

# River Trail Middle School

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra

### -Course Syllabus 2019-

[www.rtmsorchestra.com](http://www.rtmsorchestra.com)

Amos Liu, Orchestra Teacher

Email Contact: [liu@fultonschools.org](mailto:liu@fultonschools.org)

## Course Materials:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra:** -Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1 and 2 (Allen/Gillespie/Hayes)

### 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
- Class/Ensemble Music with Mechanical Pencil
- School Device with Headphone/Earbuds

### Project Day Materials

- Items to be announced prior to the project assignment

## Class Description:

The River Trail 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Class is a year-long course. Students will learn techniques for their chosen instrument, develop music reading skills, explore concepts of musical expression, composing and improvising their own music, and essential skills needed to perform in small and large performance ensembles.

### Goals of the Orchestra Program

- ❖ Develop the mastery of performance skills and techniques on the string instrument,
- ❖ Develop effective ensemble performance skills,
- ❖ Foster a learning environment of support and respect among students of different musical backgrounds, levels, and musical preference,
- ❖ Cultivate the enjoyment of music performance and develop students into lifelong music performers and supporters.

### Georgia Performance Standards:

**MMSIO.1.** Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

**MMSIO.2.** Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

**MMSIO.3.** Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments

**MMSIO.4.** Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines

**MMSIO.5.** Reading and notating music

**MMSIO.6.** Listening to, analyzing, and describing music

**MMSIO.7.** Evaluating music and music performances

**MMSIO.8.** Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts

**MMSIO.9.** Understanding music in relation to history and culture

### General Expectations in the Orchestra Classroom

- **Always be prepared** including your instrument and all required equipment (including pencil).
- **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.
- **No GUM in class!**

### Unsatisfactory behavior will be handled as follows:

- 1st infraction: Verbal warning and/or conference with teacher. Parents may be notified.
- 2nd infraction: Private detention/work assignment. Parents notified.
- 3rd infraction: Public detention assigned. Parents notified.
- 4th infraction: Office referral.

**Concert Performances:** All students are required to perform at the major orchestra concerts during the school year: Winter Concert, Performance Evaluations, and Spring Concerts. The performance dates for these mandatory concerts are provided to families at the beginning of the school year. It is important that families take into consideration of these performance dates when scheduling the many activities students are involved throughout the school year. Please notify Mr. Liu, far in advance, of any significant conflicts.

## Grading Policy

**A 90-100**

**B 80-89**

**C 70-79**

**F any grade 69 and below**

**The student's grade will be determined by the following**

➤ **50% Summative Assessments**

Written Tests, Concert Performances, Playing Tests, Concert Reflection Activities, Projects

➤ **35% Formative Assessments**

In-Class Written and Performance Assignments and Assessments

➤ **15% Homework**

Written and Performance Assignments completed either in class or at home

**Assignment Makeup Policy:** Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work. Make-up work must be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. The student will receive the actual grade on the make-up work if the absence was excused.

**Late Work:** Please be sure to turn-in required assignments on time. Late work may be taken for partial credit however it will not be accepted after the final, due date set by Mr. Liu.

**Academic Recovery:** A student who has a low (73 or below) or failing **cumulative grade** may ask the teacher for opportunities to improve his/her grade **when all work required to date has been completed** and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements, including attendance.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is an essential component of education. If a student is found to have violated the academic honesty policy at RTMS, he/she will be subject to a tiered system of consequences. A full description of the RTMS Academic Honesty policy can be found on page 2 of the student agenda located on the River Trail Middle School website ([www.rivertrailmiddleschool.org](http://www.rivertrailmiddleschool.org)).

**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 are on Wednesdays, from 8:15-8:40AM. Students need to notify Mr. Liu a day in advance if they plan on attending the Wednesday help session. Extra help sessions may be scheduled with Mr. Liu for other days and times.

