



The *Campo Way* and the Performing Arts

The “Campo Way” starts with relationships. Students, faculty, staff and parents are all expected to work together to form meaningful and respectful relationships in order to promote rigor and relevance. Rigor in the Performing Arts is characterized by developing intrinsic motivation to compete, both individually and as a group, as well as striving for continued artistic growth. Relevance in the Performing Arts pertains to our philosophical belief that students are learning life skills through the arts that will be relevant in any career path.

Diversity Statement:

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Campo Verde High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student’s race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

Course Objectives and Goals: (Based upon Arizona Music Educators Standards):

- To provide an enjoyable experience of music while playing, performing, and/or auditioning using music from a wide variety of genres, cultures, and styles.
- To perform alone and in small and large ensembles with good posture, good playing position, good bow control and appropriate articulation.
- To exhibit proper bow control and technique using accented *détaché*, legato *détaché*, martelé, spiccato, string crossings at varying tempi, and bow articulation using variations of slurred and *détaché* groupings of notes.
- To play two/three octave major and minor scales and corresponding arpeggios in keys up to four sharps and four flats.
- To learn how to sight read music comparable to one level below performance level.
- To identify and apply musical terms and symbols appropriate to the repertoire encountered while using appropriate terminology to describe and explain music.
- To learn to play expressively on pitch and in rhythm, using dynamics, proper phrasings, and tempo markings.

These goals will be achieved through daily rehearsal of music.

- If you need help finding appropriate orchestra attire or are having difficulty finding or obtaining concert attire, please contact me.

Course Description:

Welcome to the CVHS Orchestra Program! Here at CVHS we strive for excellence, which means that as your teacher, I will be guiding and encouraging you to do nothing less than your best each and every day during rehearsal and performances. Musical, historical, and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied appropriately to every piece of music.

Instruments:

Instruments can be either rented or purchased. It is VERY important that you rent or purchase a QUALITY instrument from a reputable instrument dealer. Purchasing instruments from warehouse stores or on the internet is a gamble. If you need help with renting/purchasing an instrument, please feel free to contact me. Also, students will be required to purchase all associated equipment and materials necessary to keep their instruments in correct working condition.

Instrument Repair:

To avoid loss of points during instrument repair, the student must bring in a signed note from their parent/guardian explaining the circumstances of the repair. If the repair is expected to take longer than 2 school days, the student is expected to obtain a “loaner” instrument from the repair shop.

Financial Responsibilities:

When registering for the Orchestra class, each student is asked to pay a TOTAL of \$90. This covers all of the music your child will need for the school year. Due to the way the fee system works, this has to be split into two types of fees:

- **CVHS Orchestra Booster Fee**
 - Amount: \$40
 - How to Pay:
 - Cash
 - Check - Payable to “CVHS Orchestra Boosters”
 - Online at campoverdeorchestras.org

This covers your child’s uniform cleaning fee, an Orchestra T-Shirt, guest clinicians that come work with our orchestras throughout the school year, food and snacks at Orchestra socials and at festivals, music purchases, and more.

- **School Class Fee**
 - Amount: \$50 (Displays as \$25 per Semester)
 - How to Pay:
 - CVHS Bookstore
- If you need help finding appropriate orchestra attire or are having difficulty finding or obtaining concert attire, please contact me.

■ Infinite Campus

This covers our festival competition fees, our bussing to and from festivals and field trips in the spring, music and music related purchases for our classroom and more.

I know that this can be rather confusing, so if you have any questions about fees or how to pay them, please email me at crystal.payne@gilbertschools.net

Every student will also be responsible for proper concert attire. Orchestra is a full-participation, team effort, so instruments and basic concert attire are essential to be in the Orchestra class. ***If you know that you will not be able to meet this financial responsibility, please contact me as soon as possible so that together, we can come up with a solution. It is never my intention for someone to miss out on orchestra due to financial hardships, so please contact me. Thank you.***

All fees are due by Friday, August 14th. If you need financial assistance or an extension, please contact me at crystal.payne@gilbertschools.net

Concert Attire:

- **Symphonic Strings/Symphony Orchestra**
 - Option 1: A black dress-sparkle sleeve, provided by the Orchestra, black close-toed dress shoes, black stockings
 - Option 2: Black tuxedo provided by the Orchestra, black socks and black dress shoes.
- **Chamber Orchestra**
 - Option 1: A black dress-short sleeve, provided by the Orchestra, black close-toed dress shoes, black stockings.
 - Option 2: Black tuxedo provided by the Orchestra, black socks and black dress shoes.
- **Concert Orchestra**
 - Option 1: White dress top & black skirt, provided by the Orchestra, black stockings, and black close-toed dress shoes.
 - Option 2: Black dress pants, black bow tie, and cummerbund, provided by the Orchestra, a white dress shirt to be purchased by the student. Black socks and black dress shoes.

