



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Seventh Grade Orchestra

Course Description:

Intermediate orchestra is a continuation of beginning orchestra. Students continue the mastery of string technique and ensemble performance through the study of advanced music exercises, folk songs, and age appropriate repertoire. Daily at-home practice is necessary to continue mastering playing technique. Performance opportunities will be more abundant. 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: recognizing "fifths"
- Basic elements of vibrato
- Incorporate advanced elements of articulation
- Tone quality through refined use of the bow
- Performance of grade appropriate literature
- Intonation; group intonation
- Group blend and balance
- Introduce positions: 3rd and 5th for violin, viola, cello, and bass; 4th position for cello

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, 2/2 cut time), 6/8
- One and two octave scales in the Major Keys of D, G, C, F, Bb and the minor keys of d and g
- Sight reading

Expression and Structure

- Respond to and learn conducting patterns: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 2/2, 6/8 slow and fast tempos)
- Dynamics
- Tempo
- Phrasing
- Musical Form
- 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
- 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

- Concerts
- Music Performance Assessment
- Stafford County Fine Arts Festival
- Private Lessons (outside of school)
- Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Junior Regional Orchestra

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/>

VA Standards of Learning:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml

School Report Card (VA Department of Education):

<http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/>