**Major Performance Assessments Retake:** Like any skill-based curriculum, reaching mastery learning and performance is essential for students to be successful in orchestra. Any student scoring a low grade on a major assessment may retake major performance assessments for an improved grade. Some retakes may require students to turn a "Retake Worksheet" and there is a limit of retakes students may have for each major assessment.

**Orchestra Handbook:** The orchestra handbook is on the RTMS orchestra website at: [www.rtmsorchestra.com/orchestra-handbook](http://www.rtmsorchestra.com/orchestra-handbook). The handbook goes into greater detail the policies, expectations, instrument information, and other important details specific to the River Trail Middle School Orchestra program. Both parents and students will need to review the handbook and sign the **Orchestra Policy Form** indicating both the student and parent have read and understand the policies and information outlined in the orchestra handbook. A paper copy of the handbook is available upon request.

**Payments:** All forms for orchestra that require fee payments are made online through the Fulton County "Online School Payment" (OSP) platform. The link may be found at the orchestra website, [www.rtmsorchestra.com](http://www.rtmsorchestra.com) or [www.rivertrailmiddleschool.org](http://www.rivertrailmiddleschool.org).

# River Trail Middle School

## 8th Grade: Concert Orchestra

### -Course Syllabus 2019-

[www.rtmsorchestra.com](http://www.rtmsorchestra.com)

Amos Liu, Orchestra Teacher

Email Contact: [liu@fultonschools.org](mailto:liu@fultonschools.org)

### Course Materials:

**Concert Orchestra:** -Essential Elements for Strings, Book 2 (Allen/Gillespie/Hayes)

### 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
- Class/Ensemble Music with Mechanical Pencil
- School Device with Headphone/Earbuds

### Project Day Materials

- Items to be announced prior to the project assignment

### Class Description:

The River Trail 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Orchestra class is a year-long course. Students will continue to fine-tune techniques from previous years while learning more advanced techniques including position and vibrato techniques. In addition, students will continue to develop the skills to perform in small and large ensemble groups with a greater emphasis towards group precision and musicality. The music level increases in difficulty as sectional parts become more independent and complex, therefore requiring students to be more musically aware among every player.

### Orchestra Program Philosophy

- ❖ Develop the mastery of performance skills and techniques on the string instrument,
- ❖ Develop effective ensemble performance skills,
- ❖ Foster a learning environment of support and respect among students of different musical backgrounds, levels, and musical preferences,
- ❖ Cultivate the enjoyment of music performance and develop students into lifelong music performers and supporters

### Georgia Performance Standards:

- MMSIO.1.** Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- MMSIO.2.** Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- MMSIO.3.** Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- MMSIO.4.** Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
- MMSIO.5.** Reading and notating music
- MMSIO.6.** Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- MMSIO.7.** Evaluating music and music performances
- MMSIO.8.** Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- MMSIO.9.** Understanding music in relation to history and culture

### General Expectations in the Orchestra Classroom

- **Always be prepared on time** including your instrument, music, and all required equipment ready to play (including pencil).
- **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.
- **No GUM in class!**

### Unsatisfactory behavior will be handled as follows:

- *1st infraction: Verbal warning and/or conference with teacher. Parents may be notified.*
- *2nd infraction: Private detention/work assignment. Parents notified.*
- *3rd infraction: Public detention assigned. Parents notified.*
- *4th infraction: Office referral.*

**Concert Performances:** All students are required to perform at the major orchestra concerts during the school year: Winter Concert, Performance Evaluations, and Spring Concerts. The performance dates for these mandatory concerts are provided to families at the beginning of the school year. It is important that families take into consideration of these performance dates when scheduling the many activities students are involved throughout the school year. Please notify Mr. Liu, far in advance, of any significant conflicts.

## Grading Policy

**A 90-100**

**B 80-89**

**C 70-79**

**F any grade 69 and below**

**The student's grade will be determined by the following**

➤ **50% Summative Assessments**

Written Tests, Concert Performances, Playing Tests, Concert Reflection Activities, Projects

➤ **35% Formative Assessments**

In-Class Written and Performance Assignments and Assessments

➤ **15% Homework**

Written and Performance Assignments completed either in class or at home

**Assignment Makeup Policy:** Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work. Make-up work must be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. The student will receive the actual grade on the make-up work if the absence was excused.

