



8th Grade Orchestra

Course Description:

This course combines traditional performance opportunities with new ensembles to showcase students' talents. The students will participate in 8th grade orchestra and will have the opportunity to audition for honor groups. Students will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular groups such as Chamber Orchestra and solo/small ensembles. At home practice and concert/contest participation are requirements, and included in the student's grade.

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

Semester 1:

Unit 1: Fall Performance

- Students will be reviewing rhythms and notes from 7th grade and expanding to more complex notes and rhythms.
- Students will expand anatomical needs of playing string instruments.
- Students will continue to refine listening and evaluation skills.
- Students will review care and maintenance of their instruments.
- Students will refine tuning with pegs, fine tuners, and electronic tuners.
- 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 at age appropriate level.
- Students will be able to create their own rhythms and perform them for their class at age appropriate level.
- 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 at age appropriate level.
- Students will understand the expectations and purpose of performance at age appropriate level.

Semester 2:

Unit 3: Adjudicated Performance

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

Unit 4: Spring Performance

- Students will understand musical considerations within the “pop” genre.
- Students will prepare for expanding all skills at the high school level.
- Students will be able to reflect on skills attained and overall progress.
- Students will be able to perform their concert music alone and with others.

Essential Questions for Each Semester

- 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?
- How do context and the manner in which musical work is presented influence audience response?