

2023-2024

## River Trail MS Syllabus

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Orchestra

<b>Teacher</b>	Liu																							
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:liu@fultonschools.org">liu@fultonschools.org</a>																							
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://rtmsorchestra.com">rtmsorchestra.com</a>																							
<b>Office Hours/Help Sessions</b>	<p><b>*Help sessions and meetings with Mr. Liu are from 7:50AM to 8:15AM and will need to be scheduled at least a day in advance.</b></p> <p>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.</p>																							
<b>Overview</b>	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. 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.																							
<b>Textbook</b>	Textbooks/Workbooks provided by the Orchestra Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential Elements Book 1 and 2, Essential Techniques Book 3</li> </ul>																							
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-ring binder with notebook paper, Mechanical Pencil</li> <li>School Device with Headphone/Earbuds</li> <li>Class/Ensemble Music and Textbook</li> <li>Rosin, cleaning cloth, and Rocktop (cello/bass) or Shoulder Rest (violin/viola)</li> <li>Instrument with bow and all four strings</li> </ul>																							
<b>Additional Teacher Information</b>	<p><b><u>Orchestra Calendar</u></b> A list of important concert dates and events may be found online: <a href="http://rtmsorchestra.com/2022calendar">http://rtmsorchestra.com/2022calendar</a></p> <p><b><u>Orchestra Handbook</u></b> 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: <a href="http://rtmsorchestra.com/handbook/">http://rtmsorchestra.com/handbook/</a></p> <p><b><u>Microsoft OneNote</u></b> Orchestra classes will use Microsoft OneNote for all Class Assignments and information handed out in orchestra classes.</p>																							
<b>Grading Policy</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Grading Scale:</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>Semester Grade will be determined by:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>90% -100%</td> <td>A</td> <td>Major Assessments: 50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80% - 89%</td> <td>B</td> <td>Minor Assessments: 40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70% - 79%</td> <td>C</td> <td>Practice: 10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Below 70%</td> <td>F</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Codes in Infinite Campus:</b></td> <td><b>Grade Minimums each 9-week reporting period:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NG – No Grade</td> <td>- At a minimum, two grades should be major</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I – Incomplete</td> <td>- At a minimum, three grades should be minor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M – Missing</td> <td>- At a minimum, three grades should be practice</td> </tr> </table> <p>*FCS does not permit bonus points or extra credit to be used to determine a student's grade.</p>	<b>Grading Scale:</b>		<b>Semester Grade will be determined by:</b>	90% -100%	A	Major Assessments: 50%	80% - 89%	B	Minor Assessments: 40%	70% - 79%	C	Practice: 10%	Below 70%	F		<b>Codes in Infinite Campus:</b>	<b>Grade Minimums each 9-week reporting period:</b>	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
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<b>Grading Categories</b>	<p><b>Major (50%):</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Minor (40%):</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Practice (10%):</b> 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.</p>																							
<b>Classwork/Homework</b>	Classwork and/or homework will be assigned daily. Students are expected to show evidence demonstrating their thinking.																							
<b>Attendance &amp; Make-Up Work</b>	<p>Regular attendance in this class is essential for each student to be successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>																							

<b>Recovery Policy</b>	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.				
<b>Conduct &amp; Honor Code</b>	<p>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.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="354 338 1466 611"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="354 338 951 369">Expectations</th> <th data-bbox="951 338 1466 369">Outcomes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="354 369 951 611"> <p>&gt;<b>Be ready at the start of class</b> including your instrument, mechanical pencil, music, and all required equipment</p> <p>&gt;<b>Show respect to other students and the music</b> regardless of performance or skill level.</p> <p>&gt;<b>Participate to the best of your ability</b> in all written and performance activities in class</p> <p>&gt;<b>Follow Classroom Procedures</b> to avoid accidental damage to instruments and school devices.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="951 369 1466 611"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbal Warning</li> <li>• Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Teacher Detention/Parent Contact</li> <li>• Office Referral/Parent Contact</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Academic Honesty (The Honor Code/Honesty):</b></p> <p>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 <i>Student Code of Conduct &amp; Discipline Handbook</i>. If a student is caught cheating at RTMS, he/she will be subject to a tiered system of consequences listed in the <i>RTMS Student Handbook</i> on page 7.</p>	Expectations	Outcomes	<p>&gt;<b>Be ready at the start of class</b> including your instrument, mechanical pencil, music, and all required equipment</p> <p>&gt;<b>Show respect to other students and the music</b> regardless of performance or skill level.</p> <p>&gt;<b>Participate to the best of your ability</b> in all written and performance activities in class</p> <p>&gt;<b>Follow Classroom Procedures</b> to avoid accidental damage to instruments and school devices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbal Warning</li> <li>• Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Teacher Detention/Parent Contact</li> <li>• Office Referral/Parent Contact</li> </ul>
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<b>Checking Grades</b>	Grades are available to view and monitor via <b>Infinite Campus</b> . Parents may check grade summaries and dates of upcoming assessments. Assessments may take several days to grade and enter in Infinite Campus.				
<b>Non-Academic Skills</b>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistently Demonstrates</li> <li>• Often Demonstrates</li> <li>• Sometimes Demonstrates</li> <li>• Rarely Demonstrates</li> </ul>				
<b>Communication to Parents</b>	<p>Communication with parents/guardians on student’s academic progress will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress Reports (Every 4.5 Weeks)</li> <li>• Report Cards (End of the Semester: 18-week and 36-week)</li> </ul> <p>Additional communication with parents/guardians will occur when a student is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In danger of not meeting expectations and/or their course average goes below a 70</li> <li>• In danger of retention and/or will be recommended for retention</li> <li>• In danger of receiving an incomplete for the quarter and/or the course</li> <li>• Needing assistance with meeting behavioral expectations</li> </ul>				
<b>Websites</b>	<p>RTMS Orchestra Website: <a href="http://www.rtmsorchestra.com">http://www.rtmsorchestra.com</a></p> <p>School Website: <a href="https://www.fultonschools.org/rivertrailms">https://www.fultonschools.org/rivertrailms</a></p>				

