February 9, 2021

Dear Orchestra Student and Orchestra Parent,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe. I wanted to touch base with you to make sure you know how much I would love to see each and every one of you in the McQueen Orchestra next year. I understand this school year has been completely different than any previous school year. Some students have been in orchestra this school year while some students have not been able to participate in orchestra due to multiple circumstances and haven’t been in orchestra in over a year. This is all totally fine. I want each and every one of you to know no matter your situation this current school year, you have a home next year in the McQueen Orchestra. We know many of you are concerned about not owning your own instrument – we have plenty of school-owned instruments to make sure you have a high-quality instrument to play every day. I am here to support you.

Joining orchestra in high school is a giant step forward in every child’s educational journey. There are some important decisions which will begin to have long-term impacts. Often young people fear the added workload of the high school curriculum and assume they will not have time to participate in the orchestra program. This is simply not true. Ironically, it is often the continuation of musical studies which serves as the transitional key to success. Being a member of a music ensemble ensures instant and immediate acceptance in a respected organization. A group of supporting friends is already established with a firm sense of belonging.

There is more to it. As a student and parent, you need to know:

• **YOU CAN NOW EARN HONORS CREDIT IN MUSIC 10TH, 11TH AND 12TH GRADE YEARS!!!**
• The McQueen Orchestra values high academic standards, participation in athletics, and participation in other extra-curricular activities.
• Research shows when music is included in a student’s daily learning, reading, writing and math scores improve.
• There is a high correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive competence scores, healthy self-esteem, total interest in school activities and the study of music.
• College admissions officers give special consideration to students who are part of their high school music program.
• The longer an individual studies music, the higher his/her scores tend to be on both the verbal and math portions of the SAT exam.
• Employers often seek out students who are part of their high school music program because of the student’s ability to solve problems and work well with all kinds of people.
• The McQueen Orchestras have a long history of members who become McQueen’s Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Top-10 McQueen Students.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this vitally important decision. We join you in your commitment to ensuring the best education possible for your child.

With Lancer Pride,

Kenny Baker
Orchestra Teacher
McQueen High School
KDBaker@washoeschools.net
(775)-583-8852
**Possible Scheduling Scenarios**

These sample schedules demonstrate ways to easily fit orchestra in to all four years of high school. Please also keep in mind: PE, Computer Literature, and Health can all be taken in the summer or as independent study. This frees up more class periods during the school year for more electives such as foreign language, other arts, other music courses, etc. You will find another sheet attached which contains the course names and numbers for registration. If you have any questions on course selection, please feel free to contact me.

Kenny Baker  
Orchestra Director  
McQueen High School  
KDBaker@washoeschools.net  
(775)-583-8852

### Regular Diploma

<table>
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<th>Period</th>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Sophomore</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Orchestra (10-12)</td>
<td>Orchestra (10-12)</td>
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<td>US History</td>
<td>American Government</td>
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<td>English 1-2</td>
<td>English 3-4</td>
<td>English 5-6</td>
<td>English 7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Elective or Off Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Freshman Seminar</td>
<td>PE or Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective or Off Campus</td>
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</table>
| 7      | 1st Sem. – Comp Lit or Elective  
| 2nd Sem – Health or Elective | Elective or Off Campus | Elective or Off Campus | Elective or Off Campus |

### Honors Diploma

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<th>Senior</th>
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<td>Orchestra (10-12)</td>
<td>Orchestra (10-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>Science or Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6      | Freshman Seminar | PE or Elective | 1st Sem. – Comp Lit or Elective  
| 2nd Sem – Health or Elective | Elective or Off Campus | Elective or Off Campus |
| 7      | Foreign Language | Foreign Language | Elective or Off Campus | Elective or Off Campus |
Concert Orchestra: Course # 6641-6642

**THIS IS THE COURSE FOR ALL STUDENTS ENTERING THE 9TH GRADE NEXT YEAR**

Prerequisite: Participation in an 8th Grade orchestra program, or by instructor’s approval. Full Year = 1 elective credit This course is open to students in all grade level. This course is required for all freshmen wishing to participate in the McQueen High School Orchestra Program. This course provides instruction in a string orchestra and small group setting on violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students develop knowledge required to be successful in the Sinfonia Orchestra. Emphasis will be on: introducing advanced scales, shifting, multi meters, improvisation, professionalism, basic music theory, music appreciation, interpreting and playing various styles and genres of music, and other music activities aligned with state and national music standards. School-owned instruments are available for student rental as available. Extra rehearsals and public performances are required as part of the class. Students enrolled in this class may participate in the WCSD Solo and Ensemble Festival. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement and may not be repeated for credit.

Eclectic Styles Ensemble: Course # 6625-6626

**AS A FRESHMAN, YOU MUST ALSO PARTICIPATE IN CONCERT ORCHESTRA TO REGISTER FOR ECLECTIC STYLES.**

Prerequisite: Participation in an 8th Grade orchestra program, or by instructor’s approval. 9th Grade who wish to participate in this course MUST be enrolled in Concert Orchestra as well. Full Year = 1 elective credit (Honors credit available for 10th-12th graders who complete additional requirements) This ensemble is for students who wish to advance their musical knowledge and skill through the study of Eclectic Styles such as (but not limited to) jazz, fiddle, American Roots, World Music (non-Western European), and other non-traditional music. The music performed will have an emphasis on the use of musical creation through improvisation. The Eclectic Styles Ensemble will perform at various concerts, festivals, and competitions as opportunities arise. Students in this course will be required to participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement and may be repeated for credit.

Sinfonia Orchestra: Course #6645-6646

**THIS IS THE COURSE FOR ALL STUDENTS ENTERING THE 10TH GRADE NEXT YEAR**

Prerequisite: Participation in Concert Orchestra or by instructor approval. Full Year = 1 elective credit (Honors credit available for 10th-12th graders who complete additional requirements)

This course is for all tenth through twelfth grade orchestra students wishing to participate in the McQueen High School Orchestra Program. This course provides instruction in a string orchestra and small group setting on violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students develop knowledge required to be successful in Orchestra. Emphasis will be on mastering: advanced scales, shifting, multi meters, improvisation, professionalism, basic music theory, music appreciation, and other music activities aligned with state and national music standards. School-owned instruments are available for student rental as available. Extra rehearsals and public performances are required as part of the class. Students in this course will be required to audition for WCSD Honors Orchestra and Nevada All State Orchestra and participate in WCSD Solo and Ensemble Festival. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement and may be repeated for credit.

Chamber Orchestra: Course #6643-6644

**THIS IS THE COURSE FOR ALL STUDENTS ENTERING THE 10TH GRADE NEXT YEAR AND WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN AN AUDITIONED ENSEMBLE. YOU MUST COMPLETE AN AUDITION. PLEASE EMAIL ME FOR DETAILS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS COURSE.**

Prerequisite: By instructor approval only. This course is not open to ninth graders. Full Year = 1 elective credit (Honors credit available for 10th-12th graders who complete additional requirements)

This course is open to the most advanced tenth through twelfth graders in the McQueen Orchestra Program. Students will continue to develop knowledge of and expertise on their individual instruments and will perform music from various periods and styles in both large and small ensembles. Group unity and leadership in performance will be primary goals of this course; therefore, students will act as coaches to students in other strings classes at various times. Students will be required to perform in concerts, gigs and extra rehearsals outside of the classroom setting. Students in this course will be required to audition for WCSD Honors Orchestra and Nevada All State Orchestra and participate in WCSD Solo and Ensemble Festival. School-owned instruments are available for student rental as available. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement and may be repeated for credit.