

Harrison Orchestra Syllabus

Spring 2025

Teacher: Koji Mori

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Phone: 678-594-8104

Office Hours: M-F 7:45-8:00am or by appointment.

Course Description

This course is designed to develop musical understanding through individual skill development, ensemble skill development, appreciation of musical contexts, and expression of musical understanding. Creating, performing, responding, and connecting to musical concepts will be emphasized throughout the course. The class will meet at the scheduled time designated by the school and district. Guidelines from the Cobb County School District for performances and rehearsals will be adhered to as the semester progresses.

Attendance

Harrison High School's attendance policy will be followed for all orchestra classes. Students are expected to participate in all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the director. This includes any before or after school rehearsals and/or performances. Advanced notice is to be given to the director if a prior commitment causes a student to miss a rehearsal or performance.

A prior commitment is a date already committed to another event when the orchestra rehearsal/performance is announced, not something more attractive that comes up a week before the rehearsal/performance. If you have a conflict, please inform Mr. Mori via email by the **next day after a rehearsal or concert date is announced**. Religious holidays or conflicts with individual religious beliefs are considered excused, if the director is notified in writing by a parent. Conflicts with sports/clubs/extra curriculars are resolvable but must be communicated as soon as possible.

Class Expectations

Students are expected to be prepared for class daily and are expected to be kind and respectful to one another as well as themselves. Orchestra is a place of safety to express music and one's thoughts and understandings in regards to musical understanding. Every student is expected to participate fully each day and be engaged in the lesson and assignments. This includes appropriate preparation of their music and having their materials for class. Follow directions and arrive to class on time (See School Tardy Policy). Students are to enter the classroom quietly, leave book-bags in blue-taped area, and retrieve necessary materials (instrument, music, tuner, book, pencil, shoulder rest, rosin, etc.) before class begins. Cell phones are to remain in the bookbag. While tuning, starting from silence is the standard. **At the end of each class, all students are expected to loosen their bow.**

Grades

Performance/Written Assessments	50%
Rehearsal Skills/Class Assignments	40%
Final Exam	10%

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted 2 weeks after an assignment is due unless prior communication and arrangements have been made with Mr. Mori.

Rehearsal Skills/Class Assignments

The Rehearsal Skills and Class Assignments grade is determined by the student's ability to be prepared, have all necessary materials (instrument, music, pencil, etc.), and to take part in all in-class activities in order to learn standard "common practice" expectations as musicians.

No food, beverage (except for water with a screw top lid), or gum is to be permitted in the orchestra room during rehearsal. Rehearsal Skills in all levels of orchestras will be assessed by a student's ability to uphold and maintain their best: correct playing position, technical skills, aural skills, performance practices and styles, and participation of all assignments for the course.

Long fingernails are unacceptable in performing on string instruments and students will be graded on accordingly as part of the rehearsal skills grade.

Missed Class?

If a student misses class for any reason, information will be available on CTLS. In addition, students may contact Mr. Mori to schedule an appointment during office hours for additional clarification or help.

Practice Standard

Once a student has been introduced to a specific skill, individual practice is expected in order to master the skill. Students should practice daily in order to achieve ongoing progress. Similar to that of a runner, the benefit in conditioning gives results from consistent practice. 20-30 minutes of daily practice will be significantly more effective than a 2 hour session once a week. Good practice habits have a great effect on the success students will achieve in class. Please understand that in order to achieve excellence as an individual and to promote the growth of the ensemble, regular practice is necessary and expected. All students are expected to follow rehearsal guidelines as outlined by the director and to respect their fellow orchestra members. The importance of *courtesy* within the orchestra will ensure your success in rehearsing and performing together as a unified orchestra.

Online Platforms

Although many online resources will be utilized throughout this course, the main platforms are outlined below:

Cobb Teaching and Learning Systems (CTLS):

Primary Learning Management System (LMS) used for this course for daily class, communication, and assignments. All weekly activities and assignments for the course will be communicated through CTLS.

Synergy: Grades will be recorded and viewable throughout the course in Synergy (ParentVue/StudentVue).

CutTime: As a co-curricular course, the orchestra program is supported by the Harrison Orchestra Boosters (HOB). Communication and operations/logistics involving the HOB will come through the HOB's organization management system called CutTime. In addition, CutTime will be used to communicate with students and parents if CTLS goes down for any reason.

Remind: Remind will be used to communicate short class reminders via text message or email. You can join remind for your class by:

Texting: **81010**

In the message box, type the appropriate class code to join your class Remind:

1st Period Philharmonia Orchestra: **hophil**

2nd Period Chamber Orchestra: **hochamber**

3rd Period Concert Orchestra: **hoconcert**

Equipment List

This is a list of items needed for orchestra class. It is necessary that you have these items by the first full week of school. Most music stores and/or online retailers will have these items in stock:

(If your family is in financial hardship and needs assistance, please contact Mr. Mori at koji.mori@cobbk12.org) so that appropriate arrangements can be made).

1. **Instrument & Case with Name.** Please take the time to have your instrument checked for adjustment and size where it was rented/purchased. A new set of strings may also be in order (should be replaced at least yearly). Please replace *Super Sensitive* strings with the equivalent of *Thomastik Dominant* strings or better. Save old strings in case yours break. A poorly functioning instrument will slow progress. Bow hair should be clean and full. Proper maintenance is expected. ALL CASES MUST BE LABELED WITH A STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.
2. **Tuner.** A small tuner with bridge hook-up, or a tuner app. The Korg chromatic tuner/metronome is recommended. You can purchase this and the bridge hook-up at an area music store, or you may go online to purchase one. You may also purchase a tuning app on your phone. The Tonal Energy app is the recommended tuner but there are many other tuners available for your device.
3. **Pencil.** Have it daily.
4. **Shoulder Rest** for viola and violin players. This is an absolute necessity for proper technique and posture. Investing in a good quality shoulder rest is highly recommended as some shoulder rests do not stay on the instrument well. Ask a local string shop (who has a luthier) for recommendations.
5. **Rock Stop** for cello and bass players for home use, camps, and concerts.
6. **Rosin** – All students must have their own rosin.
7. **New Strings** (Extra Set) for your instrument. STRINGS BREAK!
8. **Chair (with no arms) or Stool (for bass players) and a Music Stand** for home practice and trips. These are important to ensure good posture.
9. **Soft Cloth** to keep the instrument clean - old T-shirts work fine. Rosin builds up over time and can cause problems when playing. In addition, rosin build up can harm the finish on your instrument. Wipe off strings and the body of the instrument to prevent harm to the instrument. Never put water or soap on any instrument.

IMPORTANT:

Complete the online form after reading through the syllabus to acknowledge your understanding and agreement with the expectations of this course:

[Harrison Orchestra Syllabus Acknowledgement Form](#)

(Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/WWiVc9K6BW>)

