



# Course Syllabus 2023 - 2024

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**Courses:** Advisory, Band (Beg/Adv), Orchestra, Guitar and Choir

**Director:** Mr. Michael Bongiovanni

**About these courses:** Music students will learn performance technique, rehearsal and performance etiquette, and musical theory, vocabulary, and concepts. Students will be presented with musical literature that is an appropriate challenge, as well as representative of different cultures, styles, and periods of music that is appropriate for their level of ability.

**Course objectives:**

- Instrumental and choral music students will be able to read, rehearse, and publicly perform appropriate musical literature for their level of ability and ensemble instrumentation.
- Instrumental and choral music students will develop proper performance technique and apply it during both rehearsals and performances.
- Instrumental and choral music students will develop musicianship skills, such as pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, and sight-reading, creative expression, music theory, and more.
- Instrumental and choral music students will develop life skills such as teamwork, self-discipline, personal responsibility, focus, taking initiative, and much more.
- Instrumental and choral music students will learn professional performance etiquette as both a performer and an audience member.

**California State Board of Education Visual and Performing Arts Music Standards:** These will be addressed throughout the course in various ways. They can be found online at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/mumain.asp>.

## About the Class

**School policies:** All school policies will be enforced in the music room and will be followed strictly by Mr. Bongiovanni. School policies can be found online at <https://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/marston>

**Recommended (but not required) supplies:**

- Instrument (for band and orchestra only)
- A plain binder with a folder or pocket, and about 15 – 20 clear sheet protectors
- Instrument maintenance materials (*these vary by instrument, details on later page*)
- Musical practice supplies: tuner, metronome (*highly recommended*)

- Pencils or other useful writing utensils
- Performance attire (*details later in the syllabus*)
- **ORCHESTRA & GUITAR ONLY:** Clipped fingernails on the left hand at all times

**Instrument storage:** Storage spaces are available in the instrumental music room for storage of instruments and music-related materials during the school day. ***All instrument cases should be clearly labeled with the student's name.*** Students will need to bring their instruments home some nights and on weekends for personal practice, however, instruments can be left overnight in the instrumental music room if necessary. **NO BOOKS, FOOD, OR ITEMS UNRELATED TO THE CLASS ARE ALLOWED IN STORAGE SPACES!**

**Music books and sheet music:** Music books and sheet music will be provided by the school as needed. Students should keep all sheet music in the clear sheet protectors in their music binder. ***Any lost or damaged music books or sheet music may result in reimbursing the Marston Music Program.***

**Instrument availability:** Marston Middle School can provide instruments free of charge. Students/families may optionally rent or purchase an instrument to help alleviate the need for the school to provide instruments. If you'd like to rent or buy an instrument or need repairs on an already rented or owned instrument, Mr. Bongiovanni will assist you in locating a music store.

**Instrumentation and ensemble balance:** To maintain balance in each ensemble, students are sometimes invited to learn a new instrument (usually related to their primary instrument) in the event their ensemble needs certain instrumentalists. An unbalanced ensemble is like a baseball team with too many pitchers and no outfielders, so assistance in this area is greatly appreciated.

**Performance attire** (for all band/orchestra/choir in all performance situations):

**Top:** Plain Black or Blue button-down shirt or blouse

**Bottom:** Plain black slacks (not jeans) or skirt that covers the knees

**Socks:** Plain black socks that cover the space from shoes to pants or plain black nylons/tights/leggings for students choosing to wear a skirt

**Shoes:** Plain black shoes with closed toes (***completely*** black – NO CONVERSE, VANS, OR OTHER SNEAKERS)

**Private lessons and outside ensembles:** Private lessons and participation in outside ensembles (San Diego Youth Symphony, Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Civic Youth Orchestra, honor groups, etc.) are **highly encouraged!** These activities help students gain skills quicker than just class rehearsal time and personal practice. Information on these ensembles is available from Mr. Bongiovanni.

## **CITIZENSHIP GRADES**

**Per SDUSD AR 5121, "Citizenship marks shall not be influenced by academic marks and reflect the student's general behavior, punctuality, effort, and work habits within the school community. These marks are indications of the student's ability to participate effectively in a democratic society..."**

Marston teachers calculate citizenship grades by matching their observations over 6-weeks to the Marston Citizenship Grading Rubric. Parents and students interested in knowing citizenship grades between progress reports should contact the teacher directly.

At Marston Middle School, the default citizenship grade for all students is an “M.” As described in the citizenship grade rubric, “consistently exceeding expectations” are needed to earn an “E.” Citizenship grades on each progress report (P1, P2, P3 and P4) reflect only the student behavior observed within that specific grading period. The semester (S1 and S2) citizenship grades reflect the student’s citizenship over the entire semester.

| Mark                      | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                    | Grading Scale |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Exceeds (E)</b>        | Consistently exceeds expectations in work completion, preparation, and participation, and actively contributes to the learning experiences of their peers.                     | 4             |
| <b>Meets (M)</b>          | Consistently meets expectations: completes work on time, prepared to learn, participates regularly, shows respect for others, and contributes to building a positive community | 3             |
| <b>Inconsistent (I)</b>   | Inconsistently meets expectations: occasionally completes work on time, not always prepared to learn, participates irregularly, and rarely works well with others.             | 2             |
| <b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b> | Does not meet expectations: work is habitually late, not prepared to learn, does not participate, and does not work well with others                                           | 1             |

