



Birchwood School
of Hawken

2017-18 Birchwood Ensemble Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Chu

Class schedule: Mondays & Thursdays, 2:20-3:05 pm.

Description: Birchwood's ensemble is a training ground for the fundamentals of ensemble playing. Students will learn to tune their instruments, play with accurate intonation and good tone, and develop a good rhythmic sense in the context of a large group. Students will also learn the discipline of playing in a large group and the required mastery of their own instruments. This course will give students the opportunity to play and perform important pieces of music.

Materials: All sheet music will be provided in class.

Requirements: In addition to regular attendance and participation in class, work for this course will consist of:

- Regular practice (practice sheets filled out and signed weekly).
- Participation in rehearsals and performances at the Music Concert, Eighth Grade Graduation, and more dates TBA.

Grading: Attendance 30%; private practice 20%; classroom participation 20%; music performance and overall progress 30%.

Policies: Attendance involves coming to class with an instrument, sheet music, and pencil. Failure to bring an instrument to a class will be counted as an absence. Failure to bring music to any two classes will be counted as an absence.

Private practice: This is crucial to success in any musical undertaking. Please plan on practicing at home or at school for at least 20 minutes a day (30 or more would be better). Remember that practicing requires that the instrument comes home every day and comes back to school in the morning. Practice sheets must be filled out (even for 0 minute days) and then signed by a parent.

Classroom etiquette: What is expected for this class may be beyond what is demanded in other classes. Please show respect at all times to the instructor, to your instrument, and especially to your fellow musicians. Seating will be arranged and will stay consistent with few changes throughout the year.

Questions: Please contact Mrs. Chu, Music Director, at chu@birchwoodschoo.org.

Please read the above regulations carefully and print, sign, and return the slip below by Thursday, August 31.

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I have read the regulations for participation in ensemble for the 2017-18 school year and agree to obey the rules in all ensemble classes:

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Email: _____

Parent Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____