



## 6th Grade Orchestra

### Course description:

Acquire initial skills in recognizing and playing correct notes, rhythms, and develop the ability to work and perform with other students. Students will provide their own instruments. Participation in extra-curricular ensembles may be available, such as Chamber Orchestra and solo/small ensembles. At home practice and all concert/contest participation are required and are part of the student's grade.

The following learning targets represent the major concepts studied and assessed in this course.

### Semester 1:

#### Unit 1: Introduction to Orchestra

- Students will be introduced/review rhythms and notes on the staff.
- Students will be introduced to their instruments and fundamentals.
- Students will be introduced/review the playing of string instruments.
- Students will be introduced to listening and evaluation skills.
- Students will identify parts of the instrument.
- Students will learn care and maintenance of their instruments.
- Students will understand sitting balance, head balance and instrument balance.
- Students will understand ensemble and orchestra expectations and necessary materials.

#### Unit 2: Winter Performance

- Students will be able to perform a variety of rhythms alone and together for their class
- Students will be able to create their own rhythms and perform them for their class.
- Students will be able to perform their concert music alone and with others.
- Students will be able to identify, articulate, and discuss a variety of the elements of music.
- Students will begin being able to identify the purpose of the music and performance.
- Students will understand the expectations and purpose of performance.

## Semester 2:

### Unit 3: Spring Performance

- Students can analyze repertoire for technical considerations and can select repertoire based on personal choice.
- Students will value and connect with the history, context and meaning of a piece of music.
- Students will develop and demonstrate collaboration, empathy, teamwork, responsibility and advocacy.
- Students will expand on their rhythms and note reading.
- Students will be able to perform their spring concert music alone and with others.

### Essential Questions for Each Semester

- How do instrumentalists take care of their instruments?
- How do musicians make creative decisions?
- How do musicians improve the quality of their creative work?
- When is creative work ready to share?
- How do performers select repertoire?
- How does understanding the structure and context of musical works inform performance?
- How do performers interpret musical works?
- How do musicians improve the quality of their performance?
- When is a performance judged ready to present?
- How do context and the manner in which musical work is presented influence audience response?