



**RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Course Overview**



**Orchestra Honors**  
**Course # 05120830**

**General Information**

Credits:	1.0	Length:	Full Year
Weighted:	Honors	Format:	Meets Daily
Prerequisite:	Middle school orchestra ability or above and/or teacher recommendation	Grade:	9-12

**Course Description**

This honors course explores master works from the orchestra repertoire. The orchestra students will study and perform music from the Baroque through the contemporary music repertoire. They will also acquire and perfect new instrumental technique skills and apply them to the particular works selected for performance.

This course will require consistent practice outside of school given the advanced and challenging level of music studied. In addition, students will be scheduled for four sectionals each marking period during their non-scheduled class time. At home practice is an expected requirement for this course. Attendance at all concerts, rehearsals, and community performances scheduled outside the school day is mandatory.

Elements of music fundamentals and musicianship are progressively taught and developed and refined throughout the school year.

**Course Objectives:**

Orchestra literature is one of the Western culture's greatest treasures. It provides a broad historical perspective on the moment in history when a particular symphonic work was created and opens up discussions that lead to essential questions about how music reflects as well as shapes culture.

Following instruction students will gain the enduring understanding that:

- In order to engage in an ensemble you must be both a performer and a listener with the ability to react.
- To become a skilled performer requires persistence.
- Different instruments require different physical skill sets.
- Written music is open to individual interpretation.

Participation in the orchestra program will facilitate participation in discussions of essential questions:

- When does playing an instrument move from mere repetition or imitation to creative and artful performance?
- To what extent does participation in an instrumental ensemble impact the performance of the ensemble?
- How conscious and deliberate is the process of creating good music?
- When is music deliberate and when is it most spontaneous?

### **Common Assessments: Music Preparation**

There will be four common assessments on music preparation during the school year.

### **Major Strands of Study:**

**Intonation** – the study of playing in tune and creating the correct written notes with one’s fingers on any instrument.

**Rhythm** – the process of executing correctly the ordered recurrent alternation of strong and weak elements in the flow of sound and silence in music

**Expression and dynamics** – the creative element and the techniques used to communicate meaning in a musical performance

**Ensemble Balance**- the study and implementation of the pyramid harmonic balance in a particular piece selected for performance

### **Materials & Texts**

Movements from significant works by major composers will be explored and rehearsed in detail. The repertoire will include, but not be limited to overtures, symphonies, orchestral suites, symphonic poems, light classical selections, some arrangements of major works, and movie soundtracks. Additionally chorales for strings, scales, exercises and warm-ups will be utilized. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Lower strings (celli and basses) are available for students' use through the District rental/maintenance plan at a nominal cost.

#### MATERIALS

1. Strings, woodwind, brass, timpani, and percussion instruments
2. Electronic tuners, CD player, CDs.
3. Selected artistic works for presentation in concerts

#### TEXTS

1. Anne Carothers Hall (2005) *Studying Rhythm*, Pearson Prentice Hall
2. Anderson, G. (1996) *Harmonized Rhythms for Orchestra*, California, Neil A. KJOS Music Co.
3. Hurley, G. (2003) *String Syllabus Volume One*, Virginia, American String Teachers Association
4. Allen, M., Gillespie R., Hayes, P. (2001) *Advanced Technique for Strings*, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Corp.

Several books on technique will be also used:

Essential Technique for Strings - Intermediate technique studies

Bach Chorale for Strings - Arranged by Richard Thurston for string ensembles

Michael Allen and Don Hanna (1995) *Daily Warm-Ups for Full Orchestra*

MEDIA

Recordings of music from [Classical Music Online.net](http://ClassicalMusicOnline.net) and [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com)

***Summer Assignment***

There is no string summer program at Radnor High School; therefore there are no assignments, just the recommendation to practice scales and warm-up exercises to maintain muscle memory in both hands.