

# Course Outline: Pit Orchestra

Pit Orchestra performs original Broadway show music for the annual BCA musical. Instrumentation is dependent on the current show. A significant commitment is required since there are many after-school rehearsals and shows during the trimester. Pit Orchestra runs only second trimester (last three mods on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and satisfies the participation requirement for regional and all-state honors ensembles. Course prerequisites: because the ensemble is focused on performing music in a selective and balanced setting, all students must audition.

## Course Goals and Objectives

Ultimately, students in Pit Orchestra present several performances of the musical near the end of the trimester. Students will experience various techniques and interpretive practices necessary to perform the show/style. Creative strategies are utilized in order to expose students to a variety of related musical concepts including history, foreign language, critique, conducting, and music theory.

## Grading, Assessment and Course Responsibilities

Grades are based on the average of all class sessions, dress rehearsals, and performances. Points are awarded based on assessment for *preparation, participation, attendance* and *team work*- because they foster responsible adult practices.

A = 93 -100	A- = 90 - 92	B+ = 87 - 89	B = 83 - 86	B- = 80 - 82	C+ = 77 - 79	C = 73 - 76
C- = 70 - 72	D+ = 63 - 69	D = 60 - 62	F = 0 - 59			

**Preparation (approx. 45%):** Students who are present and prepared for class sessions earn 2 points: for bringing BOTH instrument and sheet music. If an instrument is “in the shop” students must make arrangements to use a school loaner at least one day in advance or they will not receive credit for that grade portion. Students who are not in class receive a zero. However, an *excused* absence can be made-up within one week by making an appointment with the appropriate teacher to practice/review any missed material. Unprepared grades cannot be made up. Absences during the last week of the trimester must be made up within one school day after the trimester ends.

**Participation for After-School Rehearsals (10 points, approx. 10%):** MANDATORY. There are a several mandatory weekly after school rehearsals during the trimester (4:30-6:00). Students who participate in the full amount of these rehearsals receive 10 points. Students who miss more than the required amount of these rehearsals receive a zero.

**Participation for Sitzprobe (10 points, approx. 10%):** MANDATORY. The sitzprobe is a one-time rehearsal in late January with the entire cast. It takes place during the school day until 6:00pm). Students who participate in the sitzprobe earn 10 points. Students who miss the sitzprobe receive a zero and lose their “good standing” status.

**Participation for Dress Rehearsals (10 points total, approx. 10%):** MANDATORY. Dress rehearsals take place the week of the show (Monday-Wednesday) during/after school. Students who participate in the full amount of these rehearsals receive 10 points. Students who miss a dress rehearsal receive a zero and lose their “good standing” status.

**Participation for Performances (20 points, approx. 20%):** MANDATORY. There are 4 performances: Thursday, Friday, two shows Saturday (snow date on Sunday). Students who participate in the full amount of the performances earn 20 points. Students who miss a show receive a zero and lose their “good standing” status.

**Return of sheet music (5 points, approx. 5%):** Students must return all sheet music during the class session after the final performance of the trimester. Students earn 5 points for returning all sheet music. If all parts (originals or copies) are not returned during the session, they receive a “0” with no makeup option. Lost sheet music incurs a fine from the publisher, and the student will be responsible for any such fines.

**Attendance:** Being proactive about attendance is essential to personal accountability and musical progress. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any missed sessions and initiate a make-up, as described above. Lateness is not excused unless accompanied by a teacher’s note. Otherwise, students will have 1 point deducted from their session grade every 3 minutes. Cutting class has a negative impact on everyone and is not tolerated. Students who cut class or have an unexcused absence lose full credit for that session and their “good standing” status for the academic year, which makes them ineligible for the music honor society, honors ensemble participation, and possibly the privilege to participate in future music electives and activities.

*Consistent attendance is crucial to keeping up with the coursework and overall academic success. Frequent absences (over 10%) can impact your academic performance in this course. Students who exceed 10% of absences will remain in the course. However, the student will receive a grade of “Incomplete” until credit recovery is completed in the summer.*

**Team Work:** Students are expected to cooperate with each other and maintain a positive attitude- especially in areas concerning *safety, trust, and mutual respect.*