

# Reno High School Strings Handbook 2022-23

Mr. Gaunt

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Welcome to RHS Strings. Whether you are just starting out or a seasoned pro, I want this class to be the best it can be for everyone. Strings 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 on stage and during rehearsals. Remember, if it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you.

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

1. **Your instrument.** Rental instruments **may** be available.
2. **Black 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 - I can change my mind.
4. **Strings Uniforms.** Solid black to the floor. No skin visible besides your head & hands.
5. **Black dress shoes.** Ladies, open toes are fine **with** opaque black stockings.

## **CLASS RULES AND BEHAVIOR – consequences will follow RHS guidelines.**

1. **Be where you need to be**, with your instruments, when the bell rings.
2. **Respect others** and their stuff. If it's not yours, don't mess with it.
3. **Respect the class.** To get respect you must give it first.
4. **Give it all you've got.** You won't get any better if you don't try your best.
5. **No passes the first 10 or last 10** minutes of class.
6. **No hats, headphones, or homework.** Focus on the class and play your assigned part. You will have the opportunity **3** times per quarter to take a study day. Don't abuse it.
7. **No eating or drinking anything** but water. Don't beg for time to eat your breakfast.
8. **NO CELL PHONES. You don't need it. No. It will cost you participation points. No.**

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To expose you (the students) to many different types of music.
2. To utilize correct technique in all our productions.
3. To teach and practice playing in tune with a beautiful tone.
4. To teach music theory in order to create musically "literate" students. Music is a language, and needs to be studied and practiced to improve.
5. 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:

**30% - Tests & Quizzes**

**35% - Performances (includes arrival time & uniform)**

**20% - Class Participation**

**15% - Final Exam (quarter and semester grade)**

There will be bi-weekly tests and occasional pop quizzes. Tests and quizzes will be written and aural, covering reading assignments, worksheets, class notes and activities, and your music. Aural music testing is done in quartets, trios, duets or solos in front of the class. Participation and practice will be assessed weekly and posted to Infinite Campus.

## PERFORMANCES & REHEARSALS

Each concert is normally worth 35% of your quarter grade. Any student who has an unexcused absence from a scheduled performance will not receive the points for that performance. **This WILL mean failing the quarter!** Unexcused absences from after-school rehearsals or lunch rehearsals will result in at least a 1/2 grade reduction. Only cases of extreme emergency or personal illness will be excused after the fact. Students who miss concerts or rehearsals will be given a written assignment to make up for it. The assignment will be chosen by the director.

**SINCE THIS IS A PERFORMANCE CLASS,  
YOU MUST PERFORM TO PASS AND RECEIVE CLASS CREDIT.**

**The following will NOT be considered excused:**

**Work**

**Homework**

**No transportation**

## PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE & ATTENDANCE

1. All students will be given a “call time” for each performance. This call time is usually 30-45 minutes prior to the beginning of the concert or “downbeat.” Do not be late for your call time! Roll will be taken, and I will take you through warmups and last minute changes or instructions. **Arriving late without notice will lower your performance grade by 15%.**
2. Please be conscious of what a good high school performer looks and behaves like on stage. Performers should always look as if the only thing they thought about was playing each note as well as possible. If you pay attention during class you won’t have a problem. **Remember you represent Reno High.**
3. You are to arrive at the call fully dressed and groomed for performance. There is just not enough room on campus for 40 women to do their hair at once.
4. Hair should be styled **conservatively** and combed out of your eyes. Don’t wear painfully flashy stuff and don’t tell me it’s your “style.” Your jewelry should also be discreet - no huge dangling earrings, sparkly nose & eyebrow rings, large necklaces, or heavy bracelets. **If you draw attention to yourself and away from the group, you’re missing the point.**
5. Hang up your clothes after every performance. Take pride in your appearance.
6. Don’t wear perfume and/or aftershave. The combination of hot lights and 17 types of cologne has been proven to cause people to faint during performance. I’ve seen it happen. Really. **Antiperspirants, on the other hand (unscented, please), are required.**

## ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill out the **Strings Information Form** ASAP.
2. Sign up for **Remind**. It’s the easiest way to be notified of anything.
3. All materials will be available on the [www.washoeschools.net/dgaunt](http://www.washoeschools.net/dgaunt) website, and on Teams. You will be able to download printable music, audio examples, and recordings of concerts to assist you in practice.
4. Do not call me! Email me at [dgaunt@washoeschools.net](mailto:dgaunt@washoeschools.net) and I will get an answer to you.