

# John Hersey High School Orchestra

## herseyorchestra.com

### Concert Orchestra (#179)

Hersey's orchestra has performed locally and nationally in the past year, and its director, Mr. Josh Stewart invites you to join this enjoyable and educational program. All entering freshmen that wish to perform in Hersey's orchestra should register for "Concert Orchestra," #179. This course satisfies the District 214 Fine Arts Requirement.

At Hersey, we strive to provide an enriching musical experience for students through rehearsal, performance, and a variety of trips and field trips. ALL musicians are welcome regardless of experience or ability.

### How often and where do we practice?

Orchestra is offered as a class 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> period during the school day. We meet everyday like other classes, in the Hersey orchestra room. We play a wide variety of music including pop and modern music.

### If I am an athlete can I still be in orchestra?

The time commitment to orchestra outside of school hours is limited to just our 5 performances per year. All athletic teams are represented in the orchestra including football, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, cross-country, softball and many more!

### What orchestra class can I be in?

There are two orchestra classes that meet during the day, Symphony and Concert. Concert orchestra is primarily made up of freshmen and sophomore students and the Symphony orchestra is primarily juniors and seniors. All students are eligible to audition for the Chamber orchestra, a select orchestra that plays advanced music.

### Where does the orchestra go on trips and field trips?

The orchestra has previously taken trips to destinations like Orlando, New York, Vienna, Prague, and Rome. In addition to larger trips, the orchestra takes an annual trip to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Northwestern in Evanston. The orchestra also takes field trips to Chicago to see the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric opera.

### Any other questions?

Contact the director, Josh Stewart:

[Joshua.stewart@d214.org](mailto:Joshua.stewart@d214.org) or 847-718-4943



# WHY MUSIC?

## MUSIC IS A SCIENCE

Music is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with exact control of time. The laws of physics are involved with every tone that is performed.

## MUSIC IS MATH

The organization of notes in music is rhythmically based on the division of time into differing fractions within a measure unit which may vary in length from unit to unit. The mental gymnastics required to perform this must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper, and with complete coordination of the fingers, lips and other appendages of the body needed to produce that note.

## MUSIC IS FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Terms are in Italian, German or French: and the notation is certainly not English  
Music is foreign in two ways: (1) it uses foreign terms and (2) it is totally new language built on symbols.  
It is a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas.  
The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language

## MUSIC IS HISTORY

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the nationalistic or racial feeling of the country from which it comes.  
Music has been entwined with religion, royalty and the common man from every area of the earth.

## MUSIC IS A SOCIAL STUDY

Participation in any ensemble involves close relationships, both musical and non-musical, with others. A large performance organization is almost a microcosm of the adult world these students are about to enter. Both musical and non-musical responsibilities are assigned to each member with the success of the entire organization dependent upon each person meeting their responsibilities.

## MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Music requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach and chest muscles which respond instantly to the sound heard in the ears and interpreted in the mind.

## MOST OF ALL, MUSIC IS ART

It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion.

## That is Why We Believe in Music

- That is why music is a class
  - That is why one earns academic credit in music
  
  - Not because we expect to major in music
  - Not because we expect to play or sing all of our lives
    - Not so we can relax
    - Not so we can have fun
  - BUT----**
    - So we will be human
    - So we will recognize beauty
    - So we will be sensitive
  - So we will be closer to an infinite beyond this world
    - So we will have something to cling to
  - So we will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good –  
in short, **more life**
- Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless we know how to live?

## That is Why We Believe in Music!!