



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Eighth Grade Orchestra

Course Description:

Advanced orchestra is a continuation of beginning and intermediate orchestra. Students continue the mastery of string technique and ensemble performance through advanced technical etudes, scales and arpeggios, and age appropriate repertoire. Daily at-home practice is necessary to continue mastering playing technique. Preparation for performances is more intensive. 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 individually in "fifths"
- Refined vibrato
- Refine use of third position and fifth position (violin and viola); fourth, third and fifth position (cello); refine position work for bass
- Advanced articulation
- Tone quality
- Performance of grade appropriate literature
- Group Intonation; Individual intonation
- Care and maintenance of the instrument

Pitch and Rhythm (Music Theory)

- Pitch notation: Treble clef, Alto clef, Bass clef; introduce treble clef to viola and tenor clef to cello
- Rhythm notation
- Time Signatures: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 2/2, 6/8, 9/8, 12/8, 3/8
- Two octave scales in the Major Keys of D, G, C, A, F, Bb, Eb; Minor Keys of d, g, a, b
- Sight reading
- Major, minor, and perfect intervals

Expression and Structure

- Respond to and learn conducting patterns of simple and compound meters
- Dynamics
- Phrasing
- Structural Form
- Tempo
- Styles: historic periods of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th century

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
- Explore career opportunities

Vocabulary

- Glossary of musical terms and symbols listed in the Middle School Music Curriculum

Enrichment Activities

- Concerts
- Music Performance Assessment
- Stafford County 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/>