Wakefield High School Orchestra
2015–2016 Course Syllabus
Beginning, Intermediate, Proficient and Advanced Levels

Instructor Information

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An electronic copy of this syllabus is posted on the orchestra website. www.wakefieldhsorchestra.weebly.com
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I. Course Descriptions

- **Beginning Orchestra**
  
  Beginning Orchestra is designed for students who have limited orchestral experience, or who are switching to a new primary string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass). Emphasis will be placed on correct posture, technique, following conductor cues, and tone development. Beginning Orchestra students will be required to create and maintain an online portfolio. Students will be required to demonstrate what they have learned by performing in one concert per semester, as well as participating in one musical jury per semester. By the end of the course, Beginning Orchestra students must demonstrate mastery level learning of NC Essential Standards for Beginning High School. A copy of the NC Essential Standards for 9–12 Beginning High School Music is located on pages 1 – 2 of the following link. [http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf](http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf)  
  
  Orchestra is a year long elective. In order to demonstrate growth and mastery of concepts, students are encouraged to register for and participate in orchestra for both semesters.

- **Intermediate Orchestra**
  
  Intermediate Orchestra is a course tailored to assist students with at least one year of orchestra experience, but have not yet reached the Proficient Orchestra Level. Students will learn to apply new techniques to help improve tone production, instrumental technique, vibrato, following conductor cues, and dynamics. Intermediate Orchestra students will be required to create and maintain an online portfolio. Students will be required to demonstrate what they have learned by performing in one concert per semester, as well as participating in one musical jury per semester. By the end of the course, students must demonstrate mastery level learning of NC Essential Standards for Intermediate High School Music. A copy of the NC Essential Standards for 9–12 Intermediate High School Music is located on pages 3 – 4 of the following link. [http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf](http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf)  
  
  Orchestra is a year long elective. In order to demonstrate growth and mastery of concepts, students are encouraged to register for and participate in orchestra for both semesters.

- **Proficient Orchestra**
  
  Proficient Orchestra is a course designed for students that have demonstrated mastery at both the Beginning and Proficient levels, but have not yet reached the Advanced level. Proficient Orchestra students are leaders within the orchestra, are consistent with practicing their instruments, and demonstrate mastery level learning of the current repertoire. Proficient Orchestra students will be required to create and maintain an online portfolio, perform in all orchestra concerts and rehearsals, audition for Honor’s All-State Orchestra, and perform at least one solo or chamber ensemble selection on the Winter and Spring concert. By the end of the course, students must demonstrate mastery level learning of NC Essential Standards for Proficient High School Music. A copy of the NC Essential Standards for 9–12 Proficient High School Music is located on pages 5 – 6 of the following link. [http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf](http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf)  
  
  Orchestra is a year long elective. In order to demonstrate growth and mastery of concepts, students are required to register for and participate in orchestra for both semesters. Any Proficient Orchestra student who fails to adhere to any of the requirements for the course may not receive Honor’s Orchestra credit.
Advanced Orchestra

Advanced Orchestra is an honor’s level course in which students demonstrate mastery in musicianship including, but not limited to, tone quality, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, and sight reading. In addition to playing string orchestra repertoire, emphasis is placed on solo and chamber ensemble performance skills. Advanced Orchestra is a course designed for serious high school musicians who are committed to practicing, performing, and increasing technique. Advance Orchestra students are required to audition for Honors All State Orchestra, perform in all concerts or events as scheduled by the director, participate in after-school rehearsals as scheduled by the director, perform at least 1 solo per semester in a WHS Orchestra concert, formal recital, or an approved setting by the director. Advanced Orchestra students will be required to attend at least 2 live performances of professional string musicians, provide documentation such as a concert program or ticket stub to show that they attended the performance, and write a 1.5 page essay evaluating the performance. Advanced Orchestra students are required to create and maintain a web-based portfolio detailing their work throughout the course. By the end of the semester, students must demonstrate mastery level learning of the NC Essential Standards for Advanced Instrumentalists. A copy of the NC Essential Standards for 9-12 Advanced High School Music is located on pages 7 – 8 of the following link: [http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf](http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf) Additionally, Advanced Orchestra Students must demonstrate mastery level learning of all assigned scales, music theory elements, sight reading exercises, advanced solo and chamber music repertoire, as well as Grade 6 orchestral literature. Advanced Orchestra students are required to sign up for two consecutive semesters of the course, as it is a year long elective. Any student who fails to meet these requirements will be in jeopardy of not receiving honor’s credit or being removed from the course.

