

**MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS  
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET  
MODESTO HIGH SCHOOL 2019-20**

**COURSE TITLE:** Orchestra  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Mr. Cover  
**TEXTBOOK:** In Class Hand-Outs & Sheet Music

**OTHER MATERIALS:**

Instrument  
Folder(s)  
Rosin  
Pencil  
Staff paper note pad

**MAJOR UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Proper tone production - Specific Instrument Technique  
Scales & Arpeggios - Music Theory - Music History  
Rhythm - Terminology - Performances

**GRADING/EVALUATION POLICY:**

Since Orchestra is a performance-oriented subject, students will be graded based on participation in class and performances. Written quizzes, a midterm and final examination will also be given.

Daily Participation	10pts
Quizzes:	10-50 pts/ea
Playing tests	10-50 pts/ea
Midterm/Final	appx 100 pts
Concerts	200 pts

The midterm and final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions pertaining to the major units of instruction we cover each semester. These tests will be cumulative exams.

Concerts are mandatory. Dates are on our calendar at [www.mohimusic.org](http://www.mohimusic.org) – make sure they are on your family’s calendar as well.

**METHOD OF GRADING AND SCALE:**

Total Number of Points Earned /Total Points Possible

97-100% A+	87-89% B+
94-96% A	84-86% B
90-93% A-	80-83% B-
77-79% C+	67-69% D+
74-76% C	64-66% D
70-73% C-	60-63% D-

59% and below F

**If you vandalize a school instrument, you or your parents/guardians will be required to pay for its replacement. Prices vary according to various instruments.**

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

If a student wishes to possibly bring their grade up ONE letter grade, for example a D to up to a C or a C up to a B, they have a couple of options. One option is to write a paper that would include topics such as the history and development of a major band or orchestral instrument, a biography of a major composer, or other appropriate musical topic approved by the instructor. The paper will be no more than 4 pages in length. The paper will be worth a maximum of 5 percentage points.

The second option is to attend a music performance approved by the instructor and write a summary of the event attended. Two events may be attended. Each paper will be worth a maximum of 2.5 percentage points for a maximum total of 5 percentage points.

Check with the instructor to see if you are eligible for extra credit before doing the assignment. Additional specifications will be given at the time of assignment.

**MAKE-UP PRACTICES: Students whose absence is excused shall be allowed two (2) days for each day of absence to make up work or take a test. Responsibility for making up missed work lies with the student. Refer to the *Student Conduct Code* regarding make-up practices for other types of absences.**

**HOMEWORK PRACTICES:** To insure success in Orchestra, students are expected to rehearse in class every day. Additionally, practicing at home to develop better technique and improve tone is required. Ideally, 30 minutes of daily practice to reinforce class materials should be sufficient for maintaining the minimum skills. 30 minutes to an hour is suggested if an intermediate student plans on growing as a musician.

Instruments are available for purchase through local music stores and online. Additionally they can be found at flea markets and pawn shops – but you should be careful when purchasing your instrument that you are getting a good deal and a quality instrument. Ask Mr. Cover for details if you are interested!

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Any test or assignment that a student may not keep following its return and review will be retained by the teacher for at least 9 weeks following the issuance of report cards.