

Reno High School Orchestra Handbook 2020-2021

Mr. Gaunt

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Welcome to RHS Orchestra. I know you are wondering what this year will bring – and so am I. One thing I know for sure is that we going to play as much music as possible. Most of what we do will remain as always, but (for the foreseeable future) with two very important exceptions: You **MUST** have an instrument that **only you** will use (we can't share instruments any more), and there will be **no concerts**, so we will have to make virtual concert videos.

Orchestra is a *team activity*, and like every team sport demands hard work, time, concentration, and dedication. In return for this effort, you can expect to have fun, learn things, and build something you can be proud of. Please respect the program and the desires of others. This is a *performing art*, and as such will be graded based on how you perform, both during rehearsals and in virtual concert recordings.

MATERIALS NEEDED – no exceptions. See me if there is any difficulty.

1. **Your instrument.** A **VERY FEW** rental instruments may be available.
2. **A 3-ring binder, or part of a combined binder.** Music is provided by the school.
3. At least **one pencil** for making notes on the music. Don't use ink!
4. **Concert Uniforms.** Black to the floor, everything covered but your head and hands.
5. **Black dress shoes.** Ladies, open toes are fine **with** black stockings.

CLASS RULES AND BEHAVIOR – consequences will follow RHS guidelines.

1. **MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES!** That's it. Period.
2. **No eating anything** in this room, **ever**. No drinking **anything** but **your** water.
3. **Be where you need to be, with** your instrument & music, when the bell rings.
4. **Respect others** and their stuff. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Or **ANYTHING** else.
5. **Give it all you've got.** Do your best. You are graded on **participation** and **improvement**.
6. **No passes** the first 10 or last 10 minutes of class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To utilize correct technique in all our productions.
2. To teach and practice playing in tune with a beautiful tone.
3. To teach music theory in order to create musically "literate" students. Music is a language, and needs to be studied and practiced to improve.
4. To encourage students to work together as a **team**. Be proud of what you do.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Your 9 week and semester grades will be a combination of the following areas:

40% - Tests & Quizzes

30% - Performances (includes video submission)

15% - Class Participation

15% - Final Exam (quarter and semester grade)

There will be weekly tests and occasional pop quizzes. Tests and quizzes will be digital and oral, covering reading assignments, worksheets, class notes and activities, and your music. Music testing is done by video submission. Participation and practice will be assessed biweekly and posted to Infinite Campus. All materials are available at www.washoeschools.net/dgaunt. You will be able to download printable music and recordings to assist you in practice, and take quizzes.