Course Description:
In sixth grade orchestra, students study an instrument from the string family (violin, viola, cello, bass). Students learn correct technique on their chosen string instrument and learn to perform in an ensemble through sequential music exercises, folk songs, and age-appropriate repertoire. Students are guided to the understanding of musical compositions, basic theory structure, music history, music interpretation, articulation, dynamics, phrasing, ensemble balance, bowing technique, instrument care, tone production, and conducting patterns. Daily at-home practice is necessary to continue mastering playing technique. Since performances are an integral and vital extension of this course, participation in performances is strongly encouraged.

Essential Skills/Processes: Students will—

String Instrument Techniques
• Play with proper posture: standing and sitting
• Proper left hand placement
• Proper bow hold
• Tune individual strings
• Incorporate basic elements of articulation
• Tone quality through use of the bow
• Performance of grade appropriate literature
• Intonation through proper placement of half and whole steps
• Care and maintenance of the instrument

Pitch and Rhythm (Music Theory)
• Basic pitch notation: Treble clef, Alto clef, Bass clef
• Basic rhythm notation
• Time Signatures: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4
• One octave scales in the Major Keys of D, G, C
• Sight reading

Expression and Structure
• Respond to and learn conducting patterns: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4
• Dynamics
• Tempo
• Phrasing
• Musical terms and symbols

Orchestral Skills and Literature
• Cooperative Learning and behavior
• Rehearsal techniques and etiquette
• Stage presence and Decorum
• Performance of grade appropriate literature

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• Exploration of available music technology
• Positive critique of performances

**Vocabulary**
• Glossary of musical terms and symbols listed in the Middle School Music Curriculum

**Enrichment Activities**
• Winter Concert
• Spring Concert
• Music Performance Assessment
• Stafford County Fine Arts Festival
• Assemblies
• Private Lessons (outside of school)
• Solo and Ensemble Festival
• Richmond Symphony programs

**Essential Knowledge:** Students will—
• Educate the student using the county adopted Music Curriculum.
• Understanding the role of music in our society
• Appreciate the work/study ethic
• Appreciate different cultures and customs
• Acquiring stage presence and decorum
• Encouraging creative experimentation
• Sharing the talents of others
• Fostering a spirit of cooperation

**Resources:**

**Curriculum Connections:**
*Career Preparations:* Professional musician, teacher, composer, arranger, production engineering, luthier and instrument repairman.
*English/Language Arts:* Musical terms and vocabulary.
*Fine Arts:* Coordinate visual and dramatic arts.
*Foreign Language:* Musical terms in various languages.
*Health and Physical Education:* Aerobic activity is required for performance of musical instrument
*Mathematics:* Rhythmic counting and various meters (fractions)
*Science:* Acoustics and various physical properties of sound.
*Social Studies:* Music history in relationship to general historical events.

Stafford County Public Schools:  
[https://www.staffordschools.net/](https://www.staffordschools.net/)

VA Standards of Learning:  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml)

School Report Card (VA Department of Education):  

*Stafford County Public Schools 2018*