**Late Work:** Please be sure to turn-in required assignments on time. Late work may be taken for partial credit however it will not be accepted after the final, due date set by Mr. Liu.

**Academic Recovery:** A student who has a low (73 or below) or failing **cumulative grade** may ask the teacher for opportunities to improve his/her grade **when all work required to date has been completed** and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements, including attendance.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is an essential component of education. If a student is found to have violated the academic honesty policy at RTMS, he/she will be subject to a tiered system of consequences. A full description of the RTMS Academic Honesty policy can be found on page 2 of the student agenda located on the River Trail Middle School website ([www.rivertrailmiddleschool.org](http://www.rivertrailmiddleschool.org)).

**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 are on Wednesdays, from 8:15-8:40AM. Students need to notify Mr. Liu a day in advance if they plan on attending the Wednesday help session. Extra help sessions may be scheduled with Mr. Liu for other days and times.

**Major Performance Assessments Retake:** Like any skill-based curriculum, reaching mastery learning and performance is essential for students to be successful in orchestra. Any student scoring a low grade on a major assessment may retake major performance assessments for an improved grade. Some retakes may require students to turn a "Retake Worksheet" and there is a limit of retakes students may have for each major assessment.

**Orchestra Handbook:** The orchestra handbook is on the RTMS orchestra website at: [www.rtmsorchestra.com/orchestra-handbook](http://www.rtmsorchestra.com/orchestra-handbook). The handbook goes into greater detail the policies, expectations, instrument information, and other important details specific to the River Trail Middle School Orchestra program. Both parents and students will need to review the handbook and sign the **Orchestra Policy Form** indicating both the student and parent have read and understand the policies and information outlined in the orchestra handbook. A paper copy of the handbook is available upon request.

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# River Trail Middle School

## 7th Grade: Concert Orchestra

### -Course Syllabus 2019-

[www.rtmsorchestra.com](http://www.rtmsorchestra.com)

Amos Liu, Orchestra Teacher

Email Contact: [liu@fultonschools.org](mailto:liu@fultonschools.org)

### Course Materials:

**Concert Orchestra:** -Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1 and 2 (Allen/Gillespie/Hayes)

### 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
- Class/Ensemble Music with Mechanical Pencil
- School Device with Headphone/Earbuds

### Project Day Materials

- Items to be announced prior to the project assignment

### Class Description:

The River Trail 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Orchestra class is a year-long course. Students will continue to fine-tune techniques from 6<sup>th</sup> Grade while developing intermediate level performance techniques and music concepts. In addition, students will continue to develop the skills to perform in small and large ensemble groups with a greater emphasis towards group precision and musicality. Individual focus on fundamental instrument position and techniques is important as they provide the student a strong foundation when moving on towards advanced techniques near the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade year.

### Orchestra Program Philosophy

- ❖ Develop the mastery of performance skills and techniques on the string instrument,
- ❖ Develop effective ensemble performance skills,
- ❖ Foster a learning environment of support and respect among students of different musical backgrounds, levels, and musical preferences,
- ❖ Cultivate the enjoyment of music performance and develop students into lifelong music performers and supporters

### Georgia Performance Standards:

- MMSIO.1.** Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- MMSIO.2.** Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- MMSIO.3.** Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
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- MMSIO.5.** Reading and notating music
- MMSIO.6.** Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- MMSIO.7.** Evaluating music and music performances
- MMSIO.8.** Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- MMSIO.9.** Understanding music in relation to history and culture

### General Expectations in the Orchestra Classroom

- **Always be prepared** including your instrument and all required equipment (including pencil).
- **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.
- **No GUM in class!**

### Unsatisfactory behavior will be handled as follows:

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## Grading Policy

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**F any grade 69 and below**

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