



# Lassiter Orchestra Syllabus

**Course Description:** This course is designed to develop musical understanding through ensemble participation and individual skill development (home practice), and to develop certain skills on a particular instrument in the String Instrument Family (violin, viola, cello and double bass). The class will rehearse daily during school hours. There will be possible after school rehearsals, depending on the event we are preparing for. Please check the calendar on the Lassiter Orchestra website for updates ([www.lassiterorchestra.org](http://www.lassiterorchestra.org)). Classes will perform publicly several times during the school year. Some orchestras may have additional performances (see calendar).

**Objectives:** The purpose of the orchestra program is to introduce students to higher levels of orchestral music and to develop skills on an instrument in the String Instrument Family. Strong emphasis is put on developing music reading skills and musicianship skills. Areas covered in all grades at differing levels will include:

- \* Correct playing position
- \* Technical skills
- \* Aural skills
- \* Performance practices and styles
- \* Music history and its historical connection to the literature
- \* Music theory
- \* Diverse orchestral literature appropriate for the various progressions of each ensemble
- \* Chamber music skills (i.e. small ensemble)

**Grading:** Grades will be based on these components:

Performance/ Written Assessments	50%
Rehearsal Skills	40%
Final Exam	10%
TOTAL	100%

*"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy, but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys of learning."*

*-Plato*

## REHEARSAL SKILLS

The **Rehearsal Skill** grade is determined by your ability to be prepared and have all necessary materials (instrument, music, pencil, etc.) and to take part in all in-class activities, as this is “common practice” for music ensembles. In addition, a student’s rehearsal etiquette is included in this grade. No food, beverage, or gum is to be permitted in the orchestra room during rehearsal.

### Practice Standard

Once a student has been introduced to a specific skill, individual practice is expected in order to master the skill. Music students should practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day, in order to reinforce the material taught in class. Good practice habits have a great effect on the success you will achieve in class.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial) I understand that in order to achieve excellence as an individual and to promote the growth of the ensemble, **DAILY PRACTICE is necessary** at home, before school, or during my lunch hour (pack lunch!).

### Courtesy

The etiquette of an orchestra student affects not only the student, but everyone in the ensemble. Proper **rehearsal etiquette** insures the ensemble’s ability to progress during rehearsals. All students are expected to follow rehearsal guidelines as outlined by the director and to respect their fellow orchestra members. Understanding the importance of **Courtesy** within the orchestra classroom and during rehearsals will insure your success in rehearsing and performing as a TEAM. Be mindful that how you carry yourself is a representation of your standard of excellence. Additionally, conduct for a substitute should be exemplary. A substitute should be considered a guest in our room and be treated accordingly.

*“Courtesy is a silver lining around the dark clouds of civilization;  
it is the best part of refinement and in many ways,  
an art of heroic beauty in the vast gallery of man’s cruelty and baseness.”*

*~Bryant McGill~*

## CLASS EXPECTATIONS

The following class expectations will allow us to make the most of valuable class time.

### Before School

1. Bring your instrument and music to the orchestra room and place it in the appropriate storage area as soon as you arrive to school. Please do not leave your instrument in the hallway, or in the main room.
2. You are welcome to practice or rehearse until the first bell.
3. While in the Orchestra Room, be respectful of those rehearsing. **PLEASE THROW OUT YOUR GARBAGE** before leaving. **Please do not move chairs or stands.**

### During Class

1. Arrive to class on time. Leave book-bag in blue-taped area under bulletin board.
2. Take your seat and get your instrument out and place your instrument case closed next to the left side of your chair.
4. Check the announcement screen: have all necessary materials (instrument, music, tuner, book, pencil, shoulder rest, rosin, etc.). Have materials you may need **BEFORE** class starts.
5. While tuning, please be silent. Noise during tuning interferes with the tuning process.
6. Practice passages taught in class that day before the next rehearsal. If you reinforce what you just learned, you'll be surprised how quickly you master the skills. "Star (\*)" passages needing practice during rehearsal. When you neglect practice, you slow down the progress of the class and YOURSELF.
7. Make an attempt to be attentive during class and follow directions the first time they are given. This saves time and we'll make real progress!
8. Pack up your instrument and music and return it to its appropriate space.  
**Cello and Bass players must loosen bows** and return their instrument to the rack.
9. Return to the orchestra room at the end of each day to pick up your instrument and music. If you have trouble catching the bus, the directors can help you figure out a way to get your instrument. Please let us know!

