

PLANNED INSTRUCTION

A PLANNED COURSE FOR:

Orchestra

Curriculum writing committee:

Lauren Flack

Grade Level: 7th and 8th

Date of Board Approval: ___2023_____

Course Weighting: Orchestra 7 & Orchestra 8

Participation	30%
Concert Performances	25%
Written and Performance Assignments	20%
Lesson Attendance	25%
Total	100%

Curriculum Map

Overview:

Orchestra is a course in which students expand their musical understanding and performance skills related to string instruments (violin, viola, cello, or string bass) through individualized instruction, large group rehearsals, small group lessons (3-4 per marking period), and required concert performances.

While this course is designed for students who have previous instrumental experience, students with no prior instrumental experience may participate upon completing a lesson regimen of 4-6 lessons prior to the semester in which they wish to participate.

Time/Credit for the Course: Full Year

Goals:

Unit 1: Technique, ongoing

Understanding of:

- Shifting
- Bow Control
- Articulation
- Finger patterns (high 3)

Unit 2: Tone Quality, Pitch, and Intonation, ongoing

Understanding of:

Tuning (with tension pegs)

- Adjusting finger placement to match a given pitch

- Performing scale related to repertoire key signature
- Dynamic contrast
- Tone production

Unit 3: Rhythm, ongoing

Understanding of:

- Eighth note time signatures
- Syncopation
- 16th notes
- Chamber music

Unit 4: Musical Form, Style, and History, ongoing

Understanding of:

- Famous composers
- Orchestral works
- Musical styles
- Improvisation
- Dictation

Big Ideas:

Introduction to shifting and vibrato

Tuning, use of the tension pegs

Bow control (spiccato)

Textbook and Supplemental Resources:

- Performance repertoire selected from DVMS/DDMS Music Library

Curriculum Plan

Time/Days: Ongoing

Unit Name: Technique

- **Standards (by number):** 9.1.8.C, 9.1.8.G

- **Anchors:** A1.1.1.1
- **Eligible Content:**
 - Shifting into 3rd position (violin / viola)
 - Shifting into 4th position (cello)
 - Double Stops (one string open)
 - Intermediate finger patterns (high 3)
 - Controlled bow techniques (spiccato)
 - Beginning vibrato exercises (flexibility in LH fingers)
 - Articulation markings (staccato, marcato, legato)

Objectives:

DOK Level 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Students will show positions of fingerboard as listed above
- Students will construct double stops with one open string and one fingered
- Student will show controlled spiccato bowing

DOK Level 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- Students will assess key signature and apply proper fingering pattern

DOK Level 4 (Extended Thinking)

- Students will analyze articulation in written music to apply appropriate bowing technique (either detaché or spiccato)

Core Activities and Corresponding Instructional Methods:

- Individual and group warm-up
- Discussion and demonstration
- Critical listening activities
- Group sectionals
- Full ensemble rehearsals

Assessments:

- **Diagnostic:** Students' first read-through of the music at the start of each semester and daily observation
- **Formative:** Daily observation and playing tests

- **Summative:** Playing tests and Concert performance

Time/Days: Ongoing

Unit Name: Tone Quality, Pitch, and Intonation

- **Standards (by number):** 9.1.8.C, 9.1.8.H
- **Anchors:** A1.1.1.2
- **Eligible Content:**
Tuning the instrument with each note played on the keyboard (pegs and fine tuners)
Adjusting placement of finger on fingerboard given a correct pitch
Major/minor scales up to 3 flats/sharps and 2 octaves
Using bow weight, speed, and placement to create dynamic contrast and adjust tone quality

Objectives:

DOK Level 1 (Recall)

- Students will list notes required to play scales listed above

DOK Level 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Student will modify finger placement to match a pitch they are hearing
- Students will show ability to tune their instrument using fine tuners and tuning pegs

DOK Level 4 (Extended Thinking)

- Students will apply concepts of bow control in order to perform with dynamic contrast and beautiful tone

Core Activities and Corresponding Instructional Methods:

- Individual and group warm-up
- Discussion and demonstration
- Critical listening activities
- Group sectionals
- Full ensemble rehearsals

Assessments:

- **Diagnostic:** Students' first read-through of the music at the start of each semester and daily observation
- **Formative:** Daily observation and playing tests
- **Summative:** Playing tests and Concert performance

Time/Days: Ongoing

Unit Name: Rhythm

- **Standards (by number):** 9.1.8.C, 9.1.8.G
- **Anchors:** A1.1.1.1
- **Eligible Content:**
Time signatures with eighth note as the foundation (6/8)
Syncopation
16th notes
Performing in a chamber group (no conductor or metronome)

Objectives:

DOK Level 1 (Recall)

- Students will define both numbers in a time signature
- Students will identify and define 16th notes

DOK Level 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Students will show successful performance of passages with 16th notes

DOK Level 4 (Extended Thinking)

- Students will analyze rhythmic patterns in music with counting syllables (1 e & a, 2 e & a, etc.)
- Students will apply concepts relating to tempo and rhythm to perform in a chamber group with no conductor or metronome

Core Activities and Corresponding Instructional Methods:

- Individual and group warm-up
- Discussion and demonstration
- Listening and repetition
- Group sectionals

- Full ensemble rehearsals

Assessments:

- **Diagnostic:** Students' first read-through of the music at the start of each semester and daily observation
- **Formative:** Daily observation and playing tests
- **Summative:** Playing tests and Concert performance

Time/Days: Ongoing

Unit Name: Musical Form, Style, and History

- **Standards (by number):** 9.1.8.A, 9.1.8.B, 9.1.8.D, 9.1.8.F, 9.2.8.A
- **Anchors:** A1.1.1.1
- **Eligible Content:**
Famous composer names
Famous orchestral works from a variety of time periods (listening and performance)
Performance of various musical styles (jazz, classical, popular, etc.)
Improvisation
Dictation (including notation)

Objectives:

DOK Level 1 (Recall)

- Students will recall the names of famous composers and the composers whose music they are performing

DOK Level 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Student will show successful performance of music in various styles

DOK Level 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- Students will compare famous orchestral pieces from a variety of time periods

DOK Level 4 (Extended Thinking)

- Students will create short melodies to be performed on their instrument
- Students will synthesize knowledge of notes and rhythms in order to repeat and dictate a simple melody

- Students will analyze individual and group performances

Core Activities and Corresponding Instructional Methods:

- Listening, Evaluation, and Discussion
- Individual and group warm-up

Assessments:

- **Diagnostic:** Initial observations during classroom instruction
- **Formative:** Daily observation and playing tests
- **Summative:** Playing test, concert performance, post-concert review