Uniform dresses, skirts, and blouses are provided by the school. Uniform slacks are provided in Chamber and Concert Orchestra, as well as bow ties and cummerbunds. Additionally, jackets are provided for symphonic strings students. However, they will need to provide their own long sleeved white dress shirt to go with the tuxedo jacket. And everyone needs to provide their own closed toed black dress shoes.

The uniform for Campo Verde Strolling Strings members will be in a separate handout to be given during class. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Payne.

- If you need help finding appropriate orchestra attire or are having difficulty finding or obtaining concert attire, please contact me.

Rehearsal Procedures:

GATSBI = Positive Participation

- **G-Gum** = 2 points per day
No gum is permitted in the classroom in order to preserve the cleanliness and order of the classroom
- **A-Absent** = No points-1 point per day
If a student has an **unexcused** absence, they will not receive their ten points for the day. You have to be at rehearsal/class to receive the information.
- **T-Tardy** = 1 points per day (unexcused)
- **S-Setup** = 2 points per day
In their seat with a music binder that is organized, your instrument, and pencil.
- **B-Behavior** = 2 points per day
Students receive points for remaining respectful and polite to their classmates, teachers, and visitors to the classroom.
- **I-Involved/Engaged** = 2 points per day
Students receive points for staying locked in, keeping their cell phone in their pocket and remaining engaged in rehearsal.
- Total of **10 possible points per day**.

Grading:

Orchestra is a co-curricular class, which means students are graded on in-class and out of class requirements.

Attendance/**Positive** Participation during daily rehearsals (GATSBI), Scales & Technique
Quizzes, Theory Assignments: 40%
Concerts and Festivals, CVHS Performance Attendance: 50%
Final-10%

Any student, regardless of ability, can receive an “A” if they are dedicated and work hard.

Playing Quizzes:

Playing exams are taken from music and scales that we are working on in class.
Playing quizzes are graded on:

- *Intonation and accurate notes
 - *Rhythm and continuity of performance
 - *Technique (playing positions, shifting, vibrato, bow control, strings crossings, tone etc.)
 - *Musicality (dynamics, tempo, phrasing, style, articulation)
- If you need help finding appropriate orchestra attire or are having difficulty finding or obtaining concert attire, please contact me.

Playing quizzes are graded via a rubric by the director and the section coaches.

Practicing is Orchestra “Homework”:

Every student should have a designated time in his/her schedule to practice at home. All practice time should include warm-ups, technical exercises and musical passages. However, I realize that many students are involved in athletics, clubs, have jobs, and many other activities on and off campus. I encourage students to use both 4th or 5th hour lunch time to practice and my room is open before and after school for practice as well. 10-15 minutes of smart practice is always better than 0 minutes.

Attendance/Positive Participation (GATSBI):

The orchestra is a performing organization. Your attendance is required for every class rehearsal. When any person is absent from a rehearsal, whether excused or unexcused, it affects the entire group. We learn and perform as a TEAM. Make-up work is possible, but class activities and experiences cannot be duplicated.

If you face a conflict, please let a director know IMMEDIATELY. If the absence is excused, you will still have to make up the points by completing an assignment at the director’s discretion, such as attending another approved concert or writing an essay response to an approved music documentary. If the absence is unexcused, there will be no opportunity to make up the points missed. Please note that working a shift at a job is not an excusable absence. Excusable absences are for emergency situations such as weddings, funerals or other family emergencies or for Campo athletic conflicts.

Performance Attendance & Participation/Concert Evaluation:

To receive full credit for your Concert Attendance grade, you must:

- ☐ Arrive on time for the dress rehearsal
- ☐ Wear the proper concert attire as described in this handbook and bring all music and instrument materials
- ☐ Exhibit Outstanding concert etiquette-(Being a good audience member-not talking in the audience/back stage or being distracting-no gum, food, drink, or cell phones when and/if sitting in the audience)

CVHS Performance Attendance:

Students are required to attend ONE CVHS Performing Arts Performance per semester that they are NOT a part of (performing in) per semester. For credit, they must get their program stamped or signed at the concert by the director or student volunteer in the lobby and turn it into Mrs. Payne. They can choose from any of these Theatre, Band, and Choir Performances:

First Semester CVHS Performances that count towards credit:

Fall Play: September 10th, 12th, Admission Fee

Choir Concert: September 22nd, Free

- If you need help finding appropriate orchestra attire or are having difficulty finding or obtaining concert attire, please contact me.

