**Syllabus**

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to a new year in the creation of music at Sprayberry School Orchestra programs. I am very excited to be part of this wonderful community. I am happy that you are part of our orchestras; your talent and musicianship is an asset to the artistic music environment in our society. The orchestra program at Sprayberry School performs each year in several concerts and festivals. I believe music is a powerful tool to transform our society positively. I will work with all my energy to keep up the excellent tradition of music performance at Sprayberry and with dedication from students and parents; we will continue to achieve even greater success. Students in the orchestra program at Sprayberry High School have participated in Governor’s Honor Program, District Honor Orchestra, University of Georgia Honor Orchestra, Georgia All-State Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Emory Youth Orchestra, Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, and many other noteworthy ensembles and events. Everyone in the orchestra is a winner; they learn to work together in harmony and in a healthy environment. Some students will become professional musicians; others will love and appreciate arts and its global culture.

Our website is accessible through the SHS website under the “Academics”, the Arts”, and then Orchestra link.  
Please this site at <http://sprayberryorchestra.com/> for weekly updates, calendar information, media, and additional student opportunities.

Payments for fees and other donations will go through our booster club, the SHSOPA (SHS Orchestra Parents’ Association). Please make all checks and payments through SHSOPA, or pay via our website using PayPal; **treasurershsopa@gmail.com**

Note that a $5 charge is implemented for all online payments due to the PayPal fee.

I will work to bring in exemplary clinicians and instrumentalists to work with your student throughout this year; however, the importance of finding a private instructor cannot be overemphasized. Please contact me if you need a recommendation for a teacher.

I look forward to seeing and meeting you all at our Potluck Dinner/Performance **Parent Meeting TBA.**

Please plan to attend, as we will discuss information such as concert dates and attire, fees, communication systems, volunteering opportunities, SHSOPA information, and any other matters related to orchestra.

If you have any questions, please call me at school at 770- 578-3200 X 280 or by e-mail at: sergio.rodriguez@cobbk12.org. I know you are going to enjoy our orchestra programs.

Music is my life, and I am so honored to share it with you.

Musically yours, Sergio Rodriguez Director of Orchestras

**Schedule 2023-2024**

**August**1 First day of school17 Putlock Dinner and Welcome performance Place TBA  
21 Asynchronous Day

**September  
8 Tri-M Music Honor Society Interest Meeting at 7:45 AM orchestra room**19 GMEA All State Registration Deadline  
  
25-29 Fall Break

26 GMEA Solo & Ensemble Registration Deadline

**October**4 Labor Day Holiday **7** GMEA solo & ensemble performance. Osborne HS (organizer: Anthony Avitollo)

**14 ORCHESTRA**  District andAll-State First Round Auditions. Pope HS (organizers: Ashley Culley and Corie Benton)

16 Asynchronous Learning Day

**November**

**13 Orchestra Pumpkin Pops Fall Concert LCH**

**10-11 ORCHESTRA**  High School Honor Orchestra (Harrison HS - Organizers: Dwayne Wasson and Koji Mori)

20-24 Thanksgiving

**December**   
**1 Masterworks Concert (Chamber Orchestra)** LCH

20/01- 2 Winter Break

**January**

3 Student Holiday/Staff Day

15 MLK Holiday

**13 ORCHESTRA** [All-State Orchestra Final Auditions](https://www.gmea.org/aso-audition-information) ([The Westminster Schools](https://goo.gl/maps/8FGSz6k9Qm2Yqpw89))

27 Mini Camp SHS 9:30-12:30 PM TBA

**February  
7-9 ORCHESTRA** Large Group Performance Evaluation  
  
GMEA Large Group Performance.

GMEA LGPE Philharmonic Orchestra

GMEA LGPE Sinfonia Orchestra

(Walton HS - Organizers: Sara Grimes and Perry Holbrook)

19-23 Winter Break

**March**

4 Asynchronous Learning Day  
  
**6-8 ORCHESTRA** GMEA LGPE Chamber Orchestra

(Harrison HS - Organizers: Jessie Fuchs and Koji Mori)

April

1-5 Spring Break

**24 Spring Concert**  LCH

**27 Stardust Concert (Chamber) Mableton, GA**

Please note that some above the above dates may change, but *all* concerts are firm and will not be moved. In the event that a change has been made, the director will email an amendment to the handbook to both parents and students and I will also update CTLS. Assume that all concerts are at 7:00pm, with a rehearsal beforehand for students. Parents and students are expected to stay for the **entire** concert unless otherwise discussed with the director.

**Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Sprayberry High School Orchestra Program to develop a lifelong appreciation for music and the arts within each of our students. In addition, we strive to help students build skills that will allow them to be valuable members of society once they graduate Sprayberry High School.

**Classes Offered**

**Sinfonia Orchestra**

The Sinfonia Orchestra, which meets 1st Period every day, is comprised of musicians who display the ability to perform music appropriate to the GMEA Level 3, 4 and 5 repertoire list. Students in this orchestra will work to meet the Sprayberry High School Orchestra “Intermediate” Level Requirements by the end of the school year.

Students in this ensemble are required to attend all concerts, announced afterschool rehearsals as needed in January, February and March, and the Large Group Performance Evaluation in March. Students in this ensemble are encouraged to audition for the GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra and the GMEA All-State Orchestra.

**Philharmonic Orchestra**

The Philharmonic orchestra, which meets 2nd Period every day, is comprised of musicians who display the ability to perform music appropriate to the GMEA Level 4, 5 and 6 repertoire list. Students in this orchestra will work to meet the Sprayberry High School orchestra “Advanced” Level Requirements by the end of the school year. Membership in this ensemble is by audition only and may be revoked at any time due to lack of preparation or discipline issues.

Students in this ensemble are required to attend all concerts, announced afterschool rehearsals as needed in January, February and March, and the Large Group Performance Evaluation in March. Students in this ensemble are encouraged to audition for the GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra and the GMEA All-State Orchestra.

**Chamber Orchestra**

The Chamber Orchestra, which meets 3rd Period every day, is comprised of musicians who display the ability to perform music appropriate to the Level 5 and 6 repertoire list. Membership in this ensemble is by audition only and may be revoked at any time due to lack of preparation or discipline issues. Students in this ensemble will prepare and perform literature of the highest difficulty.

Students in this ensemble are strongly encouraged to audition for the GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra and the GMEA All-State Orchestra.

A black and yellow banner with a black and yellow logo

Description automatically generatedSupplies List 2023-2024

Properly working instrument

1. Electronic tuner w/clip (Snark, Intelli-touch, Korg, etc.) OR tuning app (Tonal Energy, gStrings, Chroma, etc.)
2. Method book for your instrument:

***Sinfonia & Philharmonic Orchestra: Essential Technique for Strings Bk. 3***

***Philharmonic Orchestra***: : ***Sound innovation for Strings Advanced String Orchestra***

Chamber Orchestra: ***Sound innovation for Strings Advanced String Orchestra***

1. #2 Pencils

In addition, students must also have the following supplies for their specific instrument:

# VIOLIN

Rosin

Soft cleaning cloth

Shoulder rest (Professional style: Kun, Everest, etc.)

# VIOLA

Rosin

Soft cleaning cloth

Shoulder rest (Professional style: Kun, Everest, etc.)

# CELLO

Rosin

Soft cleaning cloth Rubber rock stop

# BASS

Bass Rosin (Pops Brand in red container) Soft cleaning cloth

Rubber rock stop  
  
OPTIONAL SUPPLIES

1. Wire music stand (great for practicing at home)
2. Extra strings (in case of broken string emergencies) but high-quality strings
3. Metronome: electronic or app (helps the student keep a steady beat when practicing)

Note: Students audition for Allstate should have the original etudes.

<https://www.gmea.org/aso-audition-information>

**Uniforms**

[[](http://www.stageaccents.com/view_image.php?image=user_files/Shot_6_037_2.jpg) [](http://www.stageaccents.com/view_image.php?image=user_files/ENSB1.jpg)](http://www.stageaccents.com/view_image.php?image=user_files/Shot_6_037_2.jpg)

The Sprayberry Orchestras wear formal uniforms for performances. It is imperative that everyone looks professional during all performances, including correct dress, tux, apparel, and shoes/socks. Ladies wear a floor length black dress with a scoop neck and men wear a tuxedo. All Orchestra Men WILL need a tuxedo jacket. You are welcome to find a gently worn dress or tuxedo of comparable style. **If you show up to a concert without the correct attire, you will not be permitted to perform and will be counted as absent from the concert.**

*We do have a small number of dresses and tuxedos that have been generously donated to us from past students, though sizes are limited. If you cannot afford a dress, please contact Mr. Rodriguez and he will work to find you a dress!*

**Ladies:**

Each lady is responsible for purchasing a dress that meets the requirements above. It is not necessary that you find an identical dress to the one pictured above, but it *must* look professional. The dress should be floor length, and no straps should be visible. In addition, you should practice playing in your dress to ensure that no mobility is lost for the concert. If you have any questions about the dress, please contact Mr. Rodriguez before purchasing. Note that nearly all dresses purchased online will need to be altered! Please allow ample time for any alterations that need to occur.

