

Name of Course: Orchestra (String Ensemble)

Course Number: 001183 - 001184
Instructor Name: Ms. Jeri Webb (Director)
Telephone: (858) 780-2000 ext 3262
Email: jwebb@powayusd.com
Website: www.westviewgold.org







Course Description

Orchestra is a yearlong performance class and is designed for the stringed-instrument student who wants to perform in an orchestral music organization. The group will play a variety of string orchestra music and perform at school concerts and festivals. Students who perform at a more advanced level will be able to participate in the chamber string ensemble which will have additional music literature to the full orchestra literature.

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic technical skills on wind or percussion instruments through the refinement and performance of high school orchestra literature. Emphasis will be placed on the development of skills in interpretation of notation and expressive markings, individual and ensemble performance, and critical listening.

Students receive 20 credits of Fine Arts. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU "F" requirement and PUSD Fine Arts requirement.

Photo Gallery

		
Yearbook Photo	String Feature at Winter Show	Orchestra at GOLD Show
		
String Quartet at Command Performances	Orchestra Concert	Orchestra at Homecoming

What If I'm Not Good Enough? (Course Expectations)

Orchestra is open to all students. For students who have little experience we have mentors within the Orchestra. For students of advanced ability we have many opportunities to enhance your experience.

Homework

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals with all music prepared. Some home practice will be required. The amount of that home practice is based on individual needs.

Course Statistics and Data

Year	Quarter	Class Size	# of Students 80% or higher	# of Failing Students	Ave Grade % (Grade)
2013-2014	1	37	100	0	4.0
2013-2014	2	37	94.59	0	3.76
2013-2014	3	35	94.29	0	3.8
2013-2014	4	35	97.06	0	3.91
2014-2015	1	44	100	0	3.98
2014-2015	2	44	95.45	0	3.91

What are the time commitments?

Band with Non Competitive Marching time commitments vary with the seasons. Marching Season (before school through November) is the most time intensive commitment season. Non Competitive Marching Band members are required to attend after school rehearsals on the day of football games and prior to our Poway Days Parade and Disneyland Parades. To view our schedule - visit <http://westviewgold.org/calendar>

The other seasons have their time commitments after school rehearsals, evening and weekend performances. Although there are fewer time commitments, it is important that our members are able to make the commitment necessary - participation is a factor in Academic Grades.

Parent Responsibilities

- Student attendance is important – don't allow students to miss school
- Students should practice as often as possible. Have your musician play for you occasionally. Encourage excellence from them!
- Avoid overloading your musician with too many extra activities. Their performance will suffer overall.
- Become involved with your child's music-related activities. Volunteering is a great way to be involved. Extra help is always needed!
 - To Sign Up - <http://westviewgold.org/pages/volunteers>
- Attend events and make positive and encouraging comments about performances. Our attitudes reflect on our kids, which in turns affects their performance.
- Encourage good sportsmanship toward each other and to our competitors at all times.
- Assist your child with scheduling commitments and avoiding conflicts. Careful planning is a must.
 - Should your child have conflicts request to be excused by the director as soon as possible.
 - To excuse multiple conflicts:

- Print out the Calendar
 - Mark any conflicts
 - Have your child meet with the director to request permission to be excused (only the director may excuse the student)
- Join Booster Membership or Band Dads and receive a free Booster/Band Dad shirt.
 - To join Band Dads - http://westviewgold.org/pages/band_dads
 - To be a Booster Member - [http://westviewgold.org/pages/boosters_members\(1\)](http://westviewgold.org/pages/boosters_members(1))

Student Testimonials

“As a middle schooler, I always heard high school students describing their orchestra class as their ‘second family.’ Even when I was a freshman in high school and in the actual orchestra itself, I initially didn’t understand what this phrase meant. It wasn’t until we took a trip together that I finally realized what that meant, and how great it felt to have that ‘second family’ be there for you. Not only do fellow students mentor each other on basic musical material, but it is also an open environment for discussing any troubles we had. Joining orchestra in high school, and then committing to it for four years was one of the best decisions I’ve made in my high school career. Many incoming students view joining a music program and dedicating themselves to it for all four years in high school is considered a waste of time, when more academically challenging classes could be taken in its place. However, this is not only a class, but a wonderful group of talented individuals, all of whom I admire for their diversity. Going into this high school orchestra, everyone comes from a different level of playing, yet somehow, it’s like we’re able to work magic and put together brilliant pieces of music up to the standards of professionals. The diversity in this group is truly amazing. Although I took private lessons, teacher constantly reminded me how helpful it was for me to participate in this ensemble because it helped me grow as a musician as well as find my true passion for my instrument. Consequently, joining orchestra also allowed me to respect and idolize fellow leaders who were often more than efficient at taking responsibility as well as taking charge. Today, I can confidently say that I succeeded at being that leader I hoped to be in my first impression of the orchestra as well as an overall more responsible individual, proving that in addition to musicianship, joining orchestra can also help individuals mature and develop life-long utilities. In my last year in orchestra, I know that in addition to making music with my fellow classmates, I will also miss the unforgettable friendships and memories, as having their presence never failed to make my day.”

-Alesa Gin, Class of 2015

“Orchestra is such a unique program, there are so many reasons to take advantage of the opportunity to join and no really good reasons not to. First of all it eases the transition to high school, especially at a school like Westview. It’s easy to feel a little isolated even if you know people in your grade, but orchestra is like a family and a safe space to ask for advice, make lasting friendships, and find stability. Also, the rewards of continuing your instrument are beyond counting. Music keeps your mind sharp and focused, but also helps you channel your emotions and get away from stressful things (again hard to do at Westview). At the same time, having orchestra on your college app shows well roundness and commitment to something that benefits the school, this really sets you apart from people who just do sports or academics. There are also service, leadership, and skill building opportunities in a high school orchestra which really sets it apart from middle school, and benefits your application as well as your personal growth as a student and as a young adult. It’s not about your college application, joining orchestra is something you need to do because you like your instrument or you want to become more comfortable playing it, but at the same time even though you’re dedicating a lot of time to this, you’re only getting more benefits in the long run. Also, don’t base your opinion of school orchestras solely on middle school, we have so much more to learn here with opportunities like solo and ensemble festivals as well

as trips to colleges to take lessons and give concerts. In orchestra you get the opportunity to play music in the community with Tri-M or even to eventually tutor (or take lessons from) other musicians. Westview Gold is something you have to try out and experience to understand best, and joining has to be one of the best decisions I've made these past four years.”

-Mary Aquiningoc, Class of 2015