

**Murrieta Valley Unified School District**  
**High School Course Outline**  
**April 2004**

**Department:** Visual and Performing Arts

**Course Title:** Concert Orchestra

**Course Number:** 7215

**Grade Level:** 9 - 12

**Length of Course:** One Year

**Prerequisite:** Instructor's Approval

**Course Description:** This course meets district graduation requirements for Visual and Performing Arts. This course may be repeated multiple times for credit.

**I. Goals:**

The student will:

- A. Develop aural discrimination skills relating to the highest levels of artistic musical performance (*VPA Standards 1.0 & 4.0*)
- B. Develop analytical procedures appropriate to successful performance practices of grade appropriate literature (*VPA Standards 2.0*)
- C. Develop sight-reading skills (*VPA Standards 2.0*)
- D. Develop historical and cultural research methodology related to successful performance practices (*VPA Standards 3.0*)
- E. Connect and apply course content to other art forms, co-curricular learning and experiences, and to career and post-secondary opportunities (*VPA Standards 5.0*)

**II. Outline of Content for Major Areas of Study**

Semester I

- A. Proper Instrument and Equipment Care
- B. Playing Skills
  - 1. One Octave Major and Minor Scales
  - 2. Intonation: the ability to hear and match pitch accurately

3. Proper bowings
- C. Rhythm
  1. Beat, meter, melodic rhythm
  2. The duration of whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, triplets, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes and their rest equivalents.
  3. Basic time signatures: 4/4,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 2/4, 6/8, and cut time
  4. Dotted note values
- D. Music and Score Reading Skills
  1. Keys, key signatures, and accidentals: identify and play scale patterns and finger patterns
  2. Dynamics: the interpretation of score markings relating to volume and changes in volume
  3. Tempo: the interpretation of score marking relating to speed of pulse and changes of speed
- E. Rehearsal Skills
  1. Concentrate and contribute: the excellence of the performance is established in the rehearsal
  2. Responding to and taking musical cues from the conductor
  3. Maintain a respect for and proper care of music and equipment

## Semester II

- A. Rehearsals
  1. Dynamic and octave range extension
  2. Intonation exercises, emphasis on consistent tone production
  3. Stylistic accuracy
    - a. articulations
    - b. dynamics
    - c. phrasing
- B. Music Background
  1. History of musical eras and literature
  2. The role of music in past and present cultures throughout the world, acknowledging cultural diversity as it relates to music, musicians, and composers
- C. Cover core string orchestra literature from both classical and contemporary eras
- D. Performances
  1. School and community concerts and events
  2. Festivals

## III. Accountability Determinants

- A. Attendance is vital in a performance-oriented course. Therefore, prompt attendance and participation will count for a large portion of the student's grade
- B. Students will be assessed on their daily preparation and participation including, but not limited to:
  - 1. Instrument and music brought to class
  - 2. Other necessary school supplies brought to class
  - 3. Following instructions during rehearsals
  - 4. Proper attire for performances
  - 5. Proper behavior at performances
- C. Individual and group based performance assessments
- D. Attendance/Performance at all events both during and after school will be required as part of the grading policy
- E. Students will be tested periodically on music proficiency
- F. The student's continued enrollment in the class will be contingent upon their excellent behavior and/or by audition

#### **IV. Required Text**

Instructor selected materials

#### **V. Supplementary Materials**

Instructor selected materials