

Public Academy for Performing Arts

Orchestra Syllabus 2025-2026

Welcome to the Public Academy for Performing Arts Orchestra Program! As a member of the PAPA Orchestra, you will carry the responsibilities of maintaining high standards in personal conduct, musicianship, and academics. By maintaining these standards, you will have an enriched experience, which will also enrich the lives of those around you.

What We Do

We study instrumental music through performance:

- A variety of balanced repertoire, method books, scales, etudes, technical studies, and ensemble music will be used in our study of instrumental music.
- We are committed to successful growth, artistically and socially both within ourselves and as a group. Through hard work and dedication, we are determined to have productive rehearsals and entertaining performances, which will enrich our lives, our school, and our community. Understanding and demonstrating one's individual role in preparation for rehearsals and performances is paramount for successful growth.
- The program will be founded on a level of respect that will be shared with the people and equipment around us and will be passed on to future generations. "Please and Thank you" are a powerful tool and will go a long way.
- We will uphold the distinction of the Public Academy for Performing Arts.

Individual Preparation

Each student shall:

1. Work to understand the value of daily practice and proper practice procedures.
2. Attend all performances and rehearsals unless excused by the director.
3. Demonstrate proper care and maintenance of their instrument.
4. Demonstrate appropriate rehearsal discipline.
5. Act respectfully towards members of the ensemble, people at performance venues, and equipment.
6. Learn the value of solo playing and ensemble playing for enjoyment, auditions, performances and festival performance.

Classroom Rules

1. ALL PAPA Student Handbook rules and PAPA Orchestra rules apply when we are together as an Orchestra.
2. Be prepared with all required materials (instrument, method book, music, pencil, and supplies).
3. Respect others and their possessions.
4. Stay in your seat/designated area unless instructed to do otherwise.
5. No gum, food, or drink in the orchestra room (items are to be placed in designated areas).
6. Laptops can be a powerful tool, when used correctly. If they are a distraction, they will be removed.
7. Be here and be on time.
8. Respect all facilities we learn in.

Rehearsal Etiquette

1. Play only when instructed to do so.
2. Raise your hand if you have a question or concern.
3. Talk only after you have been acknowledged by the director.
4. Helping your neighbor is encouraged and should help the flow of rehearsal not hinder it.
5. You will be asked to have specific conversations with your neighbor, engage them and limit conversation to the provided topic.
6. A system of "my turn, your turn" will be applied to the learning process. Do not talk when a director is talking.
7. Always work to be the best you can be.
8. Use a pencil to be proactive about the music learning process.
9. When not playing, shadow bow and/or finger along with other sections that are playing.
10. Take the time to acknowledge growth and success, and celebrate: Affirmation, Service, Touch, Gifts, Time.

Summary

Goals will be set daily, weekly, monthly, by semester and for the year. Those goals will be met. Students driven to meet those goals will be met with positivity, students practicing "not learning" will be met with negativity.

Performance Uniform

PAPA Polo, Black Pants (no Jeans, Sweats or Yoga Pants), Long Colorful Socks,

- Shoes: Beginners: Black Dress Shoes (no sneakers or boots)
- Shoes: Intermediate and Advanced: Black and White Converse (Chuck Tayler)

Supplies

1. Your instrument in excellent playing condition.
2. All supplies for you instrument.
3. Violin/Viola sill need shoulder rests, Cello/Bass will need an endpin anchor/strap
4. Device to make audio recordings: digital recorder, Chromebook, smart phone, etc.
5. All students will need to maintain a folder with a pencil, music, method books.
6. All students must have their own tuner and metronome, either a device or an application.

Replacing Strings

It is recommended that String replacement take place once a year. The best time to replace strings is two weeks before MPA's.

Fingernails

Nails on the LEFT hand should be keep short. Acrylic and fake nails hinder your ability to play the instrument.

Instrument Storage

All students will be assigned a place where their instruments can be stored during the school day.
After school, the safest place for a student's instrument is at home, where it can be practiced and maintained.

Private Lessons

All students are encouraged to study with a qualified private music teacher. Private lessons provide:

1. Individual attention needed for advanced progress on a musical instrument.
2. Increased motivation and enjoyment in music.
3. Preparation for special groups, events, and scholarships.

For names of private music teachers, ask your director, or contact your local music stores.

Google Classroom Code

Google Classroom will be a central location for all class information, and materials that will be provided to the students. Students will submit information and tests via Google Classroom. Parent can also access the class as a means of staying informed.

