



Northern York County School District

Curriculum Overview

Course: Orchestra	
Grade Level: 6-8	
Approval Date:	Length of Time: 60 days
Course Description: Orchestra is an instrumental music ensemble comprised of students playing the violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students learn individual performance skills, as well as group ensemble practice. Students prepare for two to three performances each year.	
Course Objectives: Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate competent technique for playing the violin, viola, cello, or double bass.• Perform music with accurate rhythm, pitch, and intonation.• Develop an artistic and mature tone quality on their instrument.• Learn to read and interpret musical notation.• Understand and appreciate orchestral works from various time periods and locations.• Evaluate and critique individual, group, and professional musical performances.	
Related Standards: National Core Arts Standards for Music (Ensemble) Performing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select - MU:Pr4.1.E.8a Select a varied repertoire to study based on music reading skills (where appropriate), an understanding of formal design in the music, context, and the technical skill of the individual and ensemble.• Interpret - MU:Pr4.3.E.8a Demonstrate understanding and application of expressive qualities in a varied repertoire of music through prepared and improvised performances.• Rehearse, Evaluate and Refine - MU:Pr5.3.E.8a Develop strategies to address technical challenges in a varied repertoire of music and evaluate their success using feedback from ensemble peers and other sources to refine performances.• Present - MU:Pr6.1.E.8a Demonstrate attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music representing diverse cultures and styles. Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.1.12.A Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities (Elements: duration, intensity, pitch, timbre. Principles: composition, form, genre, harmony, rhythm, texture)• 9.1.12.B Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts (Music: sing, play an instrument, read and notate music, compose and arrange, improvise)• 9.1.8.C. Identify and use comprehensive vocabulary within each of the arts forms.• 9.1.8.G. Explain the function and benefits of rehearsal and practice sessions	
Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technique	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch and Intonation • Rhythm/Notation • Musical Culture/Context • Artistry 	
Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowing/Articulation • Vibrato • Shifting • Time Signatures • Rhythms • Major/minor Key Signatures • Vibrato • Tuning with Pegs • Self-Reflection • Ensemble Blend and Performance 	Competencies: Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize various key signatures (up to two sharps and two flats) and play corresponding Major/minor scales • Understand finger patterns for each key signature • Execute bowing and articulation techniques • Learn to shift to 3rd position, 4th position, and 2nd position • Develop an artistic sense of dynamics phrasing, vibrato, and ensemble blend.
Learning Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuning • Warm-Up Activities (scales, chorales, etc.) • Rehearsal 	Performance Tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Playing Tests • Concert Performances • Concert Reflections
Other Assessment Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class participation • Concert performance • Lesson attendance 	
Textbook/Primary Resource: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchestral Literature selected from Northern Music Library or newly purchased 	
Supplemental Resource Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youtube video example of performances • Habits of a Successful Middle Level String Musician – Christopher Selby, Scott Rush • Essential Elements for Strings 	