



ORCHESTRA Syllabus

Della Icenhower Intermediate School

Teacher:

Francesca Wright

Grades: 5th and 6th

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Course Information

Students will explore the following String Orchestra instruments:

The String Orchestra consists of four instruments, the [Violin](#), the [Viola](#), the [Cello](#), and the [Bass](#). Sound is made by plucking with the fingers or pulling the bow across a string. Each instrument also comes in a variety of sizes, to fit the size of the student. All younger students should be measured by the Orchestra teacher or in a music store to determine the size that suits them. Here are a few more differences between each member of the String Orchestra family.

- The [Violin](#) is the smallest, and is therefore the highest in pitch. It is also the most popular. It is played with the instrument under the chin while sitting or standing, and its small size makes it easily transportable.
- The [Viola](#) is very similar to the Violin, only slightly larger, and slightly lower in pitch. It may be played while sitting or standing, and its tone is regarded as mellow and sweet. Like the Violin, it is easily transportable.
- The [Cello](#) is much larger and lower sounding than the Viola, and must be played while sitting and hugging the instrument with the knees. Fortunately, Cellos are made for students of all sizes.
- The [String Bass](#) is the largest and lowest sounding string instrument in the Orchestra. It is played while standing or sitting on a stool. It is also made in different sizes so that it can fit the student needs. You may need a larger hand to play it comfortably.



www.beginband.com

Text

No textbook required for 5th grade. *String Basics Book 1* is needed for 6th grade. Any needed music or music books will be a class set sharing opportunity.

Materials

Pencils required. Donations of Kleenex and hand sanitizer would be greatly appreciated.

Course Schedule

All assignments will be completed in class. Parents will be notified if any assignments need to be prepared outside of class.

Grades

Students will obtain a minimum of one grade per week. Grades will be based upon the following categories:

50% - Daily Skill Mastery Assignments 40% - Major Tests/Projects/Performances 10% - Homework

Teachers shall determine student progress using a grading scale of 0-100.

90-100 =A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

Below 70 = Failing

I = Incomplete (“I” is not an academic grade, but indicates incomplete work.)

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

No grades are weighted at the intermediate level

Number of Grades Each Grading Period

10 (minimum)

Homework

Intermediate schools will provide for homework-free extended holidays. (Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break)

Semester Grades

Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three grading periods within the semester. The three grading periods will equal 100% of the student’s grade (33.3% per grading period). Credit is awarded at the end of the academic year.

**No semester exams are administered at the intermediate level.*

UIL Eligibility (“No Pass/No Play”)

- Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week reporting periods.
- Each six week grading period will stand alone for eligibility purposes.

- A student who is declared academically ineligible after a six week grading period will be able to regain eligibility if all of the student's grade averages are 70% or higher at the subsequent 3 week grade reporting period.
- See MISD Board Policy FM (LOCAL) - Exempt Courses.

Student grades will be posted in Skyward parent portal within five business days for daily grades and major grades. Special consideration is given to major projects, including lengthy writing assignments.

Test Re-take Policy

Students who fail a major project (below 70%) will be allowed to make corrections for a maximum grade of 70%. All corrections must be completed by the specified date given by the teacher unless the student is afforded time, as a result of the district's absent/make-up guidelines.

Late Work Policy

Teacher will accept late work:

- 1 class day late - grade reduced by 10 points
- 2 class days late - grade reduced by 20 points
- 3 class days late - Maximum grade of 70

Tardies and Absences

Regular school attendance is essential for students to gain the maximum benefit from teacher-led and school activities. An unexcused tardy will result in action being taken in accordance with school policy. Extra credit through additional assignments or projects will not be awarded.

Missed Work

Students may make-up assignments after an excused absence. Students will have the same number of days they are absent to make up work. Please make sure your child speaks with me after an absence to identify any assignments that need to be completed.

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in discussions, activities, and complete all assignments. Their grade will be calculated upon meeting these requirements. Student progress will be determined using a grading scale of 0-100.

Academic Dishonesty

A student found cheating or aiding in cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and their parent will be contacted. Cheating will also encompass being in possession of another student's work without teacher's permission and copying information from a source without properly citing the author.

Goals

The goal of the course is for students to build upon their previous technology foundation by expanding their knowledge and skills. They will apply these computer skills to prepare them for their secondary education.

Requirements:

All students must follow all school and classroom rules and bring supplies daily.

Discipline

Students are expected to follow all classroom rules and the Husky Code in their daily interactions.

Husky Code

Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Safe
Be Positive.

Students will be rewarded with Dog Dollars for making positive behavior choices. In the event that a student makes a negative behavior choice, then they will receive a signature on their student behavior log. The consequences for behavior signatures are listed below.

1st signature: Verbal warning and parent phone call

2nd signature: Lunch detention and parent contact

3rd signature: Team conference with administrator and parent contact

4th signature: Parent conference

5th signature and beyond: Discipline referral to grade level administrator. Parent will be contacted by the administrator.

Please note: If a student engages in conduct such as fighting, profanity, or any other severe misbehavior, then they will receive a Discipline referral to the office.

I look forward to working with you and your child this school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