Band Concert: September 29th, Free
Band Concert: December 8th, Free
Choir Concert: December 15th, Free

Second Semester CVHS Performances that count towards credit:

Solo and Ensemble Recital: January 12th, Free
Choir Concert: March 9th, Free
Band Concert: March 2nd, Free
Musical: May 6th-8th, Admission Fee
Band Concert: May 13th
Choir Concert: May 18th, Admission Fee

Orchestra Lockers:

Students will be assigned an Orchestra locker. These lockers are designed for instrument security/storage only and should be locked at ALL times. Each student will need to purchase their own combination lock from the bookstore or from another store, and the director must have the combination on file. The only exception to this are the cello and bass students, as those locks are provided. Gilbert Public Schools cannot guarantee the security of anything left in these lockers or the Orchestra room. Orchestra lockers are to be used ONLY for Orchestra instruments and music.

Tax Credit:

The state of Arizona offers a wonderful way to get funds to the school's extra-curricular activities through its tax credit program. This program allows Arizona households filing jointly to donate up to \$400 to the Orchestra program. You are able to write off the entire expenditure from the bottom line of your taxes. In many cases, households can even benefit by qualifying for a lower tax bracket, which results in even more \$\$ back to you! There is no catch, and you get every dime back. All you need to do is fill out the form and write a check out for up to \$400. You can even make copies of the form and ask your friends and relatives to help out too. Tax credit donations (up to \$400 per family) are an excellent way to help raise money for the things we need in the Orchestra program. For more information, please call or email Mrs. Payne. You can also submit a tax credit donation online at <https://www.gilbertschools.net/families/tax-creditcontributions> OR we have easy to follow directions and links at our website at campoverdeorchestras.org

Coyote Orchestra "CARE":

C=Communicate

- Let me know well in advance about any schedule conflicts with rehearsals or performances.
- If you need help finding appropriate orchestra attire or are having difficulty finding or obtaining concert attire, please contact me.

- If you would like extra help, just ask. If I can't help you, I'll find someone who can.

A=Attend Rehearsals & Performances

- Be at rehearsals and performances on time.
- When even one member of a performing ensemble is gone, the total musical experience is diminished for all.

R=Respect Property & Eachother

- Do not touch what is not yours. (ie: instruments)
- Take care of your instruments by keeping them locked in their lockers and cleaned.
- Respect the right of others to learn, and the teacher to teach by not causing an interruption to the rehearsal.
- If you can't say something positive, do not say anything at all.
- Clean up after yourselves in the classroom and on stage.

E=Execute Rehearsal Procedures

- Be in your seat, ready to make music at the appropriate time.
- Stop immediately when the conductor stops.
- Listen attentively while the director is giving instruction.
- Raise your hand if you have a comment/question/answer.
- Stay in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise.

Social Media:

Social networking (Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Twitter, etc.) is a personal choice, but is not an appropriate place to post negativity. It is NOT acceptable to post negative comments about the orchestra, other members, or our section coaches on any social network. Instead, please voice your opinions and concerns with Mrs. Payne so that together, we can both come up with a solution.

We also maintain a website: campoverdeorchestras.org and we maintain an instagram page @campoverdeorchestras

Private Lessons:

Private lessons are highly encouraged at every level of musicianship. Private lessons give the student the opportunity to study once a week with a professional musician one on one. Ask Mrs. Payne for a list of teachers.

United Sound:

- If you need help finding appropriate orchestra attire or are having difficulty finding or obtaining concert attire, please contact me.

United Sound is a program that provides musical performance experiences for students with special needs through peer mentorship. All students, grades 9-12 who are interested in working with special needs students are encouraged to apply to be a mentor. The mentor application will be sent out via email during the second full week of school. United Sound rehearsals are after school each Monday from 2:30-3:30. You can find out more information about this amazing program here at unitedsound.org Applications for mentors will be distributed during class during the next week. Students can receive volunteer hours as well.

