

Langley High School Orchestra

2021-22 Syllabus

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I. Course Descriptions

Intermediate Orchestra

Grades: 9, 10 (Freshman, Sophomore sections)

Prerequisite: Attainment of beginning level skills and permission of instructor

Students continue developing as individual musicians and as members of a musical group. Emphasis is placed on the development of intermediate level technical and ensemble skills necessary for performance. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course.

Advanced Orchestra

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 (Junior, Senior, Philharmonic sections)

Prerequisite: Successful audition

Students in this course form the representative string performing group(s) for the school. Emphasis is placed on the sequential development of advanced technical, ensemble, and disciplinary skills necessary for refined rehearsal and performance both in and out of school. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course.

II FCPS Co-curricular Agreement

Many courses include participation requirements outside the regular school day. In order to receive credit for orchestra, students must be enrolled in the course and meet both the school-day and after-school requirements listed in the calendar of events.

III Link to Program of Study:

<http://www.fcps.edu/is/finearts/music.shtml>

IV. The Orchestras

Philharmonic (2nd Period)

- Membership is by Audition only, private instruction is necessary
- Competes at the Grade VI Level at Orchestra Assessment
- Members are expected to represent LHS in District, Regional, and All-State events
- Often combines with members of the band for full orchestra projects

Senior (Symphonic) Orchestra (4th Period)

- For seniors who have completed the symphonic class and by audition
- Competes at the Grade V level at Orchestra Assessment
- Usually combines with Junior class for performances (“Symphonic”)

Junior (Symphonic) Orchestra (6th Period)

- For juniors who have completed the intermediate class and by audition
- Competes at the Grade V level at Orchestra Assessment
- Usually combines with Senior class for performances (“Symphonic”)

Sophomore (Concert) Orchestra (5th Period)

- For sophomores of all levels
- Usually combines with Freshmen class for performances (“Concert”)

Freshman (Concert) Orchestra (1st Period)

- Membership is for freshmen of all levels
- Usually combines with Sophomores for performances (“Concert”)

V. Materials: (Required)

Instruments

- Students who play violin and viola will need an instrument of the correct size with bow, case, and accessories (rosin, shoulder rest) for rehearsal and daily practice. Lockers are available in the orchestra room for students.
- Students who play cello and bass may rent a FCPS instrument for use in class, although they will need their own for practice and performance. In order to use the school

instruments, you will need to provide a **\$20 check**, payable to Langley HS, and to fill out an **Instrument Rental Form** (available at orientation or first day of class). Please do this by the 2nd week of school.

- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/152XHGLgKesjXH-M4CoCkYAtFYKKneHoN>

Required Uniforms for performances

1. Formal wear (assessment, competitions, special events)

Tuxedo (with white shirt, bow tie, cummerbund), black socks, black dress shoes
Or Custom Langley Dress, with closed-toe formal black shoes

2. Semi-formal attire (school assemblies and events, trip performances)

Black Orchestra polo shirt, black pants, black shoes

3. Casual attire (team building activities, carwashes, casual performances)

Orchestra T-Shirt

Please refer to orchestra website for more detailed information about ordering materials including measurements, vendor contact information, pre-owned affordable options and optional Spirit Wear items to show orchestra pride. Please contact me if you qualify for financial scholarship as Langley Orchestra Society will assist with all required uniform items.

VI. Communication

Website: www.langleyorchestra.org

Orchestra eNewsletter: Sign up for periodic updates by providing preferred email on agreement

Schoology: Announcements, events and class activities will be hosted on this platform

Facebook, Instagram, Discord: students may join Social Media sites (created and monitored by Tri-M officers). *Langley d'Orchestra* on Facebook, *@langleyorchdorks* on Instagram

VII. Grading

Rehearsal participation 30% (2 times, 15 points each)

- Bring instrument and music to every rehearsal
- Be ready to start on time, stay on task, be respectful and do not disturb others
- Seek to improve with each repetition, mark suggestions in your part with a pencil
- Make a positive contribution to the rehearsal experience
- Cell phones are not tolerated when they distract from learning activities

Individual Performance Assessments 30% (2 times, 15 points each)

- Show evidence of preparation for quarterly playing tests (1-2)
- Perform excerpts in small groups to demonstrate proficiency with the assigned music
- Demonstrate growth and improvement as the year progresses

Ensemble Performance Assessments 30% (rehearsal(s): 10, performance(s): 20)

- Be responsible with your schedule, identify conflicts in advance, find solutions
- Prompt attendance is required for dress rehearsals and concerts
- Wear proper concert attire to show respect for the audience
- Display appropriate concert behavior throughout the performance
- Lead the audience by example by modelling active listening and enthusiastic support
- Note that your responsibilities end when the concert finishes

Semester Project (10%) Due at the end of 2nd and 4th Quarter

Project requirements must be met by the end of each semester. Students are required to complete one project that encourages their involvement in music outside the classroom. Students may choose from the following list of musical activities, but may not choose the same for both projects:

- Weekly Private lessons - submit form with teacher contact info, time of lesson, literature studied
- Participation in an outside orchestra or group – AYP, McLean Youth, regular worship service
- Audition or participation at VBODA event (District, SRO, All-State, Solo & Ensemble)
- Concert Review (Langley group or involving string instruments – description and critique)
- Essay on a musical topic of interest (composer or musical reflection)
- Class presentation introducing literature being played
- Original composition
- Unique project of similar scope

Mid-Term/Final Exam Policy/Weight

- Concerts serve as exams

All grading will be based on a total points system. Grades will then be calculated using the FCPS grading policy as outlined here:

- A (93-100) = 4.0
- A- (90-92) = 3.7
- B+ (87-89) = 3.3
- B (83-86) = 3.0
- B- (80-82) = 2.7
- C+ (77-79) = 2.3
- C (73-76) = 2.0
- C- (70-72) = 1.7
- D+ (67-69) = 1.3
- D (64-66) = 1.0
- F (below 64) = 0.0

Sample Playing Test Rubric

Technique:	1	2	3	4	5
Intonation:	1	2	3	4	5
Rhythm:	1	2	3	4	5
Tone Quality:	1	2	3	4	5
Bowing Facility:	1	2	3	4	5
Musicianship:	1	2	3	4	5

5 – Clearly demonstrated

4 – Mostly demonstrated but lacking precision

3 – Showing basic understanding

2 – Weak, needing remediation needed

1 – Showing little evidence of preparation, remediation required

VI. Student Advocacy Protocol

At Langley High School, students will:

- take ownership of their education through active engagement in the orchestra
- monitor their gradebook, the orchestra website, Facebook group and Remind for information
- use an agenda or digital calendar to track rehearsals, performance obligations, assessments, and deadlines for documents
- communicate directly with the director before parent/teacher communication is initiated