**Carmel High School String Orchestra**

**Period 5 / Room 35**

**M/T/F 11:45 a.m.- 12:35 p.m., W 11:20 a.m.- 12:55 p.m.**

**Mr. Brian Handley, Instructor/Conductor**

**624-1821, ext. 3735 or bhandley@carmelunified.org**

Congratulations on your decision to be a member of the Carmel High School String Orchestra! The year will be full of wonderful musical opportunities and experiences for you. Your individual skills and musicianship, as well as your awareness and responsiveness as an ensemble member, will be given the chance to develop in a variety of performance and rehearsal situations. Additionally, you will earn the right to take great pride in playing a part in the continuing the tradition of excellence established by the Carmel High School Music Department.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Instruction and performance will occur in a range of formats and musical styles including concert band, pep band, sectionals, mixed ensemble, quartets, trios and duets. All instruction and activities will be designed to relate to one or more of the California State Visual and Performing Arts Music Content Standards listed below.

1. Artistic Perception

Processing, analyzing, and responding to sensory information through the

language and skills unique to music.

2. Creative Expression

Creating, performing and participating in music.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

Understanding the historical contributions and cultural dimensions of music.

4. Aesthetic Valuing

Responding to, analyzing, and making value judgments about works of music.

5. Connections, Relationships and Application

Connecting and applying what is learned in music to other art forms and

subject areas and to careers.

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

Two important ideas that contribute to success in life are commitment and cooperation. CHS String Orchestra members are expected to demonstrate commitment to their own growth and the group’s quality and well-being by:

1) Practicing an adequate amount of time to address individual needs and musical demands.

2) Participating in all required rehearsals and performances.

3) Making a focused effort to contribute positively to the rehearsal process.

4) Properly caring for all equipment and facilities provided for use throughout the year.

Cooperation is vital to the success of any group endeavor. Each individual plays a vital role in the ensemble and their preparation, effort, and attitude directly affect the musical and educational experience of every other member of the class. CHS musicians are expected to:

1) Treat each individual with respect and courtesy.

2) Follow procedures and instructions with a positive, cooperative attitude.

3) Deal with challenges and conflicts in a mature and productive manner.

4) Respect all campus rules and guidelines.

Class will begin three minutes after the bell has rung. Students are expected to be in the classroom before the bell and should use the remaining time to assemble instruments, pick up folders, sit in their assigned seat and warm up until class begins. Students not in the room before the bell, or not in place by three minutes after the bell will be considered tardy. Please be aware that the music department strictly adheres to the school-wide tardy policy.

Each individual is expected to have the following items in their possession in class each day:

1) Instrument (incl. mutes when necessary)

2) Music and Folder

3) Pencil

4) Misc. Supplies (rosin, shoulder rests, etc. . .)

Special sectional or full ensemble rehearsals may be scheduled on occasion throughout the year, students will be given ample notice and attendance will be expected. At the conclusion of class, instruments are to be put away properly with chairs and stands being cleared to prepare for the next class.

**GRADES**

Grades are earned by each student, not “given” by a teacher. Every student has the opportunity to earn an ‘A’ regardless of their years of experience. While making music is a collaborative process, grades will be based on each students’ individual efforts in the categories of participation (60%) and performance (40%). Grades will be updated on Aries every 2-3 weeks and quarter/semester grades will be assigned on a percentage basis.

A = 90%-100%, B = 79%-89%, C = 68%-78%, D = 57%-67%, F = 56% or below.

**Participation**

A significant portion of each student's grade is based on participation. Students earn a point per day (2 points per block day) in rehearsal. Positive participation will ensure full points being awarded. Violations of student expectations such as poor effort, disruptive behavior, being off-task, tardiness, food/gum, cell phones, etc. will result in the point not being earned diminishing the points a student receives for the week.

**Performance**

A student's performance grade will be based upon points accumulated for performances, tests, class projects and other written work. Performances are worth 100 points. Other assignments or tests will vary in point value, these values will be shared with the students when the assignment is given.

**Concert Attendance**

Performances are a gift that we share with our audiences and a reward we allow ourselves for a job well done. However, they are also the culmination of our class activities and an important means by which class and individual achievement are measured. Full participation is vital to the collective experience of the group and to the educational experience of each individual. **In the event that a student must miss a performance, the instructor is to be notified in writing, by a parent/guardian, at least 2 weeks in advance to be considered for an excused absence. In the case of last minute family emergency or severe illness, a parent should contact or leave a message for Mr. Handley at school (624-1821, ext. 3735).**  Students receiving an excused absence will be given the opportunity to complete an alternate project to make up the points missed. Failure to notify as described above will result in an unexcused absence. Please note that performances influence both participation and performance grades.

**Playing tests**

One way in which each student's individual progress will be measured will be through playing tests. These will occur in two formats; live (student plays for the teacher) or recorded (each student turns in a recording of themselves playing a pre-determined set of music). Students will be notified of testing materials and formats well in advance of each test. Most tests will be graded on a traditional scale and others may be designated as Pass/Fail. In addition to grades, results may be used to determine seating and part assignments.

**EQUIPMENT CHECK-OUT**

School owned instruments, formal concert uniforms and music are available for student use with the understanding that they will be properly maintained and returned in good condition**. Tuxedos and dresses are to be professionally dry cleaned before their return at the end of the year.** **All students are responsible for providing their own appropriate (black) formal footwear and men will need to provide their own tuxedo shirts.** Equipment will be released to a student only after instructor approval and parent permission have been obtained. Charges for lost or damaged items will vary based on replacement cost.