## **Academic Grading**

**Grading:** Being prepared for daily rehearsals is a part of the Performance Assessments. There will also be class work, homework, and assessments (quizzes and tests) that make up a part of your grade. These assessments will vary between musical performance tests and written music tests. **Performances are absolutely mandatory. Make-up assignments for missed performances will be assigned if a student cannot make the performance(s).**

|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                         |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Grading Scale:</b><br>A = 86% - 100%<br>B = 61% - 85%<br>C = 36% - 60%<br>D = 11% - 35%<br>F = 11% and under | <b>Overall Grade Breakdown:</b><br>35% Performance Assessments<br>35% Written Assignments<br>30% Project Based Learning |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

**Homework/Practicing:** The expectation is that all students practice their class-related music outside of school hours in order to gain a level of mastery over the performance materials. Students are expected to complete weekly assignments in class or at home. Unit assignments will be more project based where students will demonstrate their understanding of the subject and materials.

**Online grade access:** Online grade book will be accessible through PowerSchool Parent and Student portals.

**Performance assessments:** Performance assessments will occur once per quarter and will be performed in class during regular class hours. Students may also have the option to submit pre-recorded/virtual performance assessments if needed.

### **Make-up / late policies:**

- Assessments and Projects: Any assessment or projects that are due during a student's excused absence must be made up within two school days of the student's return to school. Make-ups can be done in class, at lunch, after school, or by appointment, depending on the nature of the assessment or project. Late submissions may or may not be accepted by Mr. Bongiovanni for half-credit or less at his discretion, depending on the nature of the assessment or project, and/or how late it is turned in.
- Performances: As these classes fall into the category of the performing arts, attendance and participation in performances and dress rehearsals outside of school hours will be required. No student will be required to participate in an event with less than 30 calendar days' prior notice. All requests to miss a performance for a conflicting commitment must be discussed with Mr. Bongiovanni as soon as the conflict is discovered. **Please contact Mr. Bongiovanni by phone or e-mail AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to report an absence from a performance, ESPECIALLY if the absence is an unexpected, day-of-performance absence.**
  - Acceptable Excuses for Missing a Performance: An illness, unforeseen accident or emergency, religious observation, wedding, or death in the family. Other circumstances may excuse a student from a performance at the discretion of Mr. Bongiovanni or Administration. A make-up project will be assigned for missed performances. ***Always contact Mr. Bongiovanni to inform him of any absence from a performance and the circumstances surrounding said absence. Thank You***
  - If a student cannot perform due to unpreparedness, inappropriate attire, inappropriate behavior, or any other reason, Mr. Bongiovanni reserves the right to dismiss the student from the performance and a make-up assessment will be issued.

## **RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR EACH INSTRUMENT**

### **Flute**

- Cleaning rod (*should be included with any rented/purchased instrument*)
- Cleaning cloth for the interior of the instrument

### **Single Reeds (all types of clarinets and all types of saxophones)**

- Reeds for your specific instrument (*one for current use, and at least two back-ups*)
  - Reed strength varies based on the skill level of the player
    - Generally, 2 – 2.5 for Intermediate Band
    - Generally, 2.5 – 3 for Advanced Band
- Cork grease
- Pull-through cleaning swab for your specific instrument with string and weight
- Reed guard (*not absolutely necessary, but recommended to extend the life of reeds*)

### **Double Reeds (oboes and bassoons)**

- Reeds for your specific instrument (*one for current use, and at least one back-up*)
  - Reed strength varies based on the skill level of the player
  - Most middle school students use medium-soft or medium strength

- Cork grease
- Pull-through cleaning swab for your specific instrument with string and weight

#### **Brass (trumpets, French horns, trombones, baritones, and tubas)**

- Oil (*regular, not synthetic*)
  - Valve oil for trumpets/baritones/tubas, rotary oil for French horns
- Tuning slide grease
- Soft cleaning cloth for the exterior of the instrument
- **For trombones only:**
  - Playing slide grease or cream
  - Small spray bottle with water

#### **Percussion**

- Drum sticks (*Vic Firth SD1 Generals or similar, with **wooden tips** – not vinyl/plastic*)
- Practice pad for home practice

#### **Violins and Violas**

- Shoulder rest, pad, or sponge
- Violin/Viola bow rosin
- One extra set of strings for your specific instrument and instrument size

#### **Cellos and Basses**

- End pin holder (*nicknames for these include “hockey puck,” “doughnut,” “rock stop,” etc.*)
- Bow rosin (*be aware that cellos and basses use different types of rosin*)

## Syllabus Agreement

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A digital copy of the syllabus can be found on Mr. Bongiovanni’s web page on the Marston Middle School Website. <https://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/marston/>

**If you’d like a printed copy of the syllabus, please email Mr. Bongiovanni at [mbongiovanni@sandi.net](mailto:mbongiovanni@sandi.net), leave a message with your request at 858.273.2030, or have your student request one during class.**

We have read the Marston Middle School Instrumental Music course syllabus. We agree to all rules, regulations, and requirements for participation in the Marston Music program for the 2023 – 2024 school year, and understand that failure to abide by these guidelines may result in lower academic and/or citizenship grades, referrals, or other actions