II. Course Objectives & Activities

Course Objectives

The goals and objectives for this course are aligned with the Music Literacy, Music Response, and Contextual Relevancy of the NC Essential Standards for Beginning, Intermediate, Proficient, and Advanced High School Music. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to.

1. Apply and transfer concepts learned in orchestra to real world situations including, but not limited to creating event playlists, displaying performance etiquette, and creating websites to generate performance opportunities.
2. Develop an effective and systematic approach to practicing their instrument.
3. Perform from memory assigned 3 octave major and minor scales.
4. Compose and arrange at least two compositions music for string instruments.
5. Perform music requiring the use of 1st through 11th positions.
6. Explain how concepts of music theory and history are contextually relevant to current events.
9. Evaluate performances of self, peers, and professional string musicians.
10. Create, prepare, and perform music in a formal setting for a live audience at least twice per year.

- **Course Activities**

It is important for you to know not only the types of activities that will occur this year, but how these activities align with the goals and objectives for the course as well as the district’s emphasis on the 4 C's including collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. While more activities may be added based on the needs of students, a list of the core activities planned for the year is provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHS Orchestra Course Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Daily rehearsals (ML, MR, CR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Following Conductor Cues/ gestures (ML)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Data from Assessments (ML, MR, CR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Publicity &amp; Event Marketing (CR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Performances (ML, MR, CR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collaboration</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Smart Lunch Sectionals (ML, MR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Concerts, Recitals (ML, CR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Multicultural Group Powerpoint &amp; Presentation (CR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Analysis of current repertoire (MR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- I-PAD Group Movie Project (CR, ML, MR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fundraising Events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NC Essential Standards for High School Music Abbreviations.
ML = Music Literacy, MR = Musical Response, and CR = Contextual Relevancy

### III. Course Policies

- **Honor Code**

The students of Wake Forest High School are committed to being honest and responsible in the completion of academic materials and interactions with the school administration and community. Cheating, stealing, plagiarism (passing off another's work, words, or ideas as one's own), and lying (including willful distortion or misrepresentation) are considered violations of the Honor Code. Through a joint fulfillment of this code, students and faculty will achieve their fullest potential in academic excellence and character. Any student who violates the honor code will receive consequences per Wake County Board Policy –Parent/Student Handbook (pg.10).
- **Grading Policy**

Study in the arts includes the development of technical skill, exploration of creativity, appreciation for the aesthetic experience, and demonstration of appropriate artistic work habits. To ensure consistent, appropriate, comprehensive, and reasonable reflection of student achievement in the arts, grading practices will incorporate the following components.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Category</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rehearsal Techniques, Portfolios, &amp; Skills Assessment Sectionals, whole group, practice logs, video-uploads, e-portfolio,</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests, Major Projects, &amp; Performances *Playing &amp; written tests, compositions, group projects, performances, compositions, musical juries</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class and Homework Assignments reflections, quizzes, essays, self-evaluations, pre &amp; post assessment</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Weekly Practice Log**

Practice is essential and mandatory for each student. Students are required to practice at least 2.5 hours or more a week. In order to make practice more effective, students must complete an online practice journal and submit the form online by 11 p.m. Sunday night. An electronic copy of the practice journal is available on the orchestra website: [www.wakefieldhsorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.wakefieldhsorchestra.weebly.com) Practice journals help students break content into smaller chunks, which makes practice more effective and musicianship increase. Individual growth is expected to occur each week. Students who fail to show weekly progress may not receive practice credit for the week unless the student’s parent(s) can provide documentation of the practice time.

- **Weekly Assessment Policy**

Assessments are used to communicate student achievement and identify areas for improvement to students, parents, and teachers. Assessments may occur in the form of a quiz, test, observation, practice log summary, evaluation, or musical jury (playing test with student feedback during the class period). Students will receive at least one assessment per week.

- **Make Up Work Policy**

All assignments must be turned in on time. It is the student’s responsibility to complete all assignments when they are due. If a student is absent, it is HIS/HER responsibility to make up the assignments and/or test within the time allotted by Wake County Public School System. Any unexcused absence from a mandatory performance event such as a concert, recital, audition, or graduation performance cannot be made up, and a grade of zero will be given. No extra credit work is given or accepted in this course.
- **Tardy Policy**

  a. Students are expected to be in their seats with their instruments, assigned music folder, and pencil when the tardy bell has sounded. Attendance is taken immediately following the tardy bell. Any student who is late to class must have the appropriate WHS Common Hall Pass or Sweeper Pass from the office or a teacher. Without the appropriate documentation, the tardy will be recorded in NCEdCloud as an unexcused tardy.

  b. Parents will be notified after a child has accumulated three unexcused tardies within a quarter. Lunch detention will be assigned on the fourth tardy per the WHS handbook. Any additional consequences will be given according to the WHS handbook.

