

PLANNED INSTRUCTION

A PLANNED COURSE FOR:

Orchestra

Curriculum writing committee:

Lauren Flack

Grade Level: 6th

Date of Board Approval: ____2023____

Course Weighting: Orchestra 6

Participation	30%
Concert Performances	25%
Written and Performance Assignments	20%
Lesson Attendance	25%
Total	100%

Curriculum Map

Overview:

Orchestra is a course in which students expand their musical understanding and performance skills related to string instruments (violin, viola, cello, or string bass) through individualized instruction, large group rehearsals, small group lessons (3-4 per marking period), and required concert performances.

While this course is designed for students who have previous instrumental experience, students with no prior instrumental experience may participate upon completing a lesson regimen of 4-6 lessons prior to the semester in which they wish to participate.

Time/Credit for the Course: Full Year

Goals:

Unit 1: Technique, ongoing

Understanding of:

- Bow Hold
- Posture
- Bow Control
- Finger patterns (low 2, low 1)

Unit 2: Tone Quality, Pitch, and Intonation, ongoing

Understanding of:

- Tuning (with fine tuners)
- Adjusting finger placement to correct intonation

- Performing scale related to repertoire key signature
- Dynamic contrast
- Tone production

Unit 3: Rhythm, ongoing

Understanding of:

- Quarter note time signatures
- Counting rhythms
- Dotted notes/single eighths
- Tempo

Unit 4: Musical Form, Style, and History, ongoing

Understanding of:

- Famous composers
- Orchestral works (listening)
- Dictation

Big Ideas:

Playing position and bow hold

Using the entire bow, better tone production

Tuning, listening and making minor adjustments

Tempo, playing as part of an ensemble

Textbook and Supplemental Resources:

- Performance repertoire selected from DVMS/DDMS Music Library

Curriculum Plan

Time/Days: Ongoing

Unit Name: Technique

- **Standards (by number):** 9.1.8.C, 9.1.8.H
- **Anchors:** A1.1.1.1
- **Eligible Content:**
Bow hold (flexibility in all RH fingers)

Shifting into 3rd position (bass)
Appropriate playing posture
Double stops (both strings open)
Intermediate finger patterns (low 2, low 1)
Bow techniques (detaché)
Early shifting exercises (sliding up and down fingerboard / getting out of 1st pos.)
Slurs (especially including a string crossing)

Objectives:

DOK Level 1 (Recall)

- Students will recall aspects of a proper bow hold
- Students will define the term “double stop”, and demonstrate technique of playing two strings simultaneously

DOK Level 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Students will construct a correct bow hold
- Students will show smooth, connected, detaché bowing technique
- Students will show smooth slurs, even when crossing strings

Core Activities and Corresponding Instructional Methods:

- Discussion and demonstration
- Full ensemble rehearsals
- Group sectionals

Assessments:

- **Diagnostic:** Initial observations during classroom instruction
- **Formative:** Daily observation and playing tests
- **Summative:** Concert performance

Time/Days: Ongoing

Unit Name: Tone Quality, Pitch, and Intonation

- **Standards (by number):** 9.1.8.C, 9.1.8.G, 9.1.8.H
- **Anchors:** A1.1.1.2
- **Eligible Content:**

Tuning the instrument with each note played on the keyboard (fine tuners only)
Adjusting placement on finger on fingerboard when asked
Major scales up to 2 flats/sharps and 2 octaves
Creating dynamic contrast with bow weight and speed
Using the full bow to achieve an even and pleasant tone

Objectives:

DOK Level 1 (Recall)

- Students will list notes required to play scales listed above
- Students will define dynamic markings (p, mp, cresc. etc.)
- Students will use the whole bow to create a beautiful tone

DOK Level 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Student will modify finger placement when asked to achieve correct intonation
- Students will show ability to tune their instrument using only fine tuners
- Students will show dynamic contrast by varying weight and speed of the bow

Core Activities and Corresponding Instructional Methods:

- Individual and group warm-up
- Discussion and demonstration
- Critical listening activities
- Group sectionals
- Full ensemble rehearsals

Assessments:

- **Diagnostic:** Students' first read-through of the music at the start of each semester and daily observation
- **Formative:** Daily observation and playing tests
- **Summative:** Playing tests and Concert performance

Time/Days: Ongoing

Unit Name: Rhythm

- **Standards (by number):** 9.1.8.C, 9.1.8.G
- **Anchors:** A1.1.1.1

- **Eligible Content:**

Variety of time signatures with quarter note as foundation (3/4, 4/4, 2/4)

Counting (1 & 2 &) etc.

Dotted notes and single 8th notes

Playing in a specific tempo (with metronome or conductor)

Objectives:

DOK Level 1 (Recall)

- Students will define the top number in a time signature
- Students will identify single 8th notes
- Students will calculate the value of dotted notes (e.g. dotted half, dotted quarter, etc.)

DOK Level 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Students will show ability to play in a specific tempo within the ensemble

DOK Level 4 (Extended Thinking)

- Students will analyze rhythmic patterns in music with counting syllables (1 & 2 & etc.)

Core Activities and Corresponding Instructional Methods:

- Individual and group warm-up
- Discussion and demonstration
- Listening and repetition
- Group sectionals
- Full ensemble rehearsals

Assessments:

- **Diagnostic:** Students' first read-through of the music at the start of each semester and daily observation
- **Formative:** Daily observation and playing tests
- **Summative:** Playing tests and Concert performance

Time/Days: Ongoing

Unit Name: Musical Form, Style, and History

- **Standards (by number):** 9.1.8.A, 9.1.8.D
- **Anchors:** A1.1.1.1

- **Eligible Content:**

Famous composer names

Famous orchestral works from a variety of time periods (listening)

Diction readiness (call and response)

Objectives:

DOK Level 1 (Recall)

- Students will recognize the names of famous composers and the composers whose music they are performing
- Students will repeat a short melody that is played for them on an instrument
- Students will recognize famous orchestral / string pieces from a variety of time periods

DOK Level 4 (Extended Thinking)

- Students will analyze individual and group performances

Core Activities and Corresponding Instructional Methods:

- Listening, Evaluation, and Discussion
- Individual and group warm-up

Assessments:

- **Diagnostic:** Initial observations during classroom instruction
- **Formative:** Daily observation and playing tests
- **Summative:** Playing test, concert performance, post-concert review