

Department: Performing Arts
Course Name: 6th Grade Strings

Course Description:

This semester course is best suited for the beginning string student, or one with minimal studies on a stringed instrument. Following an overview of the instruments, the student will choose independently the instrument he/she would like to learn (violin, viola, cello, bass). They will then follow a course of study involving enhancing listening skills, ear training, counting and rhythm, note-reading, melody, and harmony. Basic music theory and historical perspectives will be included in this class. Once students exhibit leadership and the ability to play and learn independently via chamber work, we will then work on teamwork playing as an ensemble. 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:

Basic concepts regarding chosen instrument
Care of instrument
Parts of instrument
Posture
Beginning to play instrument
Basic terminology
Music Theory
Playing on an ensemble
Historical Aspects
Performance Etiquette
Proper instrument hold
Open strings
Pizzicato
Listening
Ear-training
Rhythm/counting
Note reading
Melody/harmony
Theme/variations
Shaping of the left hand
Bow hold
Beginning bowing techniques/styles
Constructing a scale
Note types
Time signatures
Tempo markings
Dynamics
How to follow the conductor
Intervals
Intonation
Syncopation

Major keys
Natural minor
Sight-reading
Beginning position changes
Beginning to play in an ensemble
Time management and self-discipline required for practicing
Basic performance etiquette

Skills:

Learn the appropriate techniques for assembly, tone production, fingerings, and reading music.
Develop self-discipline, and individual initiative through group rehearsal and individual practice.
Establish collaborative teamwork.

Text and Materials:

Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, Book I, Hal Leonard
Suzuki School, Volume I Summy-Birchard, Inc.
Additional exercises, pieces, and concert works provided in class

Methods of Instruction:

Teacher directed lessons
Group playing
Individual playing and demonstration
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