



Northern York County School District

Curriculum Overview

Course: Orchestra	
Grade Level: 9-12	
Approval Date:	Length of Time: 180 days
Course Description: <p>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.</p>	
Course Objectives: <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate competent techniques for playing the violin, viola, cello, or double bass.• Perform music with accurate rhythm, pitch, and intonation.• Analyze their current tone production and apply techniques to develop a more artistic and mature tone quality on their instrument• Interpret musical notation and apply this understanding to accurately perform melodies and rhythms on their instrument• Analyze and compare orchestral works from various time periods and locations, and evaluate their historical and stylistic characteristics to demonstrate an informed appreciation• Evaluate and critique individual, group, and professional musical performances.	
Related Standards: <p>National Core Arts Standards for Music (Ensemble) Performing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MU:Pr4.1.E.1a Select - Explain the criteria used to select a varied repertoire to study based on an understanding of theoretical and structural characteristics of the music, the technical skill of the individual or ensemble, and the purpose or context of the performance.• MU:Pr4.3.E.1a Interpret - Demonstrate an understanding of context in a varied repertoire of music through prepared and improvised performances.• MU:Pr5.3.E.1a Rehearse, Evaluate and Refine - Develop strategies to address expressive challenges in a varied repertoire of music, and evaluate their success using feedback from ensemble peers and other sources to refine performances.• MU:Pr6.1.E.1a Present - Demonstrate attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music representing diverse cultures, styles, and genres. <p>Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities Performance</p>	

<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) • 9.1.12.C Integrate and apply advanced vocabulary to the arts forms • 9.1.12.G Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions 	
Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technique • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize various key signatures (up to four sharps and flats) and play corresponding Major/minor scales • Understand finger patterns for each key signature • Execute bowing and articulation techniques • 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 • Scale assignments/individual playing tests • Concert performance • Lesson attendance 	

Textbook/Primary Resource:

- Orchestral Literature selected from Northern Music Library or newly purchased

Supplemental Resource Materials:

- Youtube video example of performances
- Habits of a Successful String Musician – Christopher Selby, Scott Rush