

*Fine Arts Department  
Ragsdale High School*

**Course Syllabus  
Ragsdale High School Orchestra  
Andrew Oldham, Director**

*Updated 8/22*

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**General Purposes and Objectives:**

Students will learn and demonstrate knowledge of music through notation, terms, skills and performance.

**Registration:**

Orchestra will meet every day during third block. Students who wish to participate in orchestra, All County, or All State orchestra must be registered with approval for Orchestra at the “beginning”, “intermediate”, “proficient”, or “advanced” levels. “Proficient” and “advanced” levels receive honors credit.

Honors level orchestra students should complete the extra honors assignments completely and on time. Honors level students will need to receive a score of 100 or greater at their auditions. The guidance department will not approve level changes for students who were unable to keep up with their assignment schedule or those who have come to a realization that they have underestimated the rigor of Honors Orchestra. A good way to safely gage your ability to handle honors level work is to audition for Western Regional Orchestra in the year prior and take those scores to Mr. Oldham for advice. Your ability to complete an honors project involving mature writing and creativity will also help for the completion of your honors project.

**Participation:**

All orchestra students will have multiple rehearsals and/or performances outside of school hours. Visit [www.ragsdaleorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.ragsdaleorchestra.weebly.com) for an updated calendar of events (or to import events to your google calendar). Rehearsals will focus on MPA, Concert preparation, and the experience of full ensemble musicianship.

Participation during rehearsals and performances is mandatory. I cannot stress this enough. Every member’s participation is vital to the group. When you miss a rehearsal or performance, it not only hurts your grade, but it also hurts the learning experience, performance, and the judge’s scores for the entire group. Since missing orchestra events will affect many people, signing up for orchestra and not committing to the schedule is completely unacceptable. Perfect attendance is expected. Students should come to class and rehearsal on time.

Your participation is reflected in each section of your grade (see Grading.) Top students/performers have a maximum time on task and the least amount of time missing the instruction (i.e. Top Students are rarely absent, rarely need to stop their work to use the bathroom, and aren’t distracted by cell phones or conversation.) Members of this class agree to make up the time missed after school.

## **Grading:**

Grades will reflect a student's work during a single semester. There will not be a yearly average although a full year's work will be considered for student awards honors and solos.

The semester's graded work includes the following:  
(Approximate percentage factored in depending on the amount of performances.)

50% (40% for honors level) Daily Performance

Students will lose 5% for every variation on our expected daily performance.  
Honors level students will lose 10% for every variation on the expected daily performance.

25% Concert Performance/rehearsals

25% Tests - Tests are taken during class time. Retests are usually available. See Mr. Oldham for details.

Performance Testing (apx. 90%)

Written Testing (apx. 10%)

10% Honors Project (honors level orchestra students only) – The Honors Orchestra students should see Mr. Oldham during the first 2 weeks of the semester to request their honors projects. After these projects are approved the student should begin work right away. See the calendar for the submission dates.

Marching Band and Jazz Band participation may be used in place of the honors project if a student chooses. The following rubric will help to calculate that grade:

A+ 100% = No unexcused absences form rehearsal or performances

A 93% = one unexcused absence from rehearsal

B 88% = two unexcused absences from rehearsal – or - one unexcused absence from a performance

C 81% = three unexcused absences from rehearsal

D 74% = four unexcused absences from rehearsal – or – two unexcused absences from performances

F 69% = more than four unexcused absences – OR – three unexcused absences from performances

NOTE: Any student missing 15 minutes of any rehearsal will be counted as absent.

**Marching Band:**

Some students may be interested in learning a secondary instrument or already play another instrument that could be used with the marching band. During Marching Band season, students may substitute the honors project (This does not include playing/written tests, honors level audition scores, performances, and daily performance grades) for their marching band attendance grade. Students should make this decision before the first rehearsal. It is not acceptable to request a switch back to standard orchestra grading after they have failed to meet their attendance requirements. Students should always *do what they say they're going to do*.

Marching Band meets after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, After School - 5:30 pm

**Jazz Band:**

During Jazz Band season, students may substitute the honors project (This does not include playing/written tests, honors level audition scores, performances, and daily performance grades) for their jazz band attendance grade. Students should make this decision before the first rehearsal. It is not acceptable to request a switch back to standard orchestra grading after they have failed to meet their attendance requirements. Students should always *do what they say they're going to do*.

