

Swope Middle School Orchestra 2024-2025 Syllabus

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Music Courses

- **Advanced Orchestra** is for 8th graders playing their primary instruments who completed Intermediate Orchestra.
- **Intermediate Orchestra** is for 7th graders playing their primary instruments playing either their primary or secondary instruments.
- **Beginning Orchestra** is for 6th graders who are usually learning an instrument for the first time. Students will learn instrument care and maintain including the proper way of taking it out of the case, proper posture (both sitting and standing), proper right-hand and left-hand techniques, fingerboard geography, principals of basic note reading, and proper *pizzicato* and *arco* techniques.

Classroom Rules

- Act mature
- Respect the teacher and others around you.
- Bring your instruments and a pencil every day!
- No gum! No food/eating. Only water.
- Swope school rules **ALWAYS** apply in the orchestra room.

Student Responsibilities

- Practice at home a little each day.
- Take safe care of your instrument and bow.
- Ask your teacher for help whenever you need it.
- Take pride in the fact you can make music!

Parents/Guardian Support

- Set aside a practice space at home.
- Encourage your students to practice daily.
- Support your student with additional musical opportunities (private lessons, concerts, camps, etc.)
- Celebrate that your student is making music and gaining knowledge every day!

Ms. Pajarillo's Office Hours: Students can visit Ms. Pajarillo during office hours for any reason. The best time would be during lunch or after school before 2:45pm. Wednesdays are usually not available due to WCSD mandated teacher meetings. Please have your student email me or ask me ahead of time because lunch schedules vary every day.

Orchestra Grades:

Your grade in class is not **given** to you, you **earn** it. It will reflect your **level of preparation and improvement** in the following categories. Only YOU, the student, are responsible for your grade. Your orchestra/guitar grade will be based on **playing tests, class participation, posture & position, written work, and concerts. No extra credit will be given.**

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| Participation: <u>33%</u> General Musicianship (assessments, worksheets): <u>33:</u> Performances: <u>33%</u> |
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Home Practice: To be successful in orchestra assessments, **you must practice your instrument at home!** Practicing at home is your orchestra homework. All the things covered in class should be practiced at home. I will notice if you do not practice. This can take you up to 10 minutes or 20 minutes depending on how focused you are. Remember this:

"An amateur practice until he can do a thing right. A professional practice until he cannot get it wrong." -Percy Buck

"Practice only on the days that you eat." -Valerie Palmieri

*** Please note: This year, I am requiring all students to take home their instruments every Monday and Friday so you can practice at home. If you have a transportation issue, please let Ms. Pajarillo know.**

Absent, Missing, Late Work: If you are absent from class/school, you will have **ONE WEEK** after you return to make up the work you missed. For those absent more than one week, please talk to Ms. Pajarillo about your circumstances. Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date, but you will only receive 80% of the total grade you earned. Any paper assignments turned in without a name on them will be recycled.

Behavior Grades: You can earn up to 5 behavior points each week for following the P.R.O.W.L. matrix according to the Swope Middle School policy.

Concerts: We will have MULTIPLE concerts this year, yay! All students in the music program are required to perform in concerts. It is a GRADE! **If students do not show up, it will be a ZERO in the gradebook.** No exceptions.

Performance Etiquette is key! This means being on time to call-time, wearing appropriate clothing for the performance, being silent (not talking nor plucking your instrument) when another group is performing, not chewing gum, not being on your cellphone.

First and Last names will also be printed in concert programs as they appear in Infinite Campus. If your student's name is NOT on the program, that means you have not signed the media release or signed "no". Please contact the office if you do not agree to the media release or would like to change your student's status.

Uniform:

Students must wear all black during our performances. Students must wear "formal" performance uniform, which includes:

- Swope Orchestra Uniform
- Black dress pants – no jeans, no yoga pants, no athletic pants, no skirts, no shorts, no capris
- Black dress shoes- must be all black, and shoes must cover your toes!
- Black socks

Orchestra Dates:

All dates, times, events, and locations are subject to change, revision, addition, or subtraction.

PLEASE SAVE IN YOUR CALENDAR

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Call Time (students only)</u> |
|---|--------------------|--|--|---|
| Thursday, October 29 th , 2024 | 6:30pm | Fall Orchestra Concert | Swope Gym | 6:00pm |
| Friday, November 8 th , 2024 | Assembly | Veterans Day Performance (<i>Advanced Only</i>) | Swope Gym | |
| Wednesday, October 9, 2024 | 3-8pm | WCSD Honor Orchestra Auditions | Mendive Middle School | |
| Friday, November 8, 2024 | 6:30pm | WCSD Honor Orchestra Concert | Pioneer Center | |
| Tuesday, December 17 th , 2024 | 6:00pm | Orchestra Winter Concert | Swope Gym | |
| Saturday, February 8, 2025 | TBD | Jazz in the Schools (Advanced Only) | UNR | |
| TBD | TBD | 7 th Grade UNR/Coconut Bowl Field Trip | UNR School of Music; Coconut Bowl | |
| Saturday, May 17, 2025 | TBD | Advanced Only- Music In The Parks/Six Flags Trip | Performance Location: TBD/Six Flags, Vallejo, CA | TBD |
| March 10-11, 2025 | TBD | WCSD Festival (7 th /8 th) | UNR Nightingale Hall | TBD |
| Tuesday, May 13, 2024 | 6:30pm | Orchestra/Guitar Spring Concert | Swope Gym | |

School Instrument Rentals are available for \$50 per year rental fee to families. Rental agreement forms will be distributed to students/families, which must be returned ASAP. If you are interested in a 2nd home instrument, please see Ms. Pajarillo.

ALL SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS MUST BE RETURNED BY THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL.

Class Fees: \$25 class fee

****Please note 7th/8th graders: The supply list process is different this year. The music department will be buying uniforms and books for students this year. The shirt will be different from last year.***

Fee Breakdown:

\$15- Uniform Shirt/Supplies

\$10 – Sound Innovations Book

Class Materials: Students must bring their instrument, pencil, music/book, and planner every day to class. I will be checking these frequently.

Routines:

Setting up chairs and stands are also part of class materials! Take care of our equipment and facilities. How you treat it reflects how you view our program and yourself.

Students will be asked if they have these items daily and will be given a grade. Students MUST have their music. Sheet music will not be given out during class time if a student loses their music.

Field Trips:

Students will be taking field trips this year. We are planning to watch and participate in field trips that require permission slips. Students will be exposed to trips that include performing outside their school venue and getting feedback from professional musicians.

Attendance, Tardies, Sign Out: One of the most important aspects in life is simply showing up! Attendance is crucial, any tardies or unexcused absences will impact your overall grade. If student must use the restroom, students will need to sign out using their planner AND sign out with Ms. Pajarillo's "Sign Out Sheet." Behavior/participation points will be lost if a student is constantly leaving during class time. Students may not use the restroom 5 minutes after or before the bell rings.

Discipline: If a student is disruptive or harmful to the classroom-learning environment, the following action will be taken:

- 1st offense-** verbal warning, private talk with Ms. Pajarillo
- 2nd offense-** private talk, orchestra detention, call to parents
- 3rd offense-** visit to school discipline, conference with parents