## 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/>).

**(Grade Level/Course Name)**

**Student Name** (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Class Pd. \_\_\_\_\_

After you have read and understood the syllabus for this course, please complete this form as evidence that you acknowledge the information presented in the syllabus.

Please sign, date,  
and return this  
page to the  
content teacher.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER INFO PAGE ONLY---examples of descriptors if prefer to use, HS change in Grade%, etc.	
Practices that should not be used per FCSS.	<p><b>Bell Curve</b></p> <p><b>Multipliers</b></p> <p><b>*Bonus Points/Extra Credit</b> (May be used as an opportunity for students to continue to demonstrate progress beyond mastery and should be an extension of standards, not for demonstrating non-academic behaviors. Extra points/bonus points should not be added to a student's grade. <b>This is in syllabus under grading.</b></p>
<b>Examples with more detailed descriptions of Major/Minor/Practice specific to a content area.</b>	
<b>Science</b>	<p><b>Major (50%):</b> an assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills. Majors will include unit assessments, projects, or performance tasks. Assignments in the major category may be labeled: interim, test, essay, report, project, lab report, ADI and case study. (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p> <p><b>Minor (40%):</b> an assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard, or subset of learning targets/standards/skills within a unit. Minors will include quizzes, projects, lab investigations, or performance tasks. Assignments in the minor category may be labeled: one-pager, essay, quiz, (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p> <p><b>Practice (10%):</b> Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement* activities given in class or for homework to build prerequisite skills, measure progress towards mastery of a learning target or standard, enrich, and/or remediate skills. Assignments in the practice category may be labeled: homework, Achieve 3000, Gallery Walk, Vocabulary Awareness Chart, and graphic organizers. (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p>
<b>HS Physical Science</b> <b>*District % change</b>	<p><b>Major (55%):</b> an assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills. Majors will include unit assessments, projects, or performance tasks. Assignments in the major category may be labeled: interim, test, essay, report, project, lab report, ADI and case study. (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p> <p><b>Minor (35%):</b> an assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard, or subset of learning targets/standards/skills within a unit. Minors will include quizzes, projects, lab investigations, or performance tasks. Assignments in the minor category may be labeled: one-pager, essay, quiz, (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p> <p><b>Practice (10%):</b> Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement* activities given in class or for homework to build prerequisite skills, measure progress towards mastery of a learning target or standard, enrich, and/or remediate skills. Assignments in the practice category may be labeled: homework, Achieve 3000, Gallery Walk, Vocabulary Awareness Chart, and graphic organizers. (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p>
<b>GA STUDIES</b>	<p><b>Major (50%):</b> an assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills. Majors will include unit assessments, projects, or performance tasks. Assignments in the major category may be labeled: interim, test, essay, report, and case study. (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p> <p><b>Minor (40%):</b> an assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard, or subset of learning targets/standards/skills within a unit. Minors will include quizzes, projects, or performance tasks. Assignments in the minor category may be labeled: Quick Write, one-pager, essay, quiz, Socratic Seminar, and Philosophical Chairs. (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p> <p><b>Practice (10%):</b> Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework to build prerequisite skills, measure progress towards mastery of a learning target or standard, enrich, and/or remediate skills. Assignments in the practice category may be labeled: homework, Achieve 3000, Gallery Walk, Vocabulary Awareness Chart, Cloze Notes, and other graphic organizers. (This is not an all-inclusive list.)</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p><b>Major (50%):</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Minor (40%):</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Practice (10%):</b> 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.</p>
<b>*Algebra I</b>  <b>*Alg 1/ Geom A</b>	<p><b>EOC (20%):</b> Algebra 1 GA Milestones End of Course (EOC). Students taking an EOC assessment must have the EOC count as a weighted percentage of the student's total grade as specified by the Georgia Department of Education Rule.</p> <p><b>Major (40%):</b> an assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills. Majors may include unit assessments, projects, or performance tasks.</p> <p><b>Minor (30%):</b> an assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard, or subset of learning targets/standards/skills within a unit. Minors may include quizzes, projects, or performance tasks.</p>

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