

Isaac Sowers Middle School
Music Department- Instrumental Music
Director: Mrs. Kari Ivey M.M.
Room 410
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Instrumental Music Courses offered at Sowers for the 19-20 school year

1. Concert Orchestra, advanced strings ensemble (Grades 7-8)*
2. Viking Band, beginning winds and percussion (Grades 6)
3. Guitar II/ MIT Prep. (Grades 6-8)
4. Music Industry Technology, advanced commercial music (Grades 6-8)*
5. Viking Orchestra, beginning strings (Grade 6)
6. Wind Ensemble, advanced winds/percussion, (Grades 7-8)*
7. Drumline, percussion ensemble, (Grades 6-8) after school program, open call

*denotes audition or teacher approval to enroll

-in middle school it is customary for musicians to play a different instrument than what they played in elementary school in order for our groups to maintain proper balance within the ensemble. For example: Violin may switch to Viola, Alto Sax might switch to Tenor or Baritone Sax etc. Musicians may not change instruments without the director's permission once the class instrumentation has been set.

Supplementary Instrumental Music Instruction through Sowers

- Professional coaches hired for various groups
- Festival Professional Development Experiences, for advanced groups
- Other ensemble workshops led by professional organizations

Performance Schedule

Please refer to the Year at a Glance calendar. A hard copy is distributed at the beginning of the year and at all SMPA meetings, or is downloadable on sowersmusic.com. Subject to change with ample notice.

Sowers Music Parent Association

Sowers Instrumental and Vocal music programs are supported by a parent booster organization called Sowers Music Parent Association, or SMPA. SMPA is a 501c3 non profit organization consisting of a board of directors, and chair members and has regular monthly meetings. SMPA meetings are listed on the Year At A Glance, and all meeting minutes and organization information can be found at sowersmusic.com.

Sowers Music web address: www.sowersmusic.com

Sowers music programs publish all information regarding performing groups, concerts, performances, auditions, forms, donation links, concert ticket sales, and SMPA information on this website. Mrs. Ivey also communicates information via school loop.

Fundraisers

Sower's Music Department is supported by the fundraising efforts facilitated by our Sowers Music Parent Association, SMPA. All music literature, instruments, transportation costs, equipment, and supplementary music instruction is supported by SMPA. Our fundraising efforts are listed below:

1. Family Direct Donations, forms can be downloaded at sowersmusic.com
2. Corporate Sponsorship Program, info at sowersmusic.com
3. Dinner Nights Out
4. Concert Ticket and Concession sales
5. Sowers Musical ticket and concession sales
6. MacKenna Claire Foundation golf ball drop

**The Assistance League of Huntington Beach has traditionally supported Sowers Music Department through grant programs submitted by teachers.

Other Items:

Concert Attire: For Concert Performances, varies by ensemble.

Disneyland Music in the Park/Workshops: Sowers performing groups have historically attended festivals hosted by Disney or workshops at Disneyland. Students are encouraged to attend and participate in the experience but they are optional.

Musician's Supplies:

- An instrument- Sowers has some inventory to lend via liability contract
- an electronic tuner/metronome (Snark tuners are recommended)

- neck/guitar strap, reeds, strings, rosin, oil, instrument repair/maintenance supplies, guitar picks/cables/capos
- a pencil
- Composition/notebook for note taking and “5 on Friday” quizzes
- A folder or binder for music

Music Classroom Supply Needs: Please consider donating the following items for use in music class. Thank you.

