



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview High School Orchestra

Course Description:

High school orchestra reinforces and refines the techniques learned in middle school. The high school strings student works to become a fully rounded musician through the study of three octave scales and arpeggios, advanced etudes, and the performance of the standard string orchestra repertoire. This course is performance intensive. Evaluation is an integral part of the course as it relates to the Standards of Learning. Since performances are an integral and vital extension of this course, students are *strongly encouraged* to participate in concerts and other performances and rehearsals outside of class time.

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 positions through use of three octave scales and repertoire
- Advanced articulation
- Tone quality
- Performance of grade appropriate literature
- Group Intonation; Individual intonation

Pitch and Rhythm (Music Theory)

- Pitch notation; Refine use of treble clef for viola and tenor clef for cello
- Rhythm notation
- Time Signatures: Simple and Compound meters, changing meters
- Three octave major and minor scales
- Sight reading
- Simple melodic and rhythmic dictation

Expression and Structure

- Respond to and learn conducting patterns of simple, compound meters, and changing meters
- Dynamics
- Tempo
- Phrasing
- Styles: historic periods of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th century, and contemporary
- Form: Sonata, Rondo, Minuet and Trio, Theme and Variations etc.
- Compositional Devices: sequence, imitation, diminution, inversion, augmentation, retrograde

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
- Expanded exploration of career opportunities

Essential Knowledge:

The goals of the course are to educate the student using the String Curriculum checklist to expand the understanding of the role of music in our society; to appreciate different cultures and customs; acquire stage presence and decorum; and foster positive attitudes for further string study beyond high school.

Resources:

Curriculum Connections:

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/>