

7/8 Grade Beginning Orchestra Syllabus

Course Description/Goals:

85312/85314/85317 | Grade 7 & 8 Orchestra Prerequisite: Grade 7 & 8 previous orchestra experience is required. Designed as a performance-based course, students learn advanced instrumental techniques and music reading skills on string instruments.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

The 7th–8th Grade Orchestra continues the development of skills introduced in Beginning Orchestra, with an emphasis on advancing technique, expanding musical repertoire, and refining ensemble performance. This course prepares students for **high school orchestra participation** and encourages them to become lifelong musicians and supporters of the arts. Each category contains specific standards (TEKS) that students are expected to master. [Chapter 117. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts Subchapter B. Middle School](#)

Course Outline:

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p>Strengthen left-hand technique for improved intonation, shifting, and finger agility.</p> <p>Expand bowing skills to include more advanced strokes (e.g., hooked bowing, spiccato, martelé).</p> <p>Perform a wider range of scales and arpeggios in multiple keys, using varied bowings and rhythms.</p> <p>Interpret expressive markings such as phrasing, dynamics, tempo changes, and articulations at a higher level.</p> <p>Develop ensemble awareness through balance, blend, and following more complex conducting patterns.</p>	<p>Learn independent musicianship skills, including sight-reading and practice strategies.</p> <p>Perform intermediate-level repertoire from a variety of musical styles and historical periods.</p> <p>Contribute to a positive ensemble culture, showing leadership, responsibility, and cooperation.</p>