- **Student Expectations & Responsibilities**

  1. Arrive to class on time with your instrument, music, and pencil each day.
  2. Maintain a high level of expectations for yourself and the course.
  3. Respect your classmates, teacher, our rehearsal space, and yourself.
  4. Actively Participate in rehearsals, sectionals, and group projects.
  5. Turn in assignments on time.
  6. Adhere to WHS classroom policies and procedures at all times.
  7. No eating, drinking, or using electronic devices without the permission by the director.
  8. Master and be ready to play any selections from the current repertoire list.
  9. Practice at least 2.5 hours per week and submit weekly practice logs online by the due date.

- **Organizational Structure/Classroom Hierarchy**
### Leadership Positions and Responsibilities

A detailed list for leadership policies and procedures are located on the website.

**Key:**
- C = appointed cabinet
- A = through application
- ** = position requires enrollment in both semester of orchestra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
<th>Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orchestra Manager (c) **</td>
<td>- takes attendance&lt;br&gt;- keeps track of dates&lt;br&gt;- creates seating charts for class and concerts&lt;br&gt;- assists in making programs, playlists and class agenda&lt;br&gt;- schedules rehearsals&lt;br&gt;- appoints and directs Stage Managers and ushers for class setup and concert staging&lt;br&gt;- has performance checklist 3 weeks prior to performance</td>
<td>All leaders are expected to:&lt;br&gt;- have a positive attitude&lt;br&gt;- maintain a high standard of behavior and conduct&lt;br&gt;- practice consistently&lt;br&gt;- excel in all assignments&lt;br&gt;- cooperate with others&lt;br&gt;- communicate often&lt;br&gt;- audition for All-State&lt;br&gt;- keep a leadership notebook for in-coming leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Manager (c) **</td>
<td>- records information from the conductor during class&lt;br&gt;- communicates announcements and reminders (email, r101) to members&lt;br&gt;- communicates with the booster club&lt;br&gt;- manages and publishes given information onto the orchestra website&lt;br&gt;- documents pictures of the orchestra</td>
<td>In situations where no application-based positions are filled, cabinet leaders are to assume those responsibilities. When absences cannot be avoided, leaders are to inform another member of the cabinet of their plan(s) for rehearsal at least 24 hours prior to rehearsal time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian (c) **</td>
<td>- oversees music library&lt;br&gt;- does inventory (on spreadsheet)&lt;br&gt;- makes copies of music&lt;br&gt;- organizes and distributes music&lt;br&gt;- updates orchestra notebook with new repertoire&lt;br&gt;- only person other than the director and the assistant librarian(s) who can handle sheet music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Librarian (a) [cannot assume responsibilities without the main librarian]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehearsal Manager (c) **</td>
<td>- runs warm-ups&lt;br&gt;- runs rehearsal as stand-in for conductor&lt;br&gt;- studies music scores&lt;br&gt;- positively communicates with the orchestra and keeps everyone engaged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Committee (a)</td>
<td>- organizes social events for members (ex. picnics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Responsibilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - makes cards for members (ex. get-well cards)  
- Oversees vision board  
- Oversees publicity for the orchestra (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)  
- posts events (ex. birthdays or Tri-M announcements) |
| Stage Manager (a) | - sets up during class  
- sets up stands and chairs for soloists  
- manage needed equipment (piano, drums etc.) |
| Section Leaders (a) ** | - need to have the desire to lead  
- are able to be a role model in morality and preparation (attendance, having music, positive attitude)  
- must communicate with and engage section members during sectionals (ex. identify what the section is NOT doing, give the bowings)  
- must have good command of repertoire in order to teach and lead sectionals  
- make sure members clean up after class (ex. sheet music, chairs, stands, etc.)  
- communicate with librarians  
- make sure section has music before rehearsals and performances |

### IV. Course Requirements

- **Library Fees**

  The music department of Wakefield (band, chorus and orchestra) has a $40 library fee. This money will be used to help purchase music and many other materials necessary for the success of our program. This fee is due no later than September 4, 2015.

We do not wish to limit a student’s ability to be involved in the orchestra program because of finances. If any student or parent(s) at any time is concerned about their ability to purchase materials, he/she should approach the director to discuss their situation. The Orchestra Boosters and director will be happy to work with your family to the best of our ability. We highly recommend that all students take advantage of all fundraising opportunities as they can help provide for your music education every year.
• Concert Attire.

