6th/7th/8th Orchestra Syllabus

Course Content

Each orchestra class at Taylor Road provides students with learning and performance opportunities on string instruments. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic performance skills continued from the previous year which are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. Performing standard literature for young orchestra is the primary focus of each class and ensemble.

In addition to performing with the concert ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through private lessons, participation in solo and ensemble 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

• Equipment 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 start orchestra in 6th grade as beginners. Beginners may choose from one of the following instruments to learn: violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Standards

The Taylor Road Orchestra program curriculum conforms to the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for Music Education, which is drawn from national standards 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

Sixth Grade – Essentials Elements for Strings – Book 1

Seventh Grade – Essentials Elements for Strings – Book 2

Eighth Grade – Essential Elements for Strings – Book 3

Canvas – Assessments, assignments, and other resources are uploaded on Canvas as we work through our curriculum.

**Student method books will be included in the Orchestra Participation Fee. All orchestra literature is provided by the school. Students are responsible for bringing their method book and all issued materials with them to every class.

Daily Classroom Expectations

We make every effort to teach students more than just the vocational skills they will need to work. In orchestra, students are expected to learn and demonstrate a strong work ethic, professional and respectful conduct, and good communication skills that are required in every workplace. In class and especially in the community, students are expected to:

• Show up early to events

• Prepared with the materials and attitude they need to perform their best

• With a respectful, responsible, and positive demeanor toward themselves, each other, and their teachers, parents, and community members.

TRMS Grading Syllabus

Grading Scale:

90% -100% A

80% - 89% B

70% - 79% C

Below 70% F

Semester Grades will be determined by:

Major Assessments: 50%

Minor Assessments: 40%

Practice: 10%

Codes in Infinite Campus:

NG – No Grade

I – Incomplete

M – Missing

Limited AI Use with Teacher Permission

In this course, the use of generative AI tools is permitted only with explicit teacher approval for specific assignments. AI can serve as an aid to enhance understanding and interaction with course content, within the boundaries of academic integrity. If AI tools are used, all AI-generated content must be accurately cited, and students are responsible for the integrity and correctness of their submissions, including any content derived from AI tools. It is essential to critically evaluate AI outputs to ensure they meet academic standards. Unauthorized use of generative AI, without proper citation, is considered a violation of the Fulton County Schools Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Contact Information

Ms. Gabriella Paul-Nally paulg1@fultonschools.org