

Department: Performing Arts
Course Name: 8th Grade Strings

Course Description:

This year-long course is designed for the advanced beginner and intermediate string players. This class will further develop the students' musical and technical skills, while encouraging collaboration and adaptability to play with others in an ensemble. Emphasis is placed on learning major and minor scales, advancing rhythms and meters, bowing styles, position work, sight-reading, and music theory and history. As chamber music is vital to the strings experience, intrinsic motivation and self learning and leadership is essential. This string class will exhibit teamwork and adaptability performing two major concerts during the year as an ensemble, as well as other school and community events.

Content:

Reinforcing posture
Advancing technical studies
Advancing bowing techniques
Playing as an ensemble
Music Theory
Playing performance works of advancing difficulty
Expanding the students' sense of confidence and poise in performance
Historical Aspects
Collaboration with band and chorus

Skills:

Major Keys---C, G, D, A, F, Bb, Eb
Finger patterns
2-octave scales
Arpeggios
Playing in thirds
Minor keys---natural, harmonic, melodic---A, E, D, G, C
Enharmonic
Chromatics
Playing in higher positions
Natural harmonics
Introduction of treble clef for viola
Introduction of tenor clef for cello
Musical road maps: D.S. al fine; D.C. al fine; coda
Bowing styles: legato, staccato, spicatto, loure', treolo, trill
Vibrato
Sight-reading
Self-discipline in terms of practice time
Performance etiquette
Ability to audition for Middle School District Orchestra

Text and Materials:

Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, Book II, Hal Leonard
Essential Technique for Strings, Intermediate Technique Studies, Hal Leonard
Additional pieces and exercises will be provided in class

Methods of Instruction:

Teacher directed lessons
Student demonstrations
Listening to performance pieces

Methods of Evaluation:

Required materials
Weekly practice logs
Playing evaluations
Class participation and attitude
Attendance at extra rehearsals
Attendance at performances
Auditioning/participating in District Orchestra

