

RTMS Syllabus School Year 2021-2022 Sem 1 Course: Advanced 8th Grade Orchestra

Teacher(s): Mr. Liu

Textbook/Replacement Cost: Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 and 2, Habits of a Successful String Musician

Course Description: The River Trail Chamber Orchestra is an audition only, year-long course. The music, instrument techniques, and ensemble performance skills students learn in Chamber Orchestra range from advanced middle school to high school level curriculum. Therefore, students are expected to perform at the high school level of focus and awareness towards musical precision, intonation, technique, and expression both as an individual and as an ensemble group. It is essential (and strongly encouraged) that students ask for help either from Mr. Liu or their private lesson teacher. Finally, students must meet mastery performance standards, demonstrate proper classroom behavior, and attend the required rehearsals/performances to maintain their enrollment in the Chamber Orchestra classes during the current school year.

Course Materials: Daily Class Materials

- Instrument with bow and all four strings
- Rosin, cleaning cloth, and Rocktop (cello/bass) or Shoulder Rest (violin/viola)
- 3-ring binder with notebook paper, Mechanical Pencil
- Class/Ensemble Music and Textbook
- School Device with Headphone/Earbuds

Grade Determination for Assignments:

Teachers use a variety of ongoing, developmentally appropriate methods to measure student progress such as tests, exams, rubrics, quizzes, projects, reports, homework, class participation and other assignments. Grades reflect all evaluations, and each piece of work or each assignment; teachers use their own judgment in determining how much weight to give each graded activity. Student grades will be determined by using the following categories:

Major (50%): An assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature, measuring multiple standards/skills, and/or when there is a significant amount of dedicated instructional time devoted to the content being assessed.

Minor (35 %): An assignment or assessment that measures an individual standard or subset of standards/skills within a unit and/or when there is a small amount of dedicated instructional time devoted to the content being assessed

Practice (15%): Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework given to students to build and/or remediate skills.

Grading Scale:

Grades are based on the individual student's mastery of standards, in the Georgia Performance Standards for the grade level in which the student is currently placed. End of Semester grading will reflect the following:

A = 90 and above

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

F = Below 70

W = (1-100) Withdrew/Pass or Fail

NG = No Grade

INC = Incomplete

Office Hours/Help Sessions:

Mr. Liu believes in the success and enjoyment of music performance for every student, and strongly encourages students to take advantage of help sessions offered. The longer a student struggles, the less enjoyment one will have performing music.

***Help sessions and meetings with Mr. Liu are from 7:50AM to 8:15AM and will need to be scheduled a day in advance**

Recovery Process:

All students will have *one (1) opportunity each nine weeks* to redo/retake one (1) *major assignment/assessment*.

- Eligibility for a redo/retake is for students who receive a 79 or below on a specific major assignment/assessment.
- Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a redo/retake no higher than 79.

- Student redo/retakes must be completed before the next major assignment/assessment is given or five school days before the end of a marking period if there is not another major assignment/assessment given (exceptions can be made for students who have excused absences during this five-day window)

Make Up Work:

A student is permitted and encouraged to make up work missed because of absences. **It is the student's sole responsibility to contact the teacher(s) to initiate all make-up work.** The contact must be made within one school day of returning. If a teacher is not available, the student needs to inform the principal or designee of the desire to make up the missed work. The teacher will establish a reasonable schedule within which the make-up work will occur beyond two consecutive days of absences. Work missed during the last week of the grading period must be made up by the tenth school day of the next semester.

Academic Honesty (The Honor Code/Honesty):

Students are expected to be honest and submit his/her own work. Cheating, plagiarism, and other Honor Code violations are strictly prohibited. Examples of violations include but are not limited to copying or "borrowing" from another source and submitting it as one's own work, seeking or accepting unauthorized assistance on tests, projects, or other assignments, fabricating data and/or resources, providing or receiving test questions in advance without permission, or working collaboratively with other students when individual work is expected. The "Honor Code/Honesty" is Rule 9 in the Fulton County **Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook**. If a student is caught cheating at RTMS, he/she will be subject to a tiered system of consequences listed in the RTMS Student Handbook.

Additional Teacher/Classroom Information:

Chamber Orchestra Expectations

All Chamber Orchestra students are required to perform the major concerts; Fall Arts Festival, Winter Concert, Performance Evaluations, and Spring Concerts. Students in Chamber Orchestra also perform at other concerts during and outside of school days. Due to the technical and musical complexities of the pieces, it is essential for Chamber Orchestra students to attend rehearsals regardless of individual performance mastery in the music. Students and parents will be given advance notice of required, additional concert performances and rehearsals. It is important that families take into consideration of these regular performance dates and rehearsals when scheduling the many activities students are involved throughout the school year. Please notify Mr. Liu, far in advance, of any significant conflicts.

Orchestra Calendar

A list of important concert dates and events may be found online: <http://rtmsorchestra.com/2021calendar>

Orchestra Handbook

Additional course and classroom information for the orchestra may be found on the Orchestra Handbook including Classroom and Instrument Locker Procedures, Concerts, Instrument and Equipment Policies, and more.

You may find the Orchestra Handbook through the link: <http://rtmsorchestra.com/2021handbook/>

Classroom Expectations:

EXPECTATIONS	POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be ready at the start of class including your instrument, mechanical pencil, music, and all required equipment • Show respect to other students and the music regardless of performance or skill level. • Participate to the best of your ability in all written and performance activities in class • Follow Classroom Procedures to avoid accidental damage to instruments and school devices. 	Verbal Warning Lunch Detention Teacher Detention/Parent Contact Office Referral/Parent Contact

Acknowledgement:

Parents, please click on the online form link below to acknowledge you and your child have reviewed the following items:

- Orchestra Syllabus
- Orchestra Handbook
- Orchestra Calendar

Online Form Link: <https://forms.gle/Cxzg5tMf8n21Sput9>

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