring a pencil to all rehearsals.
 - (b) Up to four points will be awarded daily for participation in class. To earn these points, the student will be on time for class, following all room rules, and actively participating in instruction for the entire period, whether in group instruction or working independently.
 1. Four points will be awarded to students who are actively and enthusiastically involved in all activities for the entire period.
 2. One point will be deducted for students who are tardy (15 minutes or less) to class. More or all of the five points will be deducted for students more than 15 minutes late
 3. Points will also be deducted for the student who behaves in a manner that is disruptive to the class.
 4. No points will be awarded the student who does not participate in class, whether due to inactivity or lack of materials.
 5. **Students who are absent may not earn participation points for that day, whether the absence is excused or not.**
 - (c) Points will be removed from the daily total of students who leave out an instrument used by them during the period or fail to put away music that is assigned to them (this includes leaving cases on the floor of the storage room). Points will be deducted and a fine (up to replacement value of the instrument) will be assessed to students who damage a school instrument while it is in their possession.

(4) IMPORTANT: A few words about our grading program:

- (a) Items are only averaged as part of the posted grade as they are entered. This means at the beginning of the quarter, items have much more weight than they will at the end of the semester. Especially items like attendance seem to carry a lot of weight at the beginning of the semester. Please give it a few days to average out before you panic about a low grade.
- (b) As mentioned above, I enter "zero" points (0) on a day when you are absent. The grading program loves to turn this into a letter grade (F) on your end. I am not assigning a letter grade, but rather no points. The math will average out over the next few weeks – please don't panic.

Music:

You are responsible for all music checked out to you, whether copied or original. If you do not receive a part for a given piece of music, it is your responsibility to let Mr. K.C. know at the end of the period that the piece was handed out. You should then write your name on your piece of music, lightly in pencil. You will be expected to return this piece, in good condition, when requested by Mr. K.C. or participation points will be deducted and a replacement fee will be assessed for **each** missing, damaged, or destroyed piece of music (usually between \$7.50 and \$75.00 a part, depending upon the publisher).

Music should be marked only in black pencil. **No pens!** Not even erasable ones (after a few hours they do not erase any more). Music must be turned in erased of all parts.

Instruments:

You are responsible to provide your own instrument for this class with certain exceptions. School instruments will be checked out to students for the school year upon completion of the district bond form. From this point in time until the end of the school year these instruments are the responsibility of the student to whom they are checked out. For this reason, it is not a good idea to let others handle school instruments. The school does not provide reeds, valve oil, slide grease, etc. These are the responsibility of the student. Fines, up to replacement cost of the instrument, may be charged for damages to school instruments while in the care of a student.

Additional required materials:

All Students will need a chromatic tuner and metronome. These are available on-line, and at any of the local music retail stores. The cost is in the neighborhood of \$20.00. We will try and put together a one-time order early in the year for interested individuals. There is also a very good smart phone application for those having such a thing, and I understand there is an app on the school I-Pads.

Percussionists are responsible for their own sticks. All players should have a pair of marching snare sticks (Vic Firth SRH), a pair of concert sticks (Vic Firth SD2 or equivalent), a pair of keyboard mallets (any brand – soft or medium rubber), and a pair of timpani mallets (“cartwheel” or medium). Jazz drummers should also own a pair of brushes.

All students should bring a pencil in good working order, with a good eraser to all rehearsals.

Reed players should always have a playable reed and at least one back up reed.

Brass players should have oil and appropriate brushes for cleaning

Uniform:

1. Marching Uniform:
 - a. Please see uniform contract for responsibilities.
 - b. You will need to purchase a pair of Drillmaster black shoes. We will send an order in early in the fall. You may fundraise this expense through Music Support Group fundraisers. You may also use these shoes with your concert uniform.
 - c. You must have **Long Black Socks**.
2. Concert Uniform (Choose One – a or b):
 - a. Black shoes (flats are better than heels) and a Black Formal Dress. We will place an order for the dresses in late September. These may be purchased through the student’s fundraising account with the Music Support Group or paid for outright.
 - b. Black shoes, **Long Black Socks**, black formal dress slacks (Dockers or the like are ok, although tux pants are preferred. Please no Dickies, jeans or casual slacks), White Dress Shirt, Black Coat, Black Bow Tie. We will put together an order through Mr. Formal in late September where black coats and slacks may be purchased relatively inexpensively. I will pass this info along as I receive it. These may be purchased through the student’s fundraising account with the Music Support Group or paid for outright.
 - c. *Concert uniforms are not provided by the school. There are many local options to obtain these clothes inexpensively. If you need more information, please don’t hesitate to contact Mr. KC or the Music Support Group. In cases of financial hardship, I can also connect you with organizations that can help.*
3. Jazz Uniform:

- a. Ladies wear the same outfit as the concert groups. An alternative may be chosen if acceptable by all ladies in the band and Mr. K.C.
- b. Gentlemen wear black shoes, ***long black socks***, black formal dress slacks (Dockers or the like are ok, please no Dickies or casual slacks), white dress shirt, and a black dress vest.
- c. We may change this by unanimous vote of the jazz band.

IMPORTANT! Students who are out of uniform may not be allowed to participate in performances and may miss out on performance points. If the cost of a uniform part is prohibitive, please contact Mr. K.C. **as soon as possible** so that we can assist you.

Calendar:

The calendar for the 2017-2018 school year is posted on the right side of my teacher web page. I will update it as the year progresses. Should you need a hard copy, please contact me.