Jazz band meets after school Monday through Wednesday, After School - 5:30 pm

**Preparation:**

Come to orchestra with all needed equipment in good working order and with all other items as needed for the day. Some examples might include Concert Dress (every detail correct), field trip items such as lunch money/ fees/ paperwork or Daily Supplies such as pencils (no pens), folders, music, instrument maintenance supplies, and a tuner/pitch pipe.

Students who don't have all of the items needed for performance are not "uniform"; They will not be permitted to perform and will have a reduction to their performance grade. Allowing a student to participate who is unprepared is unfair to all who have worked hard to create a "uniform" ensemble. I can offer help to students who cannot afford the needed items. If you are unable to obtain some of the items for financial reasons please let Mr. Oldham know with at least two weeks time before the needed date.

In addition to the needed material items, students should practice, bring their knowledge of the instrument and of the music back to class. Good daily exercises include studies in flexibility, technique, sight-reading, and scales. You may also see Mr. Oldham for a list of private tutors.

## Required Materials:

1. Instrument, music, pencil, tuning device (electronic tuner, phone app, pitch pipe or tuning fork)
2. Concert Dress:  
Women – Black blouse/sweater, black pants (professional skirts may be worn if they are floor length.) Black dress shoes.  
Men – Tuxedo look. White dress shirt (collared), black bow tie, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes.
3. Solo:

Solos are on a 4-year rotation:

- **Violin:**
  - 2020-21 Concerto in A Minor, 1st mvt, J. S. Bach
  - 2021-22 Concerto No. 23 in G Major, 1st mvt, solo entrance to first tutti, Viotti
  - 2022-23 Sonata No. 4, 2nd mvt, "Allegro," Handel
  - 2023-24 Concerto No. 4, 1st mvt, Seitz
- **Viola:**
  - 2020-21 Processional, from Meditation and Processional, Bloch
  - 2021-22 Viola Concerto, 1st and 2nd mvts, Telemann- *The edition used must include the treble clef orchestral tutti passage at the end of the 2nd mvt.*
  - 2022-23 Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 1, Courante & Minuets, J. S. Bach
  - 2023-24 Concerto No. 1 in D Major, Op. 1, 3rd mvt, Stamitz International Edition
- **Cello:**
  - 2020-21 Sonata No. 1 in B-flat major, 1st and 2nd mvts, from Six Sonatas for the Cello, Vivaldi
  - 2021-22 Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 1, Courante, J. S. Bach
  - 2022-23 Sonata No. 3 in A minor, 2nd mvt, from Six Sonatas for the Cello, Vivaldi
  - 2023-24 Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 3, 1st and 2nd Bouree, J. S. Bach
- **Bass:**
  - 2020-21 Sonata No, 5, 2nd mvt. Vivaldi
  - 2021-22 Etude No. 17, from 30 Etudes for the String Bass Player, Simandl
  - 2022-23 Gavotte, Bach/Zimmerman
  - 2023-24 Sonata No. 2, 2nd mvt, Marcello- Schirmer edition preferred

## Behavior:

All orchestra functions are school functions. Therefore, the bus and the places that the orchestra may travel are an extension of the classroom. Rules and consequences for misbehavior will be measured according to the guidelines contained in the Ragsdale Student Handbook. Students may also be denied permission to attend future events if the quality of their participation does not meet Mr. Oldham's standards.

**Transportation and Supervision:**

Students are expected to arrive and be picked up on time. There is no provided supervision between school hours and evening concerts. For this reason, students should leave campus and return for the event. When events (e.g. concerts/rehearsals) are dismissed, students disperse in many directions and merge with others dismissing activities in such a way that supervision becomes very difficult. For this reason, it is important that students are picked up on time. Failure to do so may jeopardize future participation in after school activities.

**Community Service and Noble Hours:**

Our ensembles have a variety of performances. In most cases, I will have information posted about them on the website. However, during certain times of the year, students have the opportunity to participate in community service activities and performances. (Small ensembles playing at nursing homes, around salvation army buckets, for special events, etc.)

