

CANYON CREST ACADEMY  
ENVISION INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

# MUSIC HANDBOOK

## 2009 - 2010

SYMPHONIC BAND  
WIND ENSEMBLE  
JAZZ BAND  
ORCHESTRA

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Music exists in our culture because it provides an aesthetic experience which is unlike any other. No other art form can duplicate the kind of perception which results from expressing oneself through musical performance. The person who plays in a musical organization is paving the way for future musical enjoyment, whether it be listening or performing.

The Instrumental Music program offers to all students numerous opportunities with intellectual, physical, creative, social, and emotional experiences that demonstrate the relationship of music to the students' own cultural heritage, as well as to human experience in general. Students not only gain insights into other cultures, but also understand how music reflects historical contexts, and they are able to recognize universal themes and concepts. Students are able to identify the interrelationships between knowledge and skills gained in music and those gained in other subjects.

The goal of the Instrumental Music program not only includes creativity and cognitive development in music, but also the promotion of critical thinking as well. Through the acquisition of knowledge, students develop their skills, concepts, styles, and an understanding of the unique principles of music.

The method of instruction incorporates a vast variety of techniques. Modeling is used at great lengths, and is one of the most effective instructional methods for developing musical skills. Students learn to aurally "memorize" specific sounds and tones produced on their instruments. Video and audio taping of rehearsals and performances are also used frequently. Students are able to demonstrate objectivity and analyze their performance practice, not only as a soloist, but also as an ensemble member. The more experienced students are often asked by the music director to make musical judgments (e.g. articulations, phrasing) and then defend the decisions to their peers. This method challenges the more advanced players, as well as maintaining a good balance between older and younger players.

Members of CCA instrumental music ensembles will enjoy involvement in a campus organization that provides immediate identity and purpose. The music groups encourage and promote academic excellence. Members of the CCA bands will be involved in concerts, festivals, honor groups, and masterclasses.

MUSIC will be the most important element of the CCA music program. Although participation provides such non-musical benefits as learning to work together, building a sense of responsibility, and feeling a sense of accomplishment in doing something well, the primary purpose of the instrumental music program is that of making MUSIC together.

The following pages contain guidelines for all instrumental music members, which have been formulated for the purpose of maintaining an instrumental music program in which each member, the entire school, and the community may take pride. Please read the following pages carefully, and detach and return the enclosed form indicating an understanding and support of the stated procedures and policies.

## GOALS

Through the making of music, all participants in the Canyon Crest Academy instrumental music program will work towards the following musical and non-musical goals:

1. Development of an understanding of our musical heritage.
2. Development of the individual's self-confidence through working as a team member.
3. Attainment of self-discipline through the development of group pride.
4. Respect for the feelings of fellow musicians.
5. Love and respect for the process of making music as an ensemble.

## REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Rehearsal time is for making our group musical performance better through careful study and meticulous practice. Rehearsal requires the concentrated effort of every member of the group. Students not in class when the bell rings will be marked tardy. The CCA tardy policy will be strictly enforced. Students are expected to set up for rehearsal immediately.

Students must bring their instrument and all required supplies (instruments, music, pencils, mutes, reeds, valve oil, sticks, mallets, rosin, etc.) to each rehearsal. Students are responsible for the set up and break down of daily rehearsal space.

The podium is a platform in more than the literal sense of the word, for it is the only place in the rehearsal room from which gestures and suggestions can mold a group of individuals into a musical organization. Whenever the director or any authorized person takes the podium, the students will give him or her their complete attention. This means total silence when the person is talking, and quickness to respond to instruction.

Each musician is issued music and rehearsal materials. It is essential that each student take particular care of the music since it must be used from year to year, and some music is out-of-print and impossible to replace. Any member losing a part is responsible for replacing that part, even if it means purchasing a complete set of parts. Only pencils may be used to mark music, as ink cannot be erased.

The music rehearsal room will be open most Tuesdays-Thursdays from 7:30 AM until 5:30 PM, Mondays and Fridays until 3:30 PM. Students may store their instruments during the day in the instrument storage room. Please make sure the instruments go home NIGHTLY. Students leaving campus early are encouraged to pick up their instrument, even if another class is in session.

### **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Because Envision music ensembles are devoted to the study and performance of literature for a large group, members of the organizations must learn the individual techniques which are essential to this experience. As a student becomes more proficient, his enjoyment of music increases. Each musician will find that as the quality of individual playing improves, a greater body of literature is available for study and experience, thus enhancing the quality of the band and orchestra as well. A student who attains a high level of musical achievement in middle and high school often continues to play a musical instrument in his college and adult years. Although much individual help is provided during rehearsals, each band and orchestra member is encouraged to study with a private teacher who is a specialist on that person's instrument. Such a teacher is able to give this kind of attention that simply cannot be attained in a group situation.

