

# **MUSTANG ORCHESTRA PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2016-2017**

## **BEGINNING ORCHESTRA**

Beginning Orchestra is intended for students with little to no experience on string instruments. This class is open to all MIHS students with approval from their counselor. Students perform in multiple concerts throughout the year and are required to conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. Upon completion of the class, students will be able to read music and play either violin, viola, cello, or upright bass at an intermediate level, and are prepared to move on in the learning of their instrument at more advanced levels.

## **CONCERT ORCHESTRA**

Concert Orchestra is intended for those students that have either successfully completed MIHS Beginning Orchestra, or have at least one year of experience playing at the middle school level on the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass. Students perform in multiple concerts and contests throughout the year and are required to perform as well as conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. Concert Orchestra is the training ground for our advanced ensembles, Symphonic String Orchestra and Symphonic Full Orchestra. Students must demonstrate a high level of commitment and enthusiasm, plus complete the required pre-requisites in order to advance to the Symphonic Orchestra.

**PRE-REQUISITE:** Earned an A or B in MIHS Beginning Orchestra or in middle school orchestra program. New students must audition for the orchestra director for correct placement.

## **SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA**

Symphonic Orchestra is an honors level orchestra course and is the premier performing orchestra at MIHS. Students who are enrolled in this course will be in two orchestras, Symphonic String Orchestra and Symphonic Full Orchestra. Symphonic String Orchestra meets during the regularly scheduled school day. Symphonic Full Orchestra meets on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30 PM. Students perform in multiple concerts, contests, and other events throughout the year in both ensembles and are required to perform as well as conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. All students have several years of playing experience before entering into this class.

**PRE-REQUISITE:** Ability to play two-octave major and minor scales in a variety of bow styles. Demonstration of high level of professionalism and musical maturity. No unexcused absences for required events in previous orchestra classes. Student must receive approval from their guidance counselor and audition with the orchestra director.