

PCHS Honors Grade Option for Music Ensembles 2009-2010

Honors music grades may be earned in Concert Choir, Concert Chorale, Symphonic Band, & Symphonic Orchestra. **Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors** are eligible to enroll in this program provided they fulfill the listed requirements. Students enrolled in the honors program will be expected to perform in an exemplary manner in order to justify the additional grade point. The grade of "H" is an exception not a rule.

Preliminary Honors Requirements

1. Enroll in one of the ensembles listed above.
2. Earn a grade of "A" and a citizenship grade of "O" in that ensemble.
Students must attend and perform all concerts and performances.
If a student is unable to attend a concert or performance, his absence must be excused in advanced and work made up in an appropriate manner.
3. Submit an honors repertoire contract signed by their private teacher or mentor and their ensemble director by Friday, Sept. 4th for first semester & Jan. 22nd for second.
4. Participate in a second school ensemble such as Jazz Lab Band, Jazz Band, Swing Choir, Pep Band, Musical Orchestra, Chamber Strings, Central Quartet, etc.
5. Study privately outside of school or find a student or teacher mentor to supervise their individual weekly progress.
6. Do at least six hours of service work or six service performances for the music department each semester. This work should be outside normal class requirements and commitments. Service examples could be a special ensemble performance, assistance at the middle school, tutoring music students, library or office work, etc.
6. Submit a new blank CD for the honors portfolio.
7. Demonstrate an honorable demeanor and attitude and honorable behavior at all times.

Note: Failure to complete any part of the honors requirements will result in loss of the H grade.

Honors Portfolios will include:

Contracts & Honors papers
Jury DVDs & Jury grade sheets

Honors Grade Ensemble Requirements

First Semester Requirements

Students Must:

Marking Period 1

1. **Audition** for a major community performing ensemble.
Such as:
St. Louis Youth Symphony
Webster Symphony School Ensembles
St. Louis Children's Choir
All Suburban Band, Choir or Orchestra (Oct. Audition is permitted for Choir.)
(November Audition is permitted for Band or Orchestra.)
2. Or **Perform** a solo on the fall Honors Solo Recital or other approved recital.

Marking Period 2

1. Write an Honors Research Paper.....

Honors music papers must be

at least 5 FULL double spaced type written pages
or least 4000 words.

Topics must be approved in advance by ensemble instructor.

Topics should not be only biographical in nature.

Papers must include a correctly typed bibliography reflecting at least three sources only 1 of which can be an internet source. Papers must include photo copies of pages used as sources including all internet information. Font must be 12 point or less. Papers will be returned if they do not demonstrate superior writing skills, are not of adequate length, and do not include appropriate content. Papers will be graded on content, organization, grammar & syntax.

Due October 30th.

Marking Period 3

1. Perform Solo Jury.....Perform a solo jury for music faculty.

Jury repertoire must be selected from semester contract.

Juries must be **performed with a live pianist** unless the piece was originally composed for solo instrument.

Students are responsible for providing their own accompanist.

A polished performance is the goal. The performance must reflect adequate rehearsal time with the pianist and must **reflect a semester of preparation.**

The student must receive a jury grade of B or above to be considered for an honors grade. See Jury Requirements for details.

2. Audition for:

All Suburban Band (All Honors Band Students)

All State Orchestra or Band Audition (All Eligible Students)

Honors Grade Ensemble Requirements Cont.
Second Semester Requirements
Marking Period 1

1. Write an Honors Research Paper.....

Honors music papers must be

at least 5 FULL double spaced type written pages
or least 4000 words.

Topics must be approved in advance by ensemble instructor.

Topics should not be only biographical in nature.

Papers must include a correctly typed bibliography reflecting at least three sources only 1 of which can be an internet source. Papers must include photo copies of pages used as sources including all internet information. Font must be 12 point or less. Papers will be returned if they do not demonstrate superior writing skills, are not of adequate length, and do not include appropriate content. Papers will be graded on content, organization, grammar & syntax.

Marking Period 2

1. Perform a well prepared solo at Solo & Ensemble Competition.

If school solo category is filled, two ensembles may be substituted.

Marking Period 3

1. Perform a Solo Jury....See Jury requirements 1st semester.

Jury repertoire must be selected from semester contract.

Juries must be **played with a live pianist** unless the piece was originally composed for solo instrument.

Students are responsible for providing and rehearsing with their accompanist.

The student must receive a jury grade of B or above to be considered for an honors grade. See Jury Requirements for details.

Second Semester Jury selections must be selected from second semester repertoire contract. Students may not perform the same jury selections from previous juries.

A polished performance is the goal. The performance must reflect adequate rehearsal time with the pianist and must **reflect a semester of preparation.**

Honors Jury Requirements

Students should prepare a polished musical performance which reflects careful longterm preparation and technical and musical growth. The jury performance should reflect a semester of study. Students should dress nicely for the jury.

1. A student must provide copies of solo music to be performed and jury sheets for each faculty member. Jury sheets should list scales, etudes and solo repertoire to be performed on the jury. Repertoire performed on the jury must be selected from semester honors contract.

2. Students **must have a live pianist** if their music was originally written with piano. The student must provide their own professional accompanist. Student accompanists may be used with prior teacher permission only! The student's performance must show evidence of adequate rehearsal. Students should rehearse with their pianist several times to adequately prepare a jury.

One unaccompanied jury of music written for unaccompanied solo instrument is allowed in an instrumental student's high school career. Unaccompanied solo works may be played in place of an etude. As unaccompanied juries do not reflect ensemble preparation, solo preparation must reflect an even higher level of achievement to receive an honors grade.

3. Students may not perform music from previous juries.

4. Students must receive an average of "B" or above on their jury to be considered for honors grade.

Instrumentalists will perform

Scales

1st year juries: major scales,

2nd year juries: major and minor scales

3rd year juries: major & minor scales with extra octaves for winds & arpeggios for strings

A standard technical etude

One etude per marking period is the minimum preparation.

All Suburban or All State excerpts may be substituted as part of the etude requirement with teacher permission.

A standard solo work

Reflecting an appropriate level of individual experience and expertise.

Instrumentalists should perform from memory whenever possible.

Vocalists will perform

Scales

1st year juries: Major scales of CGF& D in letter names and solfege.

2nd year juries: Major scales of CGF& D, A & Bb in letter names & solfege & minor scales in solfege.

3rd year juries: Major scales of CGF& D, A and Bb and minor scales of a, d and e in letter names & solfege.

One Vaccai singing exercise

Three art songs, in contrasting styles, at least one in a foreign language.

All Vocal works must be memorized.

Vocalists will be responsible for the translation of any foreign song performed.