Fees:

There is a one-time fee of \$75.00 (Band), \$75.00 (Orchestra), and \$75.00 (Jazz Band) to the CRHS Music Booster Club. This is in addition to the required VSD fees (ASB is \$30.00 and the Activity Fee is \$35.00). These funds are used to pay for transportation to area performances, a t-shirt that is used as our casual uniform for performances as required, and other minor program needs. Fees are due, or a fundraising contract must be in place, by September 30. Music Booster Club fees are paid through the support group (brown lock box in the music room), and not the Business Office. Please see attached sheet for more information on this.

Lessons:

While not required as part of this class, private lessons are ***highly*** recommended. Lessons provide one-on-one instruction specifically tailored to that student's needs. Further, it provides an outlet for students wishing to study the solo repertoire, ethnic styles, or other things not normally covered in the curriculum. While Mr. K.C. will attempt to give as much private instruction on each instrument as he can, the number of students and the performance demands of the organization will severely limit the amount of time available for this. Further, the private teacher is a master of their instrument, and will know the "tricks" that lead to more speedy success. The student wishing to excel on their instrument then, would do well to consider private instruction. There are many good instructors in our area. Mr. K.C. has a list of teachers if you are interested. Please feel free to contact him at the number listed below if you need assistance in this.

Contact:

I am best reached by e-mail. My address is Dave.chartrey@vansd.org. I try to respond to all e-mail messages within one school day. If you don't have e-mail, I can be reached on my cell phone through the Remind app. I will return your call or text as quickly as I can. In case of emergency, I can be reached at Columbia River High School on days when school is in session most mornings from 6:20 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. and again after my classes from 1:00 p.m. until around 4:00 p.m. If I am unavailable, I request that you leave a message with the front receptionist, and I will contact you as soon as I am able. The phone number there is 360-313-3900 ext 3950. Leaving a message on my school phone is highly unreliable, and not encouraged.

To join the Remind app:

- Band students, text @dkecke to 81010
- Intermediate Orchestra Students: text @dkeckes to 81010
- Advanced Orchestra students: text @dkeckesc to 81010
- Jazz Band students: text @dkeckesch to 81010

Volunteerism:

We have several things this year we will need parent involvement for. If you can help us in any way this year by volunteering your time and talents please send word with your child! Or better yet, join us for CRHS Music Parent meetings on the first Thursday of each month. As Mr. Bartels said to Mr. James, “Thank you for your support!”

Places where we could use Parental Help...

- Apple and Pear Fundraiser – box distribution and organization
- Portland Marathon Volunteer – organization and registration
- Coffee Fundraiser – organization, ordering, distribution
- Organize and run other fundraisers
- Uniform Organization and Check Out
- Transport to and pick up uniforms from the cleaner
- Resizing Uniforms in the spring
- Chaperones for all events where groups must leave the building (must be “approved” by the district)
 - Chaperone at football games
 - Skyview Orchestra Invitational
 - Clark CC Jazz Festival
 - NW Orchestra Festival
 - Clackamas Instrumental Jazz Festival
 - Northwest Orchestra Festival
 - LCRMEA Orchestra Festival
 - LCRMEA Band Festival
 - Spring Parades
 - Northwest Folklife Festival
 - Orchestra/Steel Drums @ Portland Rose Festival
 - Rose Festival Parade
 - Etc
- 8th Grade Open House Table
- Organize and run other fundraisers – we need some new ideas!
- End of the year instrument inventory
- Watching the room and band during home football games
- Room organization
- Filing and office inventory
- Organize and run other fundraisers
- Watching “Green Rooms” during performance warm-ups at VSAA and Skyview
- Handing out programs
- Selling program ads in the community
- Parade chaperones
- And many, many more...

BREAKDOWN OF FEES

ASB Fee: \$30.00 (Jazz, Band, Orchestra, Choir – **payable to the CRHS Business office**)

- Used for ASB sanctioned activities such as LCRMEA Fees, All-State, All-Northwest, Solo and Ensemble fees, LCRMEA Large Group Festival fees, etc
- Also used to help subsidize District-mandated travel such as LCRMEA Large Group Festivals

Activity Fee: \$35.00 (Jazz, Band, Orchestra, Choir – **payable to the CRHS Business Office**)

- Used to pay for District-mandated travel such as: LCRMEA Large Group Festivals, certain parades
- Used to cover admission fees to required festivals
- In rare circumstances, used to help subsidize repair, music and maintenance

Music Association Fee: \$75.00 (Band), \$75.00 (Orchestra), \$75.00 (Jazz Band) – **payable to the CRHS Music Association – the brown lock box in the music room**)

- Used to cover travel to non-District-mandated events, such as: Syttende Mai, Northwest Folklife, Clackamas Jazz Festival, Northwest Orchestra Festival, Mt. Hood CC Jazz Festival, Rose Festival, etc.
- Covers the cost of one Music Department T-Shirt, used as a casual uniform
- Covers incidental expenses of the Music Association, such as: water for warm weather events, trucks to transport instruments, etc.

Uniform Fees: varies by selection (all groups – may be paid for with funds from the student's **Music Association Fundraising Account – the brown lock box in the music room**)

- Students will be fitted for tuxedos from Mr. Formal in the next week. Price sheets will come home with the student.
- Students will be measuring themselves for dresses in the next week. Estimated cost is around \$80.00.