



TRMS 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Orchestra Syllabus

Ms. Gabriella Paul

Course Content

Middle school orchestra is offered to beginning sixth grade students as well as seventh and eighth grade intermediate and advanced students. The purpose of this course is to enhance, enrich, and build a solid instrumental music foundation of performance skills. The courses are performance-based which afford students the opportunity to showcase their talents in class as well as out of class in small and large group performances. The curriculum is comprehensive for all orchestra instruments and facilitates growth at all levels of skill and talents. It is the goal of the Taylor Road Middle School Orchestra to instill a lifelong love of music and playing in our students.

In addition to performing with the concert ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through private lessons and various honor orchestras.

Topics and skills covered include:

- Posture and tone development
- Counting, timing, and rhythmic development
- Reading and notation skills, including sight reading
- Basic music theory
- Development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols
- Ear training and listening skills
- Instrument care and maintenance
- Effective practice habits

Students in orchestra perform in public concerts scheduled throughout the year. The curriculum for 7th and 8th grade is designed for students with previous orchestra experience. Students with no prior experience are welcome to join orchestra in the 6th grade as beginners. Beginners may choose from one of four instruments to learn: violin, viola, cello, or bass.

Standards

The Taylor Road Orchestra program curriculum conforms to the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for Music Education, which is drawn from national standard as outlined by NAFME, The National Association for Music Education. The standards are listed as follows:

Creating: Improvise, compose, and arrange music within specified guidelines.

Performing: Sing alone or with others. Perform on instruments through a varied repertoire of music, alone and with others. Read and identify elements of notated music.

Responding: Listen to, analyze, and describe music. Respond to music and music performances of themselves and others.

Connecting: Understand relationships between music, other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

Resources

- **6th Grade:** Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1, Grade ½ and 1 orchestra literature, supplemental materials as distributed in class
- **7th Grade:** Essential Elements for Strings, Book 2, Grade 1 and 2 orchestra literature, supplemental materials as distributed in class
- **8th Grade:** Essential Elements for Strings, Book 2-3, Grade 3 and 4 orchestra literature, supplemental materials as distributed in class.

Daily Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Be on time to class and early to every rehearsal and performance.
2. Bring the materials you need- your instrument, music, and a pencil- and not the ones you don't: phones, work for another class, food/ drink (other than water), or other distractions.

3. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
4. Speak or play your instrument only when you've been instructed to do so.
5. Be respectful to yourself, your peers, your teacher, and the materials.

Grading

Minor (70% of grade): Quizzes, classwork, homework, etc

Major (30% of grade): Performances, playing tests

Grading Scale:

A 90 and above

B 80-89

C 70-79

F below 70

Within this course, accommodations and modifications will be implemented based on students' current Individualized Education Plan (IEP). For specific goals and objectives and instructional levels, refer to your child's IEP.

All students will have one opportunity each 9 weeks to redo/retake one major assignment/assessment.

- Eligibility for a redo/retake is for students who receive a 79 or below on a specific major assignment/assessment.
- Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a redo/retake no higher than 79.
- Student redo/retakes must be completed before the next major assignment/assessment is given or five school days before the end of a marking period if there is not another major assessment/assignment given (exceptions can be made for students who have excused absences during this five-day window).

Contact Information

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