Walter Reed Middle School

Phone: (818) 487-7600

Class Website: wrmsmusic.com password: strings1920 (please bookmark)

STRINGS SYLLABUS 2019-20

Mr. Rosen

stewart.rosen@lausd.net

We are very glad you have become a part of the music department at Walter Reed Middle School! There is a strong tradition at this school for fine music and you are about to be a part of that great tradition. All of you in the first year classes are the beginning of even better groups for next year. Please read the following information carefully and mark the concert date on your family calendar. If you plan on purchasing an instrument, please visit the website and read the guide I wrote about purchasing instruments.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES:

 Strings is a beginning orchestra class, in which students will have the opportunity to learn

how to play violin, viola, cello, or bass. The class is the foundation of a three-year program that students will have the opportunity to continue in seventh and eighth grade. Which instrument a student is assigned to is a joint decision between student and teacher, depending on the instrumentation of the class. Before playing begins, all students will learn about the families of instruments and basic musical concepts. Throughout the year, in addition to learning how to play their instrument, students will learn to read and write notes and rhythms, to critically evaluate musical performances, and to conduct themselves professionally on stage. The class will participate in our winter concert, and it will culminate in an end of the year concert, showcasing the student’s mastery of first year strings repertoire and performance practices.

REQUIRED MATERIALS (Students must bring these EVERY day!):

* Walter Reed Student Agenda
* Pencil and Paper
* Silent Reading Book
* Strictly Strings book (To be handed out after you are assigned your instrument. You must COVER this book for a grade!)
* Sheet protectors in which to keep all sheet music passed out to you

(This is school property and must be returned in good condition at the end of the school year. If you lose your music or return it in poor condition, you will be charged a replacement cost of 50 ¢ per page.)

GRADING:

30% Evening Concert Performance

Students are to participate in two culminating performances in order to present mastery of the standards, once each semester. Students will have two concerts this year; one in December, and the second in May. Please mark the concert date on your family calendar as soon as you receive the music department calendar this week! Please keep in mind that the students may need to be at school up to an hour before the concert begins, and must stay for the entire concert in order to receive full credit.

15% Practice Sheet

After the students are assigned instruments (about two weeks into the school year),

their homework becomes practicing on their own, at least three times a week. They write down their practices on their practice sheet, get a parent signature, and turn the practice sheet in every Monday. It is students’ responsibility to pick up their practice sheet after it has been graded each week.

20% Quizzes/Playing Tests

 Students will be assessed individually through playing brief passages on their own in

class, about once every two weeks. Students should practice and prepare ahead of

time, in order to be confident and time-efficient in testing.

15% Tear-Offs

Tear –Offs are the signature portion of letters that we use to communicate with parents regarding important issues throughout the school year.

 15%\_\_\_Classwork and Preparation

Students must bring all required classroom materials every day in order to participate effectively in class. Students will be graded down for forgetting these items. Students will also have several other in-class assignments such as the staff illustration and concert reflections that will need to be completed for a grade in class.

5% Live Concert Evaluations

All students are required to attend at least 1 live performance per semester, not including the concerts in which they perform. After attending the concerts, the students must complete two “Concert Review” forms, which may be obtained from Room 147. The live concerts the students review may be any genre of music, preferably outside of school, but may also include the 7th and 8th grade evening concerts at Walter Reed if necessary. A list of these concert dates is included in the music department calendar, which the students will receive the first week of school.

A - 90 – 100%

B - 80-89%

C - 70-79%

D - 65-69

Fail - 0 – 64%

CONCERT ATTIRE:

 It is important to dress professionally to uphold the great tradition of musical

performance at Walter Reed Middle School. Our concert attire for the end of the year

concert will be as follows:

GIRLS: White blouse (either short or long sleeve, not sleeveless)

Long black skirt (past the knee when seated!) or black dress pants

Black dress shoes (flat or medium heel, closed or open toe)

If socks are worn, they must be black

 BOYS: White long sleeve button-down dress shirt, tucked in (no tie or jacket)

 Black slacks with black belt

 Black dress shoes and black socks

**If concert attire cannot be purchased, the Walter Reed white polo and blue slacks are acceptable.**

CLASSROOM RULES: BE SAFE, BE RESPONSIBLE, and BE RESPECTFUL!

Behavior in the music department is incredibly important, as the seventh and eighth grade groups travel to competitions and trips. At all times you must demonstrate respect for yourselves and others, and remember that you represent your family and your school.

Many musical instruments and equipment are stored in your classroom. Do not touch ANY instrument other than the one you have been assigned to. If in doubt, ask permission first.

At the beginning of class, walk in and set your chair in your spot quietly. Quickly take out your agenda and copy the day’s goals and assignments. Follow prompts on the board for what to do next. If you have a question, wait until Mr. Rosen finishes taking roll, then raise your hand. At the end of class, stack your chair, clean up your area, and wait in your spot until you are dismissed.

STANDARDS:

The California Music Standards can be found by visiting www.wrmsmusic.com and clicking on the standards tab.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:

It is okay to record our concerts for your own family purposes. Please do **not** post these videos on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Vimeo, or other social media sites that are searchable and public. This is in compliance with the LAUSD Responsible Use Policy, as well as Walter Reed MS policy. This is for student safety, and we ask for your cooperation. If you have a question about whether or not a video is alright to post, please send an email to Mr. Rosen

CLASS DONATIONS:

If you would like to help us out by donating items, we are always accepting the following items:

9 volt batteries, AA batteries, Korg CA-1 Tuner, Pitchhawk G-2 clip tuner, Everest 4/4 violin/viola shoulder rest, all instrument rosin, Kleenex. All donations are very much appreciated!

Please tear off and return to Mr. Rosen for a grade

--------------------------------------------------------tear off----------------------------------------------------------------------

We have reviewed this syllabus as a family, and will mark the June concert date on our calendar immediately. We understand the grading procedure, rules, and expected behavior for Strings class.

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Student Name Student Signature

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Parent Name Parent Signature

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Parent Email Parent Phone Number

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Class Period