

Dana Instrumental Music Syllabus

2009 –20010

Ruben Flores

The instrumental music program is a performance-based class. Students will need to have their instruments every day except Thursdays. Thursdays are reserved for music theory, music listening, music composition, and music history. Grading for class is as follows:

80% **Performance skill and**
improvement

Student improvement

Test Scores

Performance attendance

Sectionals

Class Participation

Having instrument, music, and supplies each day

Practice room time

Being in class on time prepared for rehearsal

Rehearsal discipline

This area is the basic day-to-day work that will be done in class. As we progress through the year students will be observed and tested for improvement.

20% **Music Fundamentals**

Music theory

Music history

Composition

Computer theory programs

2 outside concert reports per semester

Homework

Thursdays are set aside for music fundamentals. This includes music theory drills and worksheets, composition work, music history lessons, and music listening drills and tests. Students will also work with music theory programs on the class computers.

Outside concert reports: Write a one page “report” on any music concert that doesn’t involve a Dana Instrumental Music group. The report can be turned in anytime before the end of each semester.

Supplies

All students will need standard supplies for individual instruments. Individual instrument supplies will be listed by instrument on second sheet. These supplies are required for all students:

All students will need:



Binder with clear inserts to hold music

Pencil (everyday in folder)

Essential Elements 2000-Band for individual instrument (beginning band)

Essential Elements 2000-Strings. 1 for individual instrument (beginning strings)

Smart Music Computer Software (highly recommended)

The binder and clear inserts cost approximately \$5.00, and can be purchased at any office supply store. The music books can be purchased from any music store, list of music stores will be included in this packet. The cost for the music book is \$8.95. If you already have your instrument you can purchase your book online at www.SheetMusicPlus.com.

Practicing

At Dana we are fortunate to have an hour a day for our instrumental music program. This combined with morning practice time and coaches, provides a good deal of playing time for students. I do ask for an additional hour a week of practice out-sides of class. I understand that some of the bigger instruments can create a problem for students who walk or bike home, because of this the band room is open every morning by 8:00 a.m. except when I attend staff meeting (every other week). We have 5 practice rooms available to any students who wish to use them. Private lessons are a great help for students, but are not required. A calendar is kept up to day on our website that will let you know what days the band room is closed.

Smart Music

Smart Music is a computer software program that helps teach, motivate and keep track of music students. I will not attempt to go into detail about this program here; I have attached some information about Smart Music in this packet and you can find more at www.SmartMusic.com, I will also be spending time showing the program at Open House. All student playing tests will be done on Smart Music at school this year and can be done at home. The software enables me to keep track of the kid's scores, with a recording and snap shot of their performance sheet. I can also give assignments to the whole class or single students that will pop up once the students log on. Sounds like a big deal right, well it is! Good news is that the software is FREE and as a Dana student it only costs you \$30 for a whole year subscription. If your family doesn't have a computer that can run the software, don't worry every computer in our 5 practice rooms has smart music on it.

Lockers

We have instrument lockers at Dana for the kids to use. A lock will be provided for the students; lost locks (not sure how to lose an item whose whole existence it to lock, but it happens) will be the responsibility of the students and cost \$6 to replace. Nothing but the student's instrument and music books should be stored in the lockers.

Class Goals

Dana's instrumental music program is designed to create lifelong musicians. If I can get students to work hard and enjoy it, they will be playing music the rest of their lives. We will be competing this year as well. While bringing home a big trophy is great, it is not a requirement, nor will the class be focused on creating festival champions. It is important for Dana students to get out in the community and play, and see others perform. Festival competitions, cluster concerts, school concerts, and community events are the focus of our performance schedule this year. Most importantly, we will have a lot of fun!

Contact Info

With many outside activities planned for this year, it is very important that I have a reliable way to deliver information to the parents. In this packet is a contact form. E-mail is a great tool and insures that the info you need gets to you. When you turn in your contact info it will be added to our automated calendar that will send you reminders for upcoming activities related to your student's class. I will not be sending e-jokes, or hart warming stories, nothing but information on upcoming instrumental music events.

Fundraising

Almost everything we have in the instrumental music program is purchased through fundraising. In the past we have done everything from selling cookie dough to gift wrapping. After speaking with many parents I have decided as an alternative to big fundraisers I would ask each family to give a donated activity fee. The money will be tax deductible. There is a form for the donation in this packet. We will do "fun group activity" fundraisers like rock climbing but avoid "selling item" fundraisers.

Web Site

I maintain a website for the instrumental music program here at Dana. Everything from student assignments, master schedule, and pictures and videos of the kids can be found on the site. If you do not want your child's image used on the website please let me know and I will make sure not to use their image. You can find the site at www.DanaInstrumentalMusic.com. or DanaMusic.org

Outside Activities

Instrumental music is a performance based class, and as such we do a lot of activities outside of school. In this packet there is tentative schedule for the year. It will change as the year goes on, but I will let you know as soon as possible. Two of our trips will cost money, and while we do a considerable amount of fundraising, we still need to ask students to pay for these trips. The first trip will be to Disneyland (Concert band, Jazz Band, and String Orchestra), and then an overnight competition at Knots Berry Farm. I estimate the cost of **Disneyland to be around \$45** (buses), and the cost of **Knots Berry Farm \$295**. These are estimated based on last year. You will receive detailed information before the end of September, or you can check the web site. The other cost involved with an instrumental music class is uniforms. In this packet is an order form with the cost of uniforms depending on what groups your child is in.

PLEASE feel free to call or E-mail me if you have any questions big or small. I know that supporting your student in instrumental music comes with a lot of outside work on the parent's part. Along with that comes questions, so don't hesitate to contact me.

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Please take a few minutes to go over this info with your child, and return the bottom portion signed.

Student Name

Class Period

Student Signature

Parent / Guardian Signature