**Gentlemen:**

Each gentleman is responsible for purchasing tuxedo pants, shirt, bowtie, black socks and dress shoes. The pants must be formal in nature. Black jeans or Dockers style are **not** permitted. The tuxedo shirt should be wing tip (see picture above) and must fit well, as *cummerbunds are no longer a requirement*. The bowtie must be black. The shoes must also be black and formal. No tennis shoes. Please check that your tuxedo still fits from the year before; you are going to grow a lot from Freshman to Senior year, so plan accordingly.

**Syllabus**

**Grading**

**Formative Assessments……………………………………………………………………..…………………70%**

(Daily/Weekly Rehearsal Grades, Mid-Unit Assessments, Classwork, etc.)

**Summative Assessments………………………………………………………………………………………20%**

(End of Unit Assessments, Playing Evaluations, Quizzes, Concert Evaluation, Concert Wrap-Up)

**Final Exam/Midterm……………………………………………………………………………………...……10%**

**Daily classroom work**. Students who are ready and participate in full with classroom activities will receive 100% daily grade. Student off task; cellphone use, not prepared for class (music folder, long fingernails, skipping) will receive zero class participation grade)

Students are rewarded in many ways for the time and effort that they devote to the orchestra, with many of these rewards being intangible. Class grades are not a reflection of time or money spent, and grades are not given as rewards- they are earned. Orchestra is a co-curricular activity and operates independently from any extra-curricular performances or activities such as fund-raising, Solo and Ensemble Performance Evaluation, Honor Orchestra, All-State, etc.

**Playing Assessment**

Playing assessments on the class material are administered through in-class playing tests, seating auditions, or recorded in Charms. A recording, written feedback and a grade are provided for each assignment. Students must make a concerted effort to prepare for auditions and assessments outside of class through diligent practice. Students who are not prepared for assessment may earn very low scores. Students must complete all of the assignments by the posted deadlines. Seating for orchestra concerts and advancement to a higher-level orchestra class will be determined by assessment scores and overall progress. Though the director may allot small segments of time for in-class practicing, class time is for instruction and rehearsal, not individual practice.

**Written Theory Assignments**

Well-rounded musicians must know both music history and music theory, and we now have ample time for integration on 4x4 block schedule. Students will complete music theory worksheets (provided) and a series of music history assignments. These assignments will be completed in class, unless otherwise noted.

**Practice Requirement**

Students *must* practice maintaining their skills; to achieve improvement in skills takes concerted effort and time. Each student will need a different amount of practice to meet the requirements for performance in orchestra. **No** musician can be successful without any practice. Practice outside of orchestra rehearsal is essential and required, even for cellists and bassists who do not own an instrument. All violinists and violists are required to take their instruments home on a weekly basis and always on Fridays. Cellists and bassists who DO NOT have an instrument at home will have to practice before or after school or take an instrument home on the weekend. Students who DO have a cello or bass at home must keep the instrument in working condition and may be asked to bring the instrument to school occasionally and certainly for concert performances. If students are not learning the assigned music because they are not practicing, their overall grade will reflect the lack of effort.

**Mid Term or Final Exam**

The mid-term or final will be a written music theory, aural skills, and history test at the end of the semester. The final exam additionally contains a playing component, while the midterm will have a more written assessment focus.

Attendance Policy: These concerts are formal events that act as conclusions to an instructional preparation period and serve to display the musical development of the class. **As such, it is vital that all students attend each concert**. Please plan well in advance so that there will not be a problem with transportation to or from a concert site, and please mark these events on your calendar now to avoid any type of double booking. Legitimate reasons for missing a concert include the following: death in the family, serious student illness, or unavoidable schedule conflict (must be explained *in writing* to the director **at least** one week before the performance). Unexcused absences consist of student work- or job-related conflicts, broken strings or problems with your instrument, scheduled doctor’s appointments or minor surgery, problems with the required uniform, conflicts with extra-curricular school activities, lack of transportation, etc. If a student is going to miss a performance, the director must be notified immediately either by e-mail or voicemail. An unexcused absence will disqualify the student from receiving a varsity letter.

A student who misses a concert for any reason will perform selections of their concert literature for the director within five school days so they can be evaluated on their progress during the preparation period.  It is the students’ responsibility to contact the director to schedule and complete the makeup performance in adequate time. Failure to perform the music for a director will result in the student receiving a 0 for the concert.  In addition, students who regularly miss concerts will either be removed from the classroom experience or from the overall program.