Two things to remember: First, There are so many events that sometimes they overlap. Because of the amount of events, there will not be teacher supervision at every community service event (parents should attend.) And secondly, students can use these events to complete their service learning goals. Community Service is not only important to our town but it is recognized by GCS at graduation and valued by colleges.

**Care of School Property:**

The orchestra has a very limited supply of instruments and music. Great care should be taken with these items so that future classes may have them in good condition. Students taking orchestra must take responsibility for the materials that are issued to them. Damaged or lost materials will be added to the school's "fees owed" list.

**Lockers:**

Contact Mr. Oldham to be assigned a locker. This locker should remain clean and well maintained. Keep the locker free of food, garbage, clothing, etc. Locks will not be provided but you are encouraged to bring in your own personal lock. It must be a combination style lock and Mr. Oldham will need to keep a copy of the combination in his database.

**Messaging and keeping in touch:**

The directors and the booster club will occasionally reach out with messages that you should find helpful. These messages are infrequent and the main source of information will always be found on the website. Messages will only come from these official sources:

Email ([ragdalebands@gmail.com](mailto:ragdalebands@gmail.com) from the boosters and [oldhama@gcsnc.com](mailto:oldhama@gcsnc.com) from me)  
If you'd like me to leave your name off of the booster email list, leave a note on the return portion of this syllabus.

The "Remind" app  
Subscribe to as many as you'd like.

**Wind Ensemble**  
Text @e2d6g6 to 81010

**Concert Band**  
Text @2debh4 to 81010

**Orchestra**  
Text @dc26hd to 81010

**Marching Band**  
Text @dggcb to 81010

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**I have read and support the information as presented in the student/parent handbook:**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent home phone number/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent cell phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

PS. We are always needing volunteers. If you have any skills that you can offer or are willing to learn, please let me know. (e.g. willing to get a CDL and drive a bus or truck, woodworking, welding, sewing, preparing snacks for students, helping with pit crew, helping with band finances, fundraising, etc.)  
Let me know here!:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

GUILFORD COUNTY FIELD TRIP INFORMATION/PERMISSION SLIP

SCHOOL:  Ragsdale High School

A field trip has been planned that will serve as an enrichment experience for those students participating. The trip will serve as a preparatory/follow-up activity to enrich a regularly scheduled part of the instructional program. Students will not be allowed to make the trip unless parental permission is granted.

The school system is responsible for students based on the laws of the state of North Carolina. In the event that an accident happens, medical assistance should be sought immediately. The parent will be contacted and medical charges will be assigned to the parent or guardian.

The behavior of our students as it relates to a field trip is of critical importance. Students are always expected to be on their best behavior. Regrettably, inappropriate behavior can result in disciplinary action, including in extreme cases being returned home separately at the parent's expense.

The following details are provided for your information.

DESTINATION:  2018-19 Events for Ragsdale Instrumental Students

SUPERVISING TEACHER:  Mr. Oldham/Mr. Johnson

DEPARTURE DATE:  See website calendar for exact dates and times. TIME:  TBA

RETURN TO SCHOOL:  Same Day TIME:  TBA

METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION: We will use Activity Buses for all events except for All County/District/Regional/State events and the Jamestown Holiday Parade. For all other events parents will transport their child to and from the event.

OTHER MONIES NEEDED:  Snack Food Money (ADMISSION, ETC.)

ARRANGEMENT FOR MEALS:  Fast Food or Concession style food.

PARENTS: Please retain the top part of this form for your reference and information. (Complete the information below, cut along the dotted line, and return the bottom of this sheet to the school by \_\_\_\_\_).(Date) (2/6/17)

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PARENTAL FIELD TRIP CONSENT FORM

Destination:  Field trips for this school year (see website calendar for details)

Teacher:  Andrew Oldham/Justin Johnson

I hereby certify that (student's name) \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to participate in the field trip according to the policies and provisions as stated above. In the event of an accident or medical emergency, I authorize the supervising teachers to seek medical assistance, and I will assume responsibility for all expenses.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Students Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If parent cannot be located in the event of an emergency, contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 10/98