Beginning Orch Code: **zd7f3xhr**

Intermediate Orch Code: **x36zb65i**

Advanced Orch Code: **xdzqsbbq**

Grades

(Grading system subject to change)

Grades will be comprised of:

100 pts. (x5 *per week*) **The Weekly Performance Grade**

- Have your instrument, music, instrument supplies and pencil daily.
- Your instrument is clean and in good working order.
- All classroom rules/etiquette followed.

100 pts. (*per unit*) **Demonstration of Musical Skills**

- Individual parts prepared at a high level or demonstration of continuing growth.
- Demonstration of ability and growth of musical skills, as listed on MPA Judging Sheets.

100 pts. (x2 *per assignment*) **Playing and written evaluations**

100 pts. (x2 *per event*) **Attendance/behavior at performances:**

- Attendance at all performances is essential for success.
- Any exception must be addressed with the directors **prior** to the performance. Those who have been approved will receive an additional assignment to make up the points.

100 pts. (*per event*) **Honor Points**

- (extra credit) will be awarded for participation activities such as: Auditions, Honor groups, Solo & Ensemble, Acts of service, etc.

Recorded Tests

Recorded tests will be assigned, which can be used for chair placements and part assignments. Students will use their school issued Chromebooks at home and submit their recording in Google Classroom.

For the file name, you will write: the group you are in, your name, followed by the title of the test, which you have recorded.

Ex: Sym, Tony Stark, Concert B-flat major scale with arpeggio.

When making the recording, before you play, say: Your Name and What You Are Playing.

Ex: Tony Stark, Concert B-flat major scale with arpeggio.

Tests are to be submitted before class; on the day it is due. Practice spaces can be made available to record before or after school.

Discipline Policy

Orchestra members are expected to follow the rules and always conduct themselves in a respectful manner. By choosing to be a member of the PAPA orchestras, students agree to hold themselves to the highest level of respect. In the event a student does not follow the rules, the following disciplinary actions will take place as deemed necessary:

- Verbal/Non-verbal warning.
- Adjustment to Weekly Grade.
- Private conference with the director(s) and/or counselor and/or administrator.
- Parent conference (by phone and/or at school).
- Assignment to an independent study program separated from the rest of the group, until they meet an individual set of behavior and performance requirements. While in the independent study program, the student will receive a “0” for the daily grade.
- Discipline referral with a recommendation to be removed from the orchestra.

Lettering

Lettering in the Public Academy for Performing Arts Orchestra Program is designed to honor the high school students who go above and beyond in performance and service opportunities. Doing the minimum required in performance and service is rewarded with a grade and credit for the class. Going above and beyond is rewarded with, letters, pins and bars.

Honor Points/Extra Credit Points are awarded for the successful completion of performance and service opportunities. Performance opportunities include but are not limited to take Auditions for and earning seats in Performance Groups like AYS, All-State, Honor Orchestra, and Scholarship Auditions. In addition, points can be awarded for service opportunities like helping set up for performances and maintaining a functional rehearsal space.

Accumulating Honor Points will lead to a recommendation for lettering which will be approved by the Office in accordance with Student Handbook recommendations for lettering.

Communication

When students have questions or concerns, time can be set aside for discussion outside of class time. Students should feel free to share questions and/or concerns between classes or before and after school.

If parents have any questions or concerns regarding the PAPA orchestra program, please contact Mr. Baca at PAPA school phone: (505) 830-3128 or via email at: abaca@paparts.org or through messaging in Google Classroom. Many questions can be addressed easily by phone. However, if a concern needs to be addressed at length, a Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC) can be scheduled.

Syllabus Acceptance

After reading the PAPA Orchestra Syllabus, please go to and fill out the Google Syllabus Acceptance Form:

<https://forms.gle/thTE3NRqWkNy7pdt9>

This is a graded assignment and is due no later than **Monday, August 18th**. This grade will serve as the first test grade. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Baca at PAPA, (505) 830-3128

I Am looking forward to working with you and bringing quality music education to your lives!

Anthony Baca
Orchestra Director

CC: Tamara Lopez
Executive Director

Instrument, Equipment and Supplies Information

BOOK

Beg: Essential Elements, Book 1 (orange)

Int: Essential Elements, Book 2 (purple)

And Essential Elements Book 1 (orange)

MUSIC STAND Everyone needs a Folding Music Stand

DIGITAL TOOLS

All members need a metronome, tuner, and a digital recorder (device, program or app.)

Tonal Energy is the recommended app.

LOCAL MUSIC STORES

Baum's Music: 2908 Eubank, 505.292.0707; Robertsons Violin Shop: 3201 Carlisle, 505.889-2999

Musicality: 6201 Pan American W Fwy, 505.889.2735

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT BRANDS

Fiddlerman, Holstein, Ming Jiang Zhu, Scott Cao, GCV, Yamaha, Tower Strings, Robertsons, Kohr

Note: Avoid blue, red, and green colors. All instruments should be natural wood color.