- Clorox Wipes (to sanitize surfaces and stop the spread of germs)
- Facial Tissue
- Pencils
- Dry Erase Markers (Black, and Colored~ Bold)
- Guitar picks

Genres of Musical Studies By Literature and/or Discussion

- Musical Theory and Notation- Basic Musical Concepts Testing weekly
- American Patriotic
- Classical
- Various World Music Studies including but not limited to:

Latin European/American

African

Irish/Gaelic/Celtic

Baltic

East Asian

South Asian

Pacific Islander

Native American

- Multi-Spiritual/Holiday
- American Folk
- American Popular
- Music in Film and Television
- Rock and Roll
- American Country
- Pep Rally
- Blues/R&B
- Jazz
- Ethnomusicology-the study of music and culture in history
- General Music History
- World Protest Music

**This list is subject to additions as our music library resources increase through our fundraising efforts.

General Class Rules

1. Musicians Do Not Play In Between Songs
2. Musicians Do Not Play or Talk While The Director Is Talking
3. All personal belongings must be stored out of the walking paths
4. Do not touch anything that does not belong to you or you have not been trained to operate.

** Please see **Music Rehearsal Etiquette** packet for further details regarding classroom behavior and expectations. There are further class **Character** guidelines listed below in this syllabus.

Expectations

- Daily In Class Rehearsal Participation: students need to be prepared for class with their instrument, music folder, composition book, and pencil. Points are deducted daily for being unprepared with the aforementioned items. Daily points are also deducted for musicians who fail to comply with the class Character rules.
- At Home Rehearsal: The Instrumental Music Elective is a graded course and is considered a priority as any other subject during homework time. Any assignments posted on School Loop are expected to be reviewed and completed on the date given.
- It is expected that musicians attend all concert performances. If illness prevents a musician from participating in a concert, an alternate assignment will be given/graded in lieu of concert attendance/performance. This option is available for excused absence circumstances as concert dates are calendared months in advance. *Please see the Year at a Glance calendar. No Show or unexcused concert attendance results in a 0 grade. (please review** 0 grades for details). Please plan family vacations accordingly considering the week before and of concerts/performances. These are unexcused absence as per CA Ed. Code.
- Musicians Must Wear Concert Dress at All Concerts: unless otherwise specified
- Class Rules Must Be Observed At All Times
- No Late Work Will Be Accepted for full credit. No Exceptions. Students have one day to turn in missed in class assignments with an excused absence.

Photography and Internet Postings via Schoolloop/ sowersmusic.com

I reference the school's photo release data for photographing students or using their photo on our School Loop page, sowersmusic.com, or used for other program recruitment and promotional items.

Communication

- All Musicians must fill out and return the last page of this syllabus with parent signature
- Email: kivey@hbcsd.us
- General Information emails
- Flyers
- School Loopmail

****School Loop:*** All students and parents are expected to register for a School Loop account as this is our main form of communication. You will need your student's ID number (located on their ID card), and a working email address in order to register yourself as a parent. School Loop is a web based resource where you can access your student's daily assignments, view their current grades in all classes, and find links to communicate with your student's teachers. Once you register, School Loop will send you a nightly email reminder with your student's current grades, homework assignments, and notices for upcoming projects, tests, assignments, and performances. All music news, assignments, and upcoming events will be posted on School Loop.

Grades and Weighting of Assignments

Grades:

Musicians earn grades based on the standard A-F scale.

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0**-59%

****0 grades: students who fail to turn in any assignment on time receive a 0 grade for that assignment. 0 grades are weighted heavily in the School Loop grading system and have severe negative impact on students' grades. Students may turn in work late with an Excused Absence, and I follow the student handbook and California Education code as to what is considered an excused absence.**

Character Grade

As our Physical Education department has implemented, music students are graded on character as well. Points can be earned by demonstrating good character by following class rules and procedures. Grades are raised by following expectations and reduced by failing to follow class rules and procedures. I normally start with 20 points for the week and students earn or lose points

as their character is observed. One point reduced per infraction or one point added per demonstration of good character. Infractions and positive behaviors will be marked in school loop with codes so that parents and students can track behavior.

