

Crescenta Valley High School
Visual and Performing Arts Department
Student Handbook 2020-2021
Instrumental Music

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Instrumental Music program at Crescenta Valley High School. You are part of one of the most dynamic, energetic, and active groups at this school. The Crescenta Valley High School Instrumental Music program offers students an opportunity to enhance their musical abilities by providing an outlet for creative and intellectual expression using musical instruments. Students will learn discipline and effective time management, as well as the importance of enthusiasm, dedication, teamwork, poise, musicianship, proper care of their instrument, musical literature and terminology. They will also understand the value of music and learn how it will assist them throughout their lives.

This year we are definitely in new territory! We will be starting out the year separated, using technology and on Zoom. The process will look different, but the principles and fundamentals will be the same. Respect, discipline, and camaraderie will continue despite the distance we need to maintain! Situations will likely change along the way, and we are prepared to change with them, and always keep moving forward!

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Research continues to demonstrate the benefits and importance of music education:

- 1) *"The number-one challenge facing this generation is social isolation. Music and the arts create community, and they can end social isolation, they can create connection." - David Brooks, quoted in "Be Bold! Music & Arts Advocacy at the RNC," by Talking Up Music Education, August 18, 2016.*
- 2) *"Music education is an important aspect of providing children with a well-rounded education. When allowed to work in harmony with other subjects and areas of study, music helps children grow in self-esteem, build essential skills and prepare for bright futures." <https://nebhe.org/journal/tuning-in-six-benefits-of-music-education-for-kids/>, 2018*

This handbook outlines the policies and requirements of the Instrumental Music Department.

STUDENTS AND PARENTS: Please read this handbook, submit the online Acknowledgment, and turn in all paper forms to Mr. Schick. Copies of handbook and online Acknowledgement form are on www.falconmusic.org

Student Expectations

Attitude: Attitude is perhaps the single most important attribute that a person can have in order to be successful. People with good attitudes will succeed and win the respect and admiration of those around them.

Perseverance and Determination: Good attitude needs to be followed by solid action. The goal of these music classes is to learn to play music beautifully. Good results only come from consistent work and clear focus!

Students are responsible for the following: Please adjust your thinking to a "Zoom" classroom.

- Log in through Clever using your GUSD student email account (clever.gusd.net). Allow ample time!
- **Be on time.** You must have your instrument and music ready, video ON, mute ON, and be logged in with your first name, last name, and instrument displayed, and be ready to participate at the start time of a session to be 'on time'.
- Be dressed appropriately for school. Adjust your camera view include your face, instrument and hands.
- Listen, and follow directions the FIRST time. Raise your (virtual) hand or comment in chat if you have questions.
- Be prepared to Mute / Unmute yourself as directed.
- When a leader is working on a part other than yours, *quietly* look over your own music. **DO NOT GET DISTRACTED, START MULTITASKING, OR LEAVE THE ZOOM FIELD OF VIEW.**
- Using cell phones or other distracting electronic devices of any kind is not permitted during sessions.
- All rules apply whether in the 'main' classroom with Mr. Schick, or in breakout rooms, with sectional leaders, or with coaches.
- Use class officers, section leaders and coaches as resources. Email Mr. Schick with questions they cannot answer.
- **PRACTICE** outside of class time. Learn your part. Number each measure. Always play musically!
- Each member will at all times present himself/herself in a respectful manner and be courteous and considerate of others. Remember that you represent Crescenta Valley High School, the Instrumental program, and yourself!

Virtual Classroom Expectations

- Your home is now your classroom! Keep your instrument and equipment put away when you are not using it.
- Make sure your instrument is clean and dry before putting it away. Wipe fingerprints/rosin etc off the exterior.
- Keep your music and paperwork neatly organized.
- Do not eat or drink (except water) during a session.
- Be considerate of other family members and neighbors.

General Expectations for Students and Mr. Schick

I will be fair towards you and you will be fair to your peers and me.

I will listen to your concerns and you will listen to my instructions.

I will prepare you for performances and you will do your best during performances.

I will act professionally, and you will act professionally

I will teach you how to be better musicians and you will help me become a better teacher.

Audience Etiquette

We will be working towards some kind of real or virtual performance. Please give a virtual audience the same courtesy you would extend to a 'real' audience.

- Concerts should be treated with professionalism. Always practice as you intend to perform!
- Phones and other electronic devices have no place at concerts, rehearsals or performances.

Concert Attire – for future 'live' on-stage concert performances.

In order for our concerts to both sound AND look professional, please apply the following dress codes for performances. It is your responsibility to make sure you are dressed appropriately. Exclusion from a performance and/or point deduction may occur if students don't follow the following dress standards.

- Guys
 - Black dress shoes (no sneakers), black socks, black dress slacks, white *long* sleeve dress shirt, long tie (any color), black suit jacket.
- Girls
 - All black from neck to ankle. Examples: Black dress or skirt with black tights, black dressy slacks or long black skirt, with modest black top. No black jeans.
 - Black dress shoes that you can walk in comfortably and quietly. (no flip flops)

Crescenta Valley High School Instrumental Music Grading Policy

This class is based on participation and performance. Class Zoom sessions, rehearsals, homework and sectionals are all graded events. Consult your class's 'BAND App' and Remind frequently to make sure you know what TIMES sessions will occur, and log in promptly. Participation is required.

