

Chamber/Concert Orchestra

Mr. Ortega

(630) 942-7567

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Conducted by William Ortega, **Orchestra** is a yearlong class for string players who have had prior string playing experience. Traditional literature for strings is selected. To create the full orchestra experience, wind and percussion players are drawn from Symphonic Band, which meets the same time as Orchestra. All freshmen are placed in Chamber Orchestra and all others are placed in Concert Orchestra, but all meet together.

Required Materials

Instrument, music, pencil, an open mind, and a strong work ethic.

Supplied Materials

The Glenbard West Orchestra is pleased to be able to provide everyone enrolled in Orchestra a school-owned instrument for use. Students need not bring their instrument from home except for performances.

Grades

Participation in a musical ensemble is a privilege and a responsibility. Preparing music and learning skills for public performance is an exciting opportunity. To do our best as an orchestra there is individual responsibility and group responsibility that will be needed daily in class so that our goals of skill mastery, public performance, and personal appreciation may be achieved. The total points earned for performances, rehearsals, sectionals, and tests determine academic grades. Points will be earned for each activity in Orchestra. Points will be totaled, and students will be graded according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Grades will be determined as follows:

Daily grade / Attitude (15%):

Punctuality, attitude, participation, involvement, behavior, posture, instrument care.

GW Concert/Rehearsal Attendance & Performance (40%):

All performances, rehearsals, sectionals, and other obligations.

Playing Tests (40%):

Periodic evaluations on orchestra music, scales, etudes, terms, sight-reading, etc.

Attendance at a Non-GW performance event (5%):

Attend a non-Glenbard West Orchestra concert or fine arts activity by a local high school, college, or professional ensemble. At least one school sponsored opportunity each semester will be provided.

Orchestra is an elective part of the curriculum at Glenbard West High School. Students who do not give the best attitude and effort to perform at their highest level and improve will be encouraged to find another elective. Orchestra is not a right, but a privilege.

Homework = Individual Practice

Practice at home to learn your part.

Rehearse (re-hear) at school to learn the other sections' parts.

Note: School rehearsals ≠ Individual Practice

Daily grade / Attitude (15%):

Punctuality, attitude, participation, involvement, behavior, posture, instrument care.

Daily study, practice, and performances as assigned in rehearsal and include sectionals, in which all students must meet for small group rehearsal as needed. This will take place during Period 6 or Period 7.

GW Concert/Rehearsal Attendance & Performance (40%):

All performances, rehearsals, sectionals, and other obligations.

Students that miss a performance without just cause (see the section regarding excused absences) jeopardize the ability of the entire group to perform to their greatest potential. Members who miss a concert performance with no acceptable excuse will face severe grade reduction and/or loss of credit (at the discretion of the director and department chairman). Attendance at all concerts is essential for getting academic credit in any musical organization at Glenbard West High School. A public performance is the culmination of many hours of work and cooperation by a great many individuals. It is, in effect, an exam given for many hours and weeks of preparation that is impossible to make up. In order for the organization to perform at its best, **every** member **must** be in attendance at **every** performance.

Playing Tests (40%):

All students will be heard by a director and evaluated throughout each semester. Each evaluation will consist of student's orchestra music, instrument etudes, scales, sight-reading, and any other exercise appropriate for the evaluation of student progress. Students will be evaluated on specific music fundamentals that are required to play their instrument properly.

Concert Attendance (5%):

Attend a music concert at Glenbard West (Band, Choir, etc.) or by a local high school, college, or professional ensemble. Bring in a ticket, concert program, and submit a "selfie" showing you at the performance. Extra credit will be given for taking a photo with a performer, soloist, or conductor. Field-trip opportunities to fulfill this requirement will be provided: Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera, etc.

See the attached At-a-Glance Calendar for all dates

Honor String Ensemble (HSO)

The HSO is an auditioned ensemble that performs more advanced literature for string orchestra. Auditions will be held the first full week of school. The repertoire performed is more advanced and it is expected all members study privately. Rehearsals will occur Period 6 with Lunch 7. HSO members will continue to perform with the Concert Orchestra.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Death or illness in the family or other family emergency.
- Personal illness.
- In cases 1 and 2 above, **a formal written excuse** (e-mail preferred) must accompany the student on his return to class (first day).

All students have been given a music department schedule. It is the student's responsibility to notify his/her parents, employers, coaches, etc. of all the performances and outside rehearsals he/she is obligated to attend, thereby eliminating conflicts. Any potential athletic conflicts should be brought to the attention of both the director and the coach. Our relationship with the Athletic Department is a very good one; we will work out any potential conflicts.

**CONFLICTS WITH EMPLOYMENT ARE
NOT EXCUSED - EVER**

Homework = Individual Practice

Glenbard West High School Instrumental Music Department

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Orchestra Director

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(630) 942-7567

I have reviewed the 2019 – 2020 Orchestra Syllabus and the Orchestra Calendar and I will be in attendance at all mandatory performances and rehearsals.

Student Name (please print): _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this page to Mr. Ortega by Friday, August 23, 2019.

This will be your first assignment for the semester.

Thank you.

William Ortega

William Ortega
Orchestra Director
Glenbard West High School