

**William Tolles**  
**www.woodsidehs.org/tolles**  
**ext. 49705**

**Woodside High School**  
**email: wtolles@seq.org**

### **Orchestra**

In this course students on the four basic orchestral string instruments, violin, viola, cello, and acoustic string bass will explore and perform music for string orchestra. Various musical styles along with culturally diverse compositions, classical and popular arrangements and symphonic works will make up the bulk of the repertoire for this ensemble. Students should have at a minimum 1 year of instruction on a string instrument.

### **Expected School-wide Learning Results**

Woodside High School fosters the “8 Conditions” of student success: Belonging, Heroes, Sense of Accomplishment, Fun and Excitement, Curiosity and Creativity, Spirit of Adventure, Leadership and Responsibility, Confidence to Take Action. In this course:

#1 Students will create close relationships with other music students leading to a feeling of membership and BELONGING.

#2 Students will experience the FUN AND EXCITEMENT of performing at a variety of school and community events.

#3 Students will use their CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY needed to explore a wide variety of musical genres, styles, and concepts.

#4 Students will feel a SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT after their participation and completion of each and every rehearsal and performance.

#5 Students will gain the attributes of LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY through the meeting of the many expectations of being part of a musical organization.

#6 Students will develop CONFIDENCE TO TAKE ACTION through the rigorous practice regiment and extra effort involved in being performance ready.

#7 Students will develop a SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE to achieve new heights and to go new places through the opening of new and different performance pathways.

#8 Students will have the opportunity to develop their own student HEROS in orchestra, learn about musical HEROS in history, and become a HERO themselves to a new cadre of aspiring orchestra members each year.

## California Content Standards

Woodside High School offers a comprehensive, standards-based program of study. Particular emphasis will be placed on the following standards:

### 1.0 Artistic Perception

1.3 Sight read music accurately and expressively.

### 2.0 Creative Expression

2.4 Perform on an instrument a repertoire of instrumental literature representing various genres, styles, and cultures with expression, technical accuracy, tone quality, and articulation by oneself and in ensembles.

2.5 Perform on an instrument or in small ensembles with one performer on each part.

### 3.0 Historical and Cultural Context

3.4 Perform music from various cultures and time periods.

### 4.0 Aesthetic Valuing

4.2 Evaluate a performance, composition, arrangement, or improvisation by comparing each with an exemplary model.

## Course Overview

String Orchestra (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters):

Students will enter the Fall semester String Orchestra with a week of “seating” testing for placement in this ensemble. Students will perform scales, musical excerpts, etudes, and sight-reading as part of the test. Students will be placed by section and assigned a part that best suits the ensemble needs based upon the score the student earns during his/her seating test. Each new and returning Orchestra student will be expected to meet a performance schedule that will include concerts on campus, festival opportunities, and other events on and off the campus of Woodside High School.

Full Orchestra (2<sup>nd</sup> semester):

Selected students from Advanced Band will form the wind and percussion section of the Full Orchestra.

Daily warm-up routines, scale studies, and etudes will be mastered and used as material for seating placement for each member of this ensemble.

Grading will be based on the students daily progress in the ensemble, in section work, and in performance evaluation of school performances and festivals. Group performance points can range from 25 to 200 points depending on the time, difficulty, and musical

value of each performance. EXTRA EFFORT POINTS will be awarded for participation in non-scheduled performances and BONUS POINTS will be awarded for outstanding individual, section, or group performance.

Students will listen to and evaluate their own recorded performances from festivals and concerts and be able to use critical analysis regarding areas of musical strength and weakness in their performance.

#### Required Performance:

Students in String Orchestra and Full Orchestra (strings with winds & percussion) are REQUIRED to participate in all scheduled performances for this class. Performances that are listed on the school calendar or the Music Department schedule of performances are required and will be factored into the grading scale for each progress report period. SOME performances not on the school calendar or the Music Department schedule at the beginning of the school year may be added to the schedule as a REQUIRED performance. These extra required performances will be announced by the director at least 4 weeks before the event.

#### Extra Effort Performance:

Students in String or Full Orchestra can earn extra effort points towards their grade by participating in NON-REQUIRED performance opportunities which do not appear on the school calendar or the Music Department schedule but are important to our school and community. Students should take advantage of participating in as many of these types of performances as possible. This will give students the best opportunity to earn much needed grade points in the event that they miss participating in any REQUIRED performances.

#### Music Department Tour & Theme Park Festivals:

These performance opportunities, because they may require fundraising on the part of the students and their parents are NOT considered REQUIRED performances. It is the groups responsibility to meet deadlines for COMMITMENT FORMS, FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, & BALANCE DUE dates for these type of group performance projects to be accomplished. Students can earn valuable extra effort grade points for their participation. The purpose of these projects is for the students to have an educationally rewarding and fun experience.

## **Curricular Requirements**

**Textbooks** Music as provided.

### **Required Materials**

If student cannot provide their own instrument, one can be checked out from the WHS

instrument inventory.

Pencil with eraser for music stand.

Dress attire will vary from casual to formal black attire depending on the performance assignment. Girls will be provided with long black dresses and boys provided with black jackets for the Winter and Spring concerts.

### **Homework**

Students are expected to practice their music in order to be able to grasp rehearsal concepts that go beyond the technical aspects of the music.

### **Assessment/ Grading Policy/Academic Integrity Policy**

Grading Policy: Criteria for student evaluation and grading will be based upon three main categories:

- #1 Daily classroom participation (1<sup>st</sup> semester only)
- #2 Performance participation & evaluation

Points will be earned for the student's participation in each performance plus evaluation points will be awarded as determined by qualified judges or your Music Director.

Performance Points will vary depending on the performance and its outcomes. Performances range from 25 to 100 points for participation in each performance. Bonus points will be awarded to individuals or ensembles for notable accomplishments, extra effort, or awards earned.

Due to the uniqueness of a live performance there is no way to "make up" missed performances or the points the student can earn from their participation in them. Therefore it is crucial that students take advantage of each and every performance opportunity knowing that the participation and evaluation points they will earn from that performance are a significant part of their grade.

**IMPORTANT:** Students will be expected to adhere to the district wide academic integrity policy as approved by the school board. Students found in violation of this policy (for example copying from another student on an assignment or test) will receive no points for that performance or assignment.

### **Behavior Policy**

Students' behavior affects others' learning as well as their own. To maximize the use of each class period, the following music room rules must be followed:

1. Students must be in the music room before the tardy bell rings.
2. Students must not interrupt announcements of any kind.
3. Students are not allowed to open any type of food or drink during class.
4. Students are forbidden to bring gum into the music room or PAC.

5. Students must remove hats during class time.
6. Students must request permission to use the restroom and obtain pass.
7. Actions or conduct distracting to the class are grounds for disciplinary action.
8. Damage, theft, or misuse of music department instruments and/or equipment will be grounds for serious administrative action.
9. Straying into restricted areas of the PAC will result in disciplinary action.
10. See PAC conduct policy for additional rules and regulations.

**Teacher Contact/ Office Hours**

My prep time is 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> period. Please call or email me if you would like to meet to discuss your student's progress.