- **Practice 20-30 minutes daily -- practice is the "homework" of instrumental classes!** This is an honor system, there are no practice logs or other tracking. Students WILL play live and recorded play quizzes and tests.

Requirements	Percentage	Description
1. Attendance / Participation	30%	Class, Zoom sessions
2. Musical tests / Quizzes / Finals	30%	Written and performed
3. Sectionals	30%	Group work: Required weekly
4. Attitude / Improvement / Cooperation	10%	Teacher evaluation per quarter

The final grade will be determined by dividing the points earned by the points possible.

Grades will be available through the Parent/Student Portal and are usually posted within 2 weeks of due date.

A=90%+, B=80%-89%, C=70%-79%, D=60%-69%, F=0%-59%.

Sectional Requirements – **IMPORTANT.**

- Sectionals are a time when an entire section (trumpets, saxes, percussion, etc.) meets to practice outside of class time.
- Sectionals are mandatory for every student and make up 30% of the student's grade. 17-19 sectionals are held per semester.
- Students **MAY NOT** make up more than 4 missed sectionals a semester.
- Section leaders are carefully chosen by Mr. Schick and will schedule sectionals based on the scheduling needs of the entire section. If a student has a problem with a section leader, see Mr. Schick immediately for an alternative assessment.

Procedures for Making up points.

Note: students may apply a maximum of 80 points or 1 letter grade's worth of Extra Credit per semester!

- Practice for **30** minutes and record it. (10 points each session)– must submit recording to Mr. Schick.

- Concert reports or Composer/performer biography. (1 well-written page = 10 pts. Plagiarism = -10 pts)
- If a student misses a performance, the student MAY be asked to perform in front of the class to make up points.

Class Session Behavioral Consequences

Tardy and truancy rules follow the CVHS handbook.

Class session tardy = -5 points - Students earn 25

points per week in warm up participation.

Coached Zoom session tardy - -25% to 100% points off

1st time = Reminder (optional classroom pick-up)

2nd time = 30 min. detention

3rd time = Call home & hour detention

4th time = Removal from class

ABSENCES

- **Being Absent during CLASS time (“missing school”) for any reason must be reported directly to the CV Main Office.**
- **Missing an after-school Sectional or Rehearsal – please fill out an Absence Form or email me.**
- *For future ‘in person’ rehearsals or performances:*

If a student is unable to attend a *major rehearsal or performance*, they are required to fill out an “Absence Form” **two weeks** before the event. Not all absences will necessarily be excused. A good performance is the result of long hours of preparation requiring the participation of everyone in the group. A single person absent affects the entire ensemble.

Students will only be excused at the last minute for the following reasons; death in the family, serious illness, or other family emergency.

I will evaluate other requests to be excused on an individual basis and will make every attempt to be fair. If an emergency arises, I will accept a note the day you return to school following the absence.

In addition, it is your responsibility to call a class officer, or leave a message with Mr. Schick via email or a phone call if you are unable to make a rehearsal or performance. **Work is not a valid excuse for missed performances.** *As soon as they are known, schedules and dates will be posted on the website, as well as posted in your class Remind and on the ‘BAND App’. Please sign up for notifications and read them! We will make every effort to keep the calendar current.*

** An unexcused absence will result in no points for that event. / An excused absence will result in 1/4-1/2 points. **

An excused absence involving another School Activity (e.g. sport) will be negotiable and dealt with on an individual basis.

Associated Student Body (ASB)

The music department receives some support from ASB, and we encourage all instrumental music students to join the CVHS’s ASB. Joining ASB provides discounts to many school activities but is completely voluntary. See the back of the Order Form to pre-purchase.

Fundraising Expectations

In order for our department to succeed, we depend on a tremendous amount of fundraising. We need to raise around \$80,000 every year in order to maintain our high quality of musical excellence. Expenses include instrumental purchase & repair, performance fees, music mentors, supplies, scholarships, and more.

With everyone helping to raise money, our music program will continue to grow and thrive!

All donations and contributions are **VOLUNTARY.**

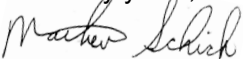
The District DOES NOT provide significant financial support for Instrumental Music.

Please take the time to read these Handbook carefully.

Please visit www.Falconmusic.org for all the latest news and information regarding the music program. I send out emails & texts once a week to inform students and parents about music events and class happenings. It is important that I have your correct email address and that you sign up for the “Remind” and ‘BAND App’ for your class so that you stay informed!

Thank you again for being part of the Crescenta Valley High School Instrumental Music Department.

Musically yours,



Mathew Schick

Crescenta Valley High School Instrumental Music Absence Form

SAMPLE

Students can copy and use the form below. It can also be downloaded from www.falconmusic.org.

Turn in at least 2 weeks prior to conflict. *Date turned in:* _____

Student Name: _____ Per: _____ Grad Year: _____ Inst: _____
will be absent from _____ on _____, _____.
Event or Activity Date Time

for the following reason: *(if this is a recurring event, e.g. tutor every Wednesday, please explain)*

Signature of Parent: _____ Signature of Student: _____
Date: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Director: _____

Excused

Unexcused

Comments:

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