\_\_\_\_\_ (initials) **The school is not liable for instruments left overnight!**

## ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to participate in all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the director. This includes any extra before or after school rehearsals. Advance notice is to be given to the director if a prior commitment causes a student to miss a rehearsal or performance.

**A prior commitment is a date already committed to another event when the orchestra rehearsal/performance is announced**, not something more attractive that comes up a week before the rehearsal/performance. If you have a conflict, please inform Ms. Doemel, or Mr. Mori the **next day after a rehearsal or concert date is announced**. Religious holidays or conflicts with individual religious beliefs are considered excused, if the director is notified in writing by a parent. Conflicts with sports are resolvable, if you let me know **IN ADVANCE** ☺

**Make-up:** If a student misses a concert/performance for any reason, they must schedule an appointment to perform their performance literature with the directors for assessment of their individual part. Because the orchestra is a large group/team ensemble, please understand that missing a performance impacts all of the students in the ensemble who have worked incredibly hard to prepare for their performance. Every student is highly valued and we understand that there are unforeseeable emergencies (i.e., death in the family, illness, etc.). Please contact the directors in writing if there is a conflict/emergency with an event in the calendar.

## EQUIPMENT LIST

This is a list of important items needed for orchestra class. It is necessary that you have these items by the second week of school. Most music stores in the area will have these items in stock, but call before you make the trip.

1. **Instrument.** Please take the time to have your instrument checked for adjustment and size where it was rented/purchased. A new set of strings may also be in order (should be replaced at least yearly). Please replace *Super Sensitive* strings with the Tomastik *Dominant* strings or better. Save old strings in case yours break. A poorly functioning instrument will slow progress. Bow hair should be clean and full. Please have your bow rehaired, if it's not. Proper maintenance is REQUIRED. **Must have nametag on instrument case! ALL CASES MUST BE LABELED WITH A STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.**
2. **A small tuner with bridge hook-up, or a tuner app.** The Korg TM40 chromatic tuner/ metronome is recommended. You can purchase this and the bridge hook-up at an area music store, or you may go online to purchase one. You may also purchase a tuning app on your phone. There are some excellent tuners available for your phone. We will be using these regularly in class.
3. **A pencil.** Brought to class every day!
4. **A shoulder pad** for viola and violin players. This is an absolute necessity for proper technique and posture. Recommended models are Everest, Wolf, or similar styles. You get what you pay for, and some of the cheap shoulder rests are junk and don't stay on the instrument well.
5. **A rock stop** for cello and bass players for home use and concerts.
6. **Rosin**
7. An **extra set of strings** for your instrument. STRINGS BREAK!
8. A **metal folding stand** for home practice and trips. This is also important to ensure good posture.
9. A **soft cloth** to keep the instrument clean - old T-shirts work fine. Never put water or soap on any instrument. WIPE OFF STRINGS. Rosin builds up and sounds terrible and harms the finish on your instrument.

## REPAIRS

In the event that your instrument needs repair at a music repair facility, please request the repair shop to provide you with a loaner instrument that you may use while your instrument is being repaired. This is critical so that you may continue to receive credit for participating in class on a daily basis.



# LASSITER HIGH SCHOOL

# *Orchestra*

These are all important items that the school system does not supply. Except for the folding stand and rock stop, these items must be brought to class every day. Please replace these items as needed. Having these materials in class is necessary in order to participate in the class. Please let a director know if you cannot afford an item. You can contact us via email at: [Carol.Doemel@cobbk12.org](mailto:Carol.Doemel@cobbk12.org). [Koji.Mori@cobbk12.org](mailto:Koji.Mori@cobbk12.org)

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Please return by Friday.

Please check:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have read, understand, and agree to the "Orchestra Syllabus".
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have initialed Page 2 under Daily Participation and Page 3 concerning instruments left overnight.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have signed up for my orchestra class "Remind".

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Comments/ Conflicts \_\_\_\_\_

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