All orchestra students are required to wear concert attire to each performance, or they will not be allowed to perform.

**Young Ladies.** Black satin floor length gown, with black stockings and black shoes.

*Information regarding purchasing a dress or tuxedo is located on the orchestra website: [www.wakefieldhsorchesterawebly.com](http://www.wakefieldhsorchesterawebly.com)*

**Young Men.** Black Tuxedo jacket, white tuxedo shirt, black vest, black tuxedo pants, and black tie. Please wear black socks and black dress shoes.

Concert Jewelry.

**Young Ladies.** Diamond studs or pearl earrings only. *No bracelets.*

**Young Men. No Earrings.** (All earrings must be taken out while performing.)

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V. Additional Educational Opportunities

• Spring Field Trip

The WHS Orchestra plans to travel to Atlanta, Georgia in 2016. This trip is for educational purposes and will not impact a student’s grade if they choose not to participate in this activity.

Estimated travel costs range from $500.00 to $550.00 per student, depending on the number of students participating. The price will decrease if we have 30 or more students and chaperones to pay their deposits.

1. This cost includes festival or clinic costs, hotel, admission ticket(s), some meals and bus transportation.
2. Payments may be made via a payment–plan schedule, or families can choose
to pay the full amount. Information regarding a payment plan will be sent
once the trip is approved.
3. The WHS Orchestra Boosters board has put together some fundraising events.
Participating in the fundraising events will help off-set the costs. A list of fundraiser
events will be posted on the orchestra website.

- Orchestra Event Dates

The following is the list of dress rehearsals, performances and other events planned so far for this year. Please
copy the dates into your calendar. In the near future, there may be other events added to the calendar. However, notification will be given in advance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Class Period</td>
<td>Orchestra Forms Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Class period</td>
<td>$40 Library Fee Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>CarWash @ Chik-fil-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2015</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Community Yard Sale Fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9am–7pm</td>
<td>Eastern Regional Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival (select students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>NC Symphony Ovations (select students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2015</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>WHS Orchestra Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2015</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>WHS Orchestra Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2016</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Honor’s All–State Auditions Capefear Valley High School Fayetteville, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2016</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>Mid–year graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2016</td>
<td>19–20</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Honor’s All–State Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NC School of Science &amp; Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Durham, N.C. 27704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Atlanta Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>NC Symphony Ovations (select students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>WHS Orchestra Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>WHS Orchestra Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>Senior Night Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8p.m.</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Orchestra Student Contract 2015–2016

Please sign and return this page to Mrs. Booth by August 29, 2015.

Student Commitment

1. I have read through the orchestra handbook with my parents and understand the grading and attendance policy.
2. I understand that I must comply with all classroom rules, procedures, routines, and expectations.
3. I understand that I am required to practice my instrument at least 2.5 hours or more each week.
4. I understand that I am required to attend the Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and Graduation performances that are listed in this handbook.
5. I understand all of the Honor's Orchestra requirements, and understand that failure to fulfill these requirements may affect my receiving honors credit for the course.
6. I understand that my cooperation, practice, and participation in orchestra are extremely important to the success of the group and will be a significant part of my grade.
7. I understand that orchestra is a scheduled class for the entire school year and that a high standard of excellence will be demanded from me at all times.
8. I am prepared to make a commitment to orchestra for the 2015–2016 school year.

Student Name (printed) ______________   Student Signature_________________

Orchestra Class ________________                      Date__________________

Parent Commitment

Parents:

Orchestra is a commitment for the entire school year. I want to work closely with you to make sure that your child reaches his/her full potential. This year I am focusing on providing multiple ways to keep lines of communication open. Please include your email address and phone number so that I have multiple ways to communicate with you throughout the school year. I will also need volunteers to help with the different activities that we have planned this year. All parents must sign up in the main office in order to get level 4 clearance to chaperone field trips or help with school events.

· Parent Name_____________________________ Date__________________

Phone Number (_______)__________ Email Address__________________________
First Two Week Orchestra Checklist

- Read through Orchestra Handbook with Parents
- Signed Orchestra Contract (Due Aug. 29)
- Completed Photo/Media Release Form (Due. Aug. 29)
- Completed Student and Parent Contact Information Online
- Remind 101 Text Sign Up (Due Aug. 29)
- Completed all Online Assignments by Sunday evening each week
- Pay $40 Library Fee (due by Sept. 4)
  *please make checks payable to Friends of WHS Orchestra Booster Club (or FWHSO Orchestra Boosters)

*an electronic copy of all forms are located on the WHS Orchestra website.
http://wakefieldhsorchestra.weebly.com/important-forms-to-complete.html