

North Muskegon Orchestras

Middle School/High School
Syllabus 2019-2020



Course Description:

This performing arts course focuses on musical learning outcomes through the preparation and performance of contemporary and classical string orchestra literature. Students will develop as musicians and learners by improving their audiation skills, technical skills in bowing and left hand facility, as well as in music literacy and sight-reading skills. The basics of: ear training, music history, music theory, music composition, instrument technique, music acoustics, the business of music, and music aesthetics will also be covered. Daily rehearsals will significantly impact student growth, but frequent individual home practice is also essential for success. Because music is a performing art, and Orchestra is a performance based ensemble, attendance at all official string orchestra functions is expected (any exceptions must be pre-approved by the director and may require make-up work). Public performance dates are posted on our website and include: concerts (fall, holiday, winter, and spring), festivals, baccalaureate, senior honors assembly, graduation and others. Students must provide their own standard orchestral instruments.

Materials Needed:

- Quality instrument, bow, and case
- Shoulder rest (violins and violas)/ rock stop (for cellos and basses)
- Orchestra Uniform (see Uniform Contract for cost and info) for all performances
- Music folder and pencil (at ALL rehearsals and performances)

Expectations/Grading Standards:

- **Instrumental Skills & Knowledge** (posture, left hand, right hand skills) assessed through individual and ensemble performance evaluations. **25%**
- **Musicianship Skills & Knowledge** *Tonal & Rhythmic Aural Skills & Ear Training, Creative Musicianship, Music Literacy, Ensemble Skills* assessed through individual and ensemble performance evaluations, written musical compositions and arrangements, and quizzes. **25%**
- **Ensemble Skills & Knowledge** Mastery of Rehearsal & performance skills. Applying evaluative skills to determine the quality and effectiveness of their own and others' performances, compositions, arrangements, and improvisations. **25%**
- **Orchestra Project** Student may choose from a list of project ideas. (see attached) **25%**
(Orchestra Projects DUE Semester 1: December 16th, Semester 2: April 20)

Course Objectives

1. Students will develop strong ensemble/ individual musicianship by improving their audiation skills through improvisation, reading, and performance of contemporary and classical orchestra literature.
2. Students will become more skilled string players by improving executive skills and knowledge of proper string technique (Body Format, Right Hand bowing skills, Left Hand position and facility).
3. Students will develop high levels of music literacy and sight-reading skills.
4. Students will strengthen character and work-ethic, growing as learners and thinkers through daily individual work and through participation in a collaborative musical community.

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