Instrument Supplies

Violin/Viola

Case with name tag

Bow

Rosin

Cleaning cloth (chemical free)

Shoulder rest

Recommended Strings:

Beg: Prelude, Helicore or Red Label

Adv: Dominant

Cello

Case with name tag

Bow

Rosin

Cleaning cloth (chemical free)

Endpin anchor

Recommended Strings:

Beg: Prelude, Helicore or Red Label

Adv: Dominant

Bass

Case with name tag

Bow

Bass rosin

Cleaning cloth (chemical free)

Endpin anchor

Adv: stool

Recommended Strings:

Beg: Prelude, Helicore or Red Label

Adv: Dominant

Calendar of Events

Events, Dates, Locations and Times are subject to change

| Day | Date | Event | Location | Time | Group |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| Mon | Aug 25 | Beginning Band/Orchestra 1 st Day with instruments | | | Beg. Band/Orch |
| Thurs | Oct 16 | Honor Orchestra HS Auditions Due | Recorded | | Camerata |
| | Oct 16-Nov 7 | All-State Band/Orchestra Audition Window | | Recorded | Adv. Band/Camerata |
| Fri, Sat | Nov 14, 15 | District VII Honor Orchestra | TBD | TBD | Those accepted |
| Fri, Sat | Nov 21, 22 | District VII HS/MS Honor Band | TBA | TBD | Those accepted |
| Sun | Nov 23 | District VII Honor Band Concerts | TBA | 3pm | Those accepted |
| December Concert Week: (dates subject to change on venue availability) | | | | | |
| Fri | Dec 5 | Winter Concert Band | TBD | 7 pm | Int. Band., Adv. Band |
| Tues | Dec 9 | Winter Concert Beg. Band | PAPA | 3:30 pm | Beg. Band |
| Wed | Dec 10 | Winter Concert Beg. Orchestra | PAPA | 3:30 pm | Beg. Orchestra |
| Thurs | Dec 11 | Winter Concert Orchestra | TBD | 7 pm | Int. Orch., Camerata |
| Fri | Dec 12 | Camerata Combined w/Choir | TBD | 7pm | Camerata |
| Wed-Sat | Jan 14-17 | All-State Band/Orchestra | UNM | All-Day | Those accepted |
| Thurs-Sat | Jan 22-24 | Jazz All-State | ENMU | All-Day | Those accepted |
| Thurs-Sat | Feb 12-14 | Alb. Jazz Festival | Eldorado | TBD | Jazz Band |
| TBD | | MPA Prep Camp | AYS Building | Int. Band, Adv. Band, Int. Orch., Camerata | |
| Wed-Fri | March 4-6 | District VII MPA HS/MS Band | TBA | TBD | Int. Band, Adv. Band |
| Wed-Fri | March 11-13 | District VII MPA HS/MS Orchestra | TBA | TBD | Camerata, Int. Orch |
| Spring Dance Show Week: March 18-21 | | | | | |
| Sat | April 4 | Beginning Orchestra Festival | HHS | TBD | Those Accepted |
| Sat | April 18 | District VII Band and Orchestra Solo and Ensemble | TBD | TBD | Chamber Groups |
| Spring Concert Week: (dates subject to change on venue availability) | | | | | |
| Fri | April 24 | Spring Concert Orchestra | TBD | 6:30 pm | ALL ORCHESTRAS |
| Tues | Apr 28 | Spring Concert Band | TBD | 6:30 pm | ALL BANDS |
| Fri | May 8 | Graduation | | | Adv/Int, Band/Orch |

Pending Events:

On Campus Tours, Community Outreach Performances, City Gigs

**STUDENT INFORMATION AND
SYLLABUS ACCEPTANCE FORM**

Filling out the digital form is preferred: <https://forms.gle/thTE3NRqWkNy7pdt9>

NAME _____ CURRENT GRADE: _____
(Please print neatly)

STUDENT E-MAIL _____ STUDENT CELL NUMBER _____

INSTRUMENTS YOU PLAY: _____

Personal Instrument Information:

BRAND _____ SERIAL NO. _____

BRAND _____ SERIAL NO. _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME (First & Last) _____

CELLULAR NUMBER _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

NAME (First & Last) _____

CELLULAR NUMBER _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

**We have read, understand fully, and voluntarily accept the rules, procedures, and
expectations of a student enrolled in a PAPA Band and/or Orchestra**

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____