### **SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS**

Canyon Crest Academy owns a very limited number of instruments that are available for check-out by music students. These instruments are primarily loaned to students whose instruments are in for repair or who are unable to own their own instrument because of special circumstances. The larger, more expensive, unique instruments necessary to complete a well-balanced instrumentation in the other ensembles are also available for consideration. Any student who checks out a school instrument is responsible for its care, safety, upkeep, and repair, as if it were their own personal instrument. Any student who checks out a school instrument is encouraged to take out an insurance policy for the value of the instrument.

Several local music stores offer excellent instrument rentals and lease programs. If you plan to be involved in an instrumental ensemble, it would be extremely beneficial to have a quality instrument to use on a daily basis. Discuss this option with your parents if you are interested, please see the directors for recommendations.

### **NEW INSTRUMENTS**

In the event that you choose to purchase a new instrument, please consult with your director or other musicians familiar with your instrument. There are many different options available, and some instrument brands are more reputable, hold their value longer, or may be better suited for your needs than others. The matter of another instrument should become a subject for family discussion and consideration. Private teachers and the directors can help in recommending a suitable vendor, and selecting an appropriate instrument.

### **INSTRUMENT REPAIR**

A limited number of tools and equipment are available from the directors. Mrs. Villanova can help with minor repairs, however, it is recommended that your instrument receive the professional treatment of a repair specialist. If your instrument needs any type of adjustment, see Mrs. Villanova or Mr. Ahrens immediately.

### **GRADING**

Grades will be determined using the following criteria (with percentages toward final grade):

#### **1. Class Participation and Effort (50%).**

- attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory (unless excused by parent-signed memo).
- performances are culmination of all work in class. It is important that all students participate in our scheduled rehearsals and performances. We can only achieve as a music ensemble if we have 100% participation at all times. All concert and performance dates will be given well in advance.
- your instrument must be in proper playing condition (you must bring a note signed by your parents if your instrument is in repairs)

#### **2. Practice Reports (20%).**

Every Friday, practice reports are due, complete with your parent's signature. These assignments are meant to assist you with structuring individual daily practice outside the classroom rehearsals. Daily practice will be evident in the classroom, and evaluated as a part of your overall grade.

#### **3. Playing Tests (20%).**

Students will be individually tested in class (in person as well as videotaped) periodically to determine individual progress. Areas subject to testing will be scales, key signatures, music from class, clapping and counting, and sight reading.

#### **4. Music Theory and Written Assignments (10%).**

Students will be given occasional written assignments in the form of listening logs, music theory, and journal entries. All work will be graded on completeness, neatness, organization, and content.

#### **5. Band/PE:**

Students enrolling in the Band/PE section of their music class must complete their weekly PE logs and quarterly PE reports in order to receive PE credit. Students not in compliance with the Independent PE requirements will be dropped from Band/PE and will not receive PE credit for the term.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

As a member of the Canyon Crest Academy Envision Music Program you are in the spotlight of the school and the community. Because of our frequent visible public performances, each member must always demonstrate the high quality of musical achievement that is the District's reputation. You are representing your school and community, as well as yourself and must always strive to reflect a positive image. Any student who misrepresents the academy or is disrespectful to any person may be subject to dismissal from the instrumental music program. The Envision music ensembles are composed of dedicated, enthusiastic, respectful musicians striving for the highest standards of musical and performance excellence. Individuals in any music organization must leave all personality conflicts outside the rehearsal room. Success is only accomplished by each individual not only thinking as a unit, but also performing as a unit. The cohesiveness and unity of the band and orchestra make it unique in that individuals not only have the opportunity of generating their own excitement and enthusiasm, but arousing and becoming a part of the entire group's strengths and capabilities.

### **MUSIC CALENDAR**

Check Mrs. Villanova's website for the most up to date calendar, as dates may be changed or added throughout the year. Once on the Calendar page, use the tabs to scroll to the month you need.

**<http://teachers.sduhsd.net/avillanova>**

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WEBSITE**

Please use the above website as a source of information, for class assignments, forms and for the most current information about the Envision Instrumental Music Program

### **HOW CAN MY FAMILY HELP?**

Parent Volunteers are always welcome and needed! Please contact Mrs. Villanova or the CCA Foundation for ways to become involved with your student's education. We would love for you to spend time with us, helping support your kids! Monetary donations would also be greatly appreciated. We staff an amazing group of teaching artists whose salaries are funded through the Foundation. Our music and instruments are also primarily funded through donations to the Foundation. We can only continue to offer a rigorous and varied arts program through financial support from our families.

