2023-2024   River Trail MS Syllabus   6th Grade Orchestra

Teacher	Liu
Email	liu@fultonschools.org
Website	rtmsorchestra.com
Office Hours/Help Sessions	**Please check with Mr. Liu at least a day in advance for help sessions** *(in case he has a rehearsal or meeting)* • **Help sessions and meetings with Mr. Liu are on Wednesdays, 8:15-8:40AM.** • **Additional help sessions may be scheduled on other days of the week between 8:00AM to 8:15AM** 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 has performing music.
Overview	The River Trail 6th 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.
Textbook	Textbooks/Workbooks provided by the Orchestra Program • String Basics Book 1: Steps to Success for String Orchestra
Materials	• 3-ring, 1-inch or less hard cover binder with notebook paper *(stays on music stands better),* Mechanical Pencil • School Device with Headphone/Earbuds • Class/Ensemble Music and Textbook • Rosin, cleaning cloth, and Rocktop (cello/bass) or Shoulder Rest (violin/viola) Instrument with bow and all four strings
Additional Teacher Information	**Orchestra Calendar** A list of important concert dates and events may be found online: http://rtmsorchestra.com/2022calendar **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/handbook/ **Microsoft OneNote** Orchestra classes will use Microsoft OneNote for all Class Assignments and information handed out in orchestra classes.
Grading Policy	**Grading Scale:** **Semester Grade will be determined by:** 90% -100% A Major Assessments: 50% 80% - 89% B Minor Assessments: 40% 70% - 79% C Practice: 10% Below 70% F **Codes in Infinite Campus:** **Grade Minimums each 9-week reporting period:** NG – No Grade - At a minimum, two grades should be major I – Incomplete - At a minimum, three grades should be minor M – Missing - At a minimum, three grades should be practice *FCS does not permit bonus points or extra credit to be used to determine a student's grade.
Grading Categories	**Major (50%):** An assignment that is cumulative in nature, representing multiple standards and skills. Assignments in this category may include Large Group Performance Evaluation, Performance-Based Assessments (PBAs), concerts, tests, and projects. **Minor (40%):** An assignment that measures mastery of a single skill or learning target. Assignments in this category may include Performance-Based Assessments focused on one skill or learning target, rhythmic dictation, short individual or group demonstrations, and quizzes. **Practice (10%):** An assignment that is intended to allow students to make mistakes as they practice skills recently learned in class. Assignments in this category may include progress checks, class participation, and exit tickets.
Classwork/Homework	Classwork and/or homework will be assigned daily. Students are expected to show evidence demonstrating their thinking.
Attendance & Make-Up Work	Regular attendance in this class is essential for each student to be successful. • Upon returning to school, students will have an equal number of days as they were absent to complete any late/missing assignment, assessment, and/or task(s) for full credit. • After the deadline of an equal number of days a student was absent, teachers may begin deducting points from a late/missing assignment, assessment, and/or task(s) (maximum 25% deduction). • If a student fails to turn in a late/missing assignment, assessment, and/or task(s), then a zero may be entered in the grade book.

Recovery Policy	Students will be given the opportunity to recover all major assessments if they score below a 75% on the assessment. Students are limited to one recovery attempt per major assessment that meets the threshold for recovery. Recovery of a major assessment should occur before the next major is given. Eligible students can earn a replacement grade that is no higher than 75%. If the recovery grade is below the original score, the original score should stand in the grade book.
Conduct & Honor Code	All students are expected to be on-time, prepared for class, respectful of others and involved in all class activities. Appropriate language is always expected. No food or drinks in class, except for bottled water.

Expectations	Outcomes
>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

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* on page 7.

Checking Grades	Grades are available to view and monitor via **Infinite Campus.** Parents may check grade summaries and dates of upcoming assessments. Assessments may take several days to grade and enter in Infinite Campus.
Non-Academic Skills	Feedback will be provided to students and/or parents/ guardians in areas beyond academic mastery. The non-academic skills include Self-Direction, Collaboration, Problem Solving, and Work Habits. The ratings for non-academic skills are as follows: • Consistently Demonstrates • Often Demonstrates • Sometimes Demonstrates • Rarely Demonstrates
Communication to Parents	Communication with parents/guardians on student's academic progress will include: • Progress Reports (Every 4.5 Weeks) • Report Cards (End of the Semester: 18-week and 36-week) Additional communication with parents/guardians will occur when a student is: • In danger of not meeting expectations and/or their course average goes below a 70 • In danger of retention and/or will be recommended for retention • In danger of receiving an incomplete for the quarter and/or the course • Needing assistance with meeting behavioral expectations
Websites	RTMS Orchestra Website: http://www.rtmsorchestra.com School Website: https://www.fultonschools.org/rivertrailms

Parents
Please fill out the online form at **http://rtmsorchestra.com/orchestra2023** to indicate you have received the orchestra syllabus, orchestra calendar, and visited the online orchestra handbook **(http://rtmsorchestra.com/handbook/).**