Section Coaches:

Here at CVHS, students have the opportunity to work with local musicians in sectionals about twice a month. Each of our sectional coaches hold degrees in Music and have professional performance experience. This year's sectional coaches are:

Priscilla Benitez, Violin

Tricia Dana, Viola

Melissa Silva, Cello

Dr. Dan Stotz, Bass

Letters/Pins:

Every student has a year to letter or pin in orchestra and be recognized at our end of the year concert for their hard work. It is rather difficult for a freshman to letter, but if they stick with orchestra, they can letter by their senior year. Your child can ask for a letter/pin application to be considered.

Arts Seal on Diploma:

We will talk about this in class and more information will be emailed out, but students have the opportunity to graduate with a special Arts Seal on their diploma which signifies that they went above and beyond within the arts program at their high school. More information will be given to students in class. You can also find information about our Arts Seal on our website at campoverdeorchestras.org

Regional and All State Orchestra Opportunities:

We will go over these opportunities in class and I will encourage students who are ready to audition to do so. More information can be found on our website.

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2026-2027

August Dates:

- ★ Thursday, August 13th-6-00-7:30 PM-High School Open House
- ★ Friday, August 14th, 2026-Booster Fees Due-\$40-Turned into the lockbox in the classroom-Checks made payable to Campo Verde Orchestra Boosters, cash, or can pay online via our website at campoverdeorchestras.org
- ★ Friday, August 14th, 2026-School Elective Class Fees due-\$25 per semester payable via Infinite Campus/Bookstore
- ★ **Friday, August 21st, 2026-Kick Off Fall Orchestra Social from 2:45-6:00 PM-All Ensembles**

September Dates:

- ★ Saturday, September 12th, 2026-Fall Car Wash Fundraiser at Native Grill
- ★ Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026-Fall ABODA Festival @ Campo-All Ensembles-various performance times throughout the day TBD and communicated via email as we get closer to the date.
- ★ **Thursday, September 24th, 2026-Fall Orchestra Concert @ 7 PM, FREE, Auditorium**

October Dates:

- ★ Fall Break: October 5th-16th
- ★ Friday, October 23rd, 2026-Fall Mini Orchestra Social

December Dates:

- ★ **Friday, December 11th, 2026-Holiday Orchestra Concert with Special Guests: AZ Youth Ballet, \$5 admission, Auditorium**

January Dates:

- ★ Tuesday, January 12th-Solo and Ensemble REcital in the Band and Choir Rooms-Time TBD for those who are doing the Solo & Ensemble Festival-Optional

- ★ Saturday, January 16th-Solo and Ensemble Tier 1 Festival @ Location TBD by AMEA-Optional for those who participate
- ★ Friday and Saturday, January 22nd and 23rd-Regional Auditions-optional for students who choose to audition @ Highland HS-Times TBD and emailed 2 weeks before audition dates

February Dates:

- ★ **February 3rd-Elementary Orchestra Festival-6th Grade Festival @ Campo (Symphonic Strings & Council Only)**
- ★ February 5th-Annual Dinner Fundraiser-More info emailed out later
- ★ Friday and Saturday, February 12th & 13th-All Regional Festival @ Mountain View HS *for those who audition and make the Regional Orchestra
- ★ Thursday, February 18th-ASU Field Trip-All Ensembles-Brentano String Quartet

March Dates:

- ★ Wednesday, March 3rd-ABODA Area Concert Festival @ Desert Ridge HS, All Ensembles
- ★ Friday, and Saturday-March 5th and 6th-All State Auditions (for those who qualify) @ GHS
- ★ **Thursday, March 11th @ 7 PM-Spring Concert, All Ensembles**
- ★ March 15th-26th-Spring Break

April Dates:

- ★ Thursday, April 8th-10th-All State Festival @ UofA*for those who audition and qualify
- ★ State ABODA Concert Festival-Symphonic Strings Only-will either be on April 28th, 29th, 30th, or May 1st TBD @ Chandler Center for the Arts-More info will be emailed

May Dates:

- ★ Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, May 6th-8th-School Musical Performances
- ★ **Thursday, May 20th-Concert @ 7 PM, FREE, Auditorium**
- ★ **Friday, May 21st-Awards Banquet-Cafeteria @ 6 PM**
- ★ Sunday, May 23rd-Baccalaureate-Seniors & Symphonic Strings Only-Time TBD

- There may be other dates or field trips planned, but I will email those out as soon as I have the dates and information for you. Please check your email for future reminders and dates. Thank you.
- ***This calendar does NOT include Strolling Dates-those will be communicated via in a separate document/email.***