Notice: Any synthetic nails or long fingernails are not acceptable for orchestra; It is impossible to play well since students need to play with their tip of their fingers and vibrate.

Students who persist in keeping long fingernails will not be allow to perform concerts or festivals and might be transfer out of the orchestra class.

**Letter Points**

Orchestra students can earn a letter, bar, or star for outstanding achievement and participation in orchestra. Students who want to letter and/or bar in orchestra must go beyond the minimum expectations in several areas. Performance in orchestra class earns a report card grade; participation outside of class earns a letter, bar or star. In order to letter, the required point total must be earned, and the following guidelines apply:

1. Students must have completed at least one full school year of orchestra and must register for orchestra for the next school year. Students who letter are expected to continue in orchestra for the rest of high school.
2. Students must meet all the classroom expectations and practice requirement published in the orchestra handbook, earning a B or better in orchestra for the entire year. Students who earn lower than a B will not be considered for a letter, because that means the minimum expectations were not met.
3. Students must earn the required number of points to earn a letter, bar, or star.
4. Attendance at all orchestra concerts, Middle School Honors Orchestra Auditions, Winter Workshop, Orchestra Large Group Performance Evaluation, or any other expected or mandatory orchestra performances or trip is a crucial part of earning the letter.
5. Points will be deducted for unexcused absences from any scheduled rehearsals or performances.
6. Points will be deducted for failure to fulfill commitments to auditions, ensembles, rehearsals, or performances. This includes Solo and Ensemble, Honor Orchestra, All-State Orchestra, Masterworks Orchestra, Pit Orchestra, church jobs, or any other services for which the student has committed or volunteered.
7. Students must have all debts to the orchestra paid in full. The student account must be current.
8. Students who letter in another area first (such as a sport) will receive an orchestra pin instead of a letter.
9. Students will receive letter points for extra events such as special performances, field trips, or working for an orchestra event. Students will not receive letter points for participating in a fundraiser where the profit goes to student credit.

Cumulative point requirements:

♫ 500 points are required to letter ♫ 1300 to earn a second bar

♫ 900 to earn a bar ♫ 1700 to earn a star

Examples of points:

100 Participation in Concert Orchestra (125 Philharmonic, 150 Chamber)

20 Attendance at Masterworks Performance

10 Attendance of concert outside of school

5 Attendance at rehearsal outside of school

-25 Cell phone use in class

-50 Unexcused absence at performance, failure to notify in timely manner

**Senior Honor Chords**

Graduating Seniors who have participated in orchestra for four years (eight semesters) will receive music honor chords to wear at graduation.  These chords are for the graduate to keep but can only be obtained by successfully completing all eight (8) semesters of orchestra during their high school career.  Students who transfer in to the Sprayberry Orchestra program will receive the same honor if their transcript reflects an orchestral ensemble in each of their semesters in high school from the previous school(s).

**Participation Fee**

The orchestra program has a participation fee for a co-curricular activity. Your donation keeps the program running effectively and gives all students learning opportunities in orchestra. There are also a few consumable items that all students use that must be periodically purchased or replaced, and the orchestra does not get funds from the county for these items.

The participation fee this year is $150. Fundraising is available to assist you in meeting your financial obligations. This fee should be paid before any other expenses such as concert tickets or field trips. The participation fee includes:

* theory worksheets
* school instrument maintenance and repair, purchase of strings
* yearly purchase of new music
* equipment such as tuners, shoulder rests, batteries, rock stops, rosin, etc.
* SmartMusic equipment and subscriptions for use in the classroom
* guest instructors, performers, or clinicians
* bus transportation on some orchestra field trips
* entry fees for performance evaluation or other performances
* fees for performance sites and maintenance
* awards such as certificates, medals, and orchestra letters
* plaque and award engraving
* purchase of recordings for daily orchestra instruction
* food provided for the groups.
* many more miscellaneous expenses

\*\*\*The Participation Fee is due on **Friday, September 24th**\*\*\*

The fee can be paid with cash or check, or online via the SHS Orchestra website – all checks need to be made payable to SPRAYBERRY ORCHESTA BOOSTER PROGRAM. Alternatively, you can pay dues via our website at <https://www.sprayberryorchestra.com/> under “Parent and Student Info” 🡪 Membership Dues.

*Note that a $5 surcharge is implemented for online payments due to PayPal fees.*

***Thank you for your contribution and support!***

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