

URBANA MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

MR. TOM MITCHELL, ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

WELCOME to the Urbana Middle School Orchestra! What's our goal this year? To help you grow into a hard-working, conscientious, and successful student. You will do that by developing both as a person and musician through lessons that improve your musical skill, your ability to read the language of music, your appreciation of the history of music, and your ability to work with others to create a polished musical performance. With dedication, creativity, and enthusiasm you will perform the best music you've ever played.



CONTENTS

1. STUFF-U-NEED

2. CALENDAR

3. CLASS
FORMAT

4. UNITS OF STUDY

5. CLASS RULES

6. DISCIPLINE

7. GRADING

8. CONTACT INFO

BRIEF CALENDAR OF CONCERTS AND EVENTS

October 5

UMS music fundraiser

November 28

All County Auditions, MOMS

December 12 (6th) & 19 (7th-8th)

Winter Concerts, 7:00, UMS

January 15

Urbana Orchestras Feeder
Pattern Concert, 7:00, UHS

February 15

UMS Solo/Ensemble Recitals

March 27 or 28

MS Orch. Adjudication, CHS

May 16 (6th) & 23 (7th-8th)

Spring Concerts, 7:00, UMS

June 1

Hershey Park Trip (8th grade)

MATERIALS NEEDED

The following items are **REQUIRED** for participation in the Orchestra:

- Instrument Outfit (includes: case, instrument, bow, rosin, mute, cleaning cloth, shoulder rest for violins & violas, rock stop for cellos & basses)
- Pencil
- Method Book:
 - 6th: Essential Elements for Strings, Book 2
 - 7th: String Techniques for Superior Musical Performance
 - 8th: Essential Technique for Strings, Book 3
- The following items will be provided by the school: Chromebook, Music folder, printed music for concerts.

An instrument check will be given during the third week of school to be sure all students have these items.

CONCERT DRESS

All Orchestra students will be required to have the appropriate clothing for concerts. If there is any change to this dress code Mr. Mitchell will let you know. Have these items ready **BEFORE** the first concert – make sure they fit! We want everyone to look sharp and professional.

GIRLS: White shirt, ankle length black pants or black skirt, black shoes.

BOYS: White shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes, long tie.

DO NOT WEAR: Blue jeans, sneakers, t-shirts, white or light colored socks!

CLASS FORMAT

Students are expected to be in the class, seated with materials, and ready to go with their materials 2 minutes after the class bell. Class activities will generally follow this outline:

1. Short Written Warm-up
2. Thorough Technical Warmup
3. Rehearsal of Music
4. Session on Music Theory, History, or Sightreading

UNITS OF STUDY

SEMESTER I

- Instrument Technique, Mechanics, and Posture,
- Ensemble Playing
- Sightreading Benchmarks
- Music Theory & History
- Music for the Holiday Concert

SEMESTER II

- Music Theory & History
- Small Ensemble Recital
- Music for the Spring Concert
- Music for Adjudication
- Music Composition
- Creative Music Project Benchmark

LOOK
ON
BACK

INSTRUMENTS, SUPPLIES, AND LOCKERS

Every student must have a personal instrument that they can bring to and from school. It is highly recommended that each student own, rent, or borrow their own. Cello and bass players may use a school instrument in class, but should still have an instrument at home. Lockers are available in the classroom for students to store their instruments during the week.

You can find local music stores and private teachers through a general internet search. These businesses provide instrument rentals, accessories and supplies, and have their own in-house private teachers. If you need any further recommendations for purchasing supplies or finding a private teacher please contact Mr. Mitchell.

Remember that students who get extra help or play in after school ensembles usually progress much faster than students who don't. Consider getting private lessons or signing up for a local youth orchestra. It's worth it!

RULES OF THE CLASSROOM

- Bring your instrument, materials, and positive attitude to every class.
- **Attendance at all concerts is REQUIRED.** See the calendar for concert dates. Please make arrangements early to avoid conflicts.
- No gum, food, or drinks in class.
- Instruments and music are to go home every weekend.
- Treat everyone with respect. (Please don't interrupt rehearsal time.)
- Electronic devices permitted ONLY when instructed.

DISCIPLINE

Urbana Middle School follows the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) program, which is a school-wide approach to discipline. Our goal is to change behaviors that are disruptive to the learning environment. In accordance with the PBIS program, students will be rewarded with "Talons" for positive behavior and discipline consequences for failure to follow behavior guidelines and expectations.

For the 2018-2019 school year consequences are accumulated PER STUDENT, not for each teacher.

You may hear from different teachers regarding your child's progression through the steps. Step progression is:

1. Verbal Warning
2. First classroom reflection *
3. Second classroom reflection *
4. Lunch detentions *
5. After school detentions *
6. Administrative Conference *
7. Office Referral * * **Includes Parent Contact**

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR

MR. MITCHELL

School Phone: 240-566-9243

School E-mail: joseph.mitchell@fcps.org

Cell Phone: 301-606-4223

Website: <http://umshawkmusic.weebly.com/>

GRADING

Summative Assessments – 50%

UMS Concerts & projects. FCPS county-wide assessments for sight-reading, adjudication, and creativity.

Formative Assessments/Activities - 25%

Warm-ups, worksheets, handouts, playing quizzes, tests, inspections.

Participation/Work Ethic - 15%

Daily attitude, teamwork, hard work.

Practice - 10% (Homework)

Practice time recorded on the weekly practice chart. Any time outside school on your instrument counts.

Late Work & Absences - Assignments are expected on the due date for 100% credit.

However, late penalties are as follows:

Grade penalized 10% for 1 day late,
20% for 2 days late, 30% for 3 days late,
40% for 4 days late, 50% for 5+ days late

Students absent from class are expected to turn in work within 2 days after returning.

Students who lose credit due to late work will be noted in the gradebook with a 0.1%

Tutoring – Tutoring will take place during ELT once or twice in every 2-week rotation. You will be called in for tutoring if your grade drops below 70%, or you can ask to be placed on the tutoring list for extra help.

HOME ACCESS CENTER – Assignments will be posted on HAC, the UMS Orchestra webpage, and Schoology. **Schoology codes:**

ORCH 6 XPRGG-BVFXW

ORCH 7 QWDQB-6BBRX

ORCH 8 7XTNT-CTG9Z

U.M.S. encourages parents to regularly check their students' grades on HAC which will be updated weekly. The following list of codes helps you better understand the HAC grading.

- An "E" is issued to excuse work.
- A "Z" is used by teachers to indicate that an assignment has never been turned in.
- A "0" in a grade book signifies that a student earned a zero on the work.