Character Grade Codes:

NM- no music

NP- no pencil

NI- no instrument

R- running in class

T-throwing things in class

PBS- playing between songs

TDS- talking during songs

TT/PT- talking/ playing while teacher is talking

IU- inappropriate use of equipment

MO- music left out

IO- instrument left out

B- bullying/teasing- results in referral and behavioral intervention, possible removal from class

C-cussing- results in referral and behavioral intervention

PC- aggressive physical contact- results in referral and behavioral intervention, possible removal from class

SR-name left on sub report-results in referral and behavioral intervention

G- chewing gum

H-helpful +1

O- organization +1

K- demonstrates kindness +1

P- prepared for class +1

L- demonstrates positive leadership +1

Weighting:

Classwork and participation grades are weighted as follows:

Character 30%

Five on Friday Quizzes 10%

Assignments: 10%

Concert / Performance Attendance: 50%

Participation/Attendance: 50%

Projects: 25%

Tests/Performance Assessments: 25%

Extra Credit: As Offered, see below

Assignments/Tests/ Quizzes

- Musical Concepts Assessment

- Five on Friday- 5 question quiz given every Friday
- Performance Assessments (playing or written test)
- Various musical genre worksheets, supplementary materials, internet searches
- Concert Attendance and Participation
- Video/slideshow productions

Extra Credit

10 points extra credit can be earned each quarter by attending a semi/pro performance of a musician performing on your instrument. Submit a photo/ticket stub/program showing the date of the event, and email a paragraph via school loop discussing the event, where it was, who was performing, what you observed about the performance, and how you can use what you observed to improve your own performance, musicianship, or stage presence.

What To Expect in Instrumental Music Month to Month

(subject to change)

September:

Musical Concepts Assessment Week 2-3, Music Theory and Notation, Scale Studies, School Spirit Music, American Patriotic Music, Christmas Music, Multi-Spiritual/Holiday, Five on Friday Quizzes begin, student leaders chosen, Musician's spirit wear and concert attire will be ordered/money collected. Middle School Band Night with EHS, MIT/Guitar casting.

October: Thursday sectionals begin, Scale Studies, Rhythm Studies, Daily points tabulations begin-class preparedness and observation of class rules, daily rehearsal of Celebration of The Season music begins. Chair testing (orch/band), concert casting.

November: Multi-Spiritual/Holiday, Christmas Music, Classical Music, American Folk Music, Basic Ethnomusicology Concepts, daily rehearsal of Celebration of The Season music continues.

December: A Celebration of the Season Performance, Class yearbook photos taken, Class party, Commercial music video production begins.

January: Begin study of American Popular Music, Music in Film and Television, World Music-Musician research project for Guitar I/II, Rock and Roll, Blues/R&B, Disney workshop preparation begins. Commercial music video/slideshow production.

February: Daily rehearsal of World and American Popular Music, Music in Film and Television, Rock n Roll, Blues/R&B, Jazz. Beginning discussions of program for Spring Concert, and Spring concert preparation. Auditions for Spring Musical TBA.

March: Music In Our School's Month, Lunch Concert Series, Sowers Musical rehearsals begin. HBCSD Student Art Show Creative Visions Opening Night performances. Commercial Music Roots of Rock concert. MIT application goes out. Area Band/Orch Concert with EHS.

April: Chair testing (orch/band), Spring concert Music established and rehearsed daily, Spring Concert music playlist established and rehearsed daily, Spring Break. Spring Musical. MIT application due mid- month. District Choral Festival. Commercial music video/slideshow production.

May: Spring concert music rehearsed daily, Disney workshop, Spring Concert music rehearsed daily. Spring Musical. MIT auditions- second Thursday May. Spring Concerts, Popfest!- Commercial music final concert.

June: Articulation with EHS, Music Awards Ceremony-8th graders only, promotion snackbar

Parent Signature Page

Student Name _____

Instrumental Music Course _____

I have read, understand, and agree to the Instrumental Music Syllabus, and all of its contents and policies. I have read the Music Rehearsal Etiquette packet and agree to its terms and expectations. I have read the Welcome to Instrumental Music letter.

Parent Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____