

2024-2025

River Trail MS Syllabus

Concert Orchestra

Teacher(s)	Liu																				
Email	liu@fultonschools.org																				
Office Hours/Help Sessions	<p>*Help sessions and meetings with Mr. Liu are from 7:50AM to 8:40AM and will need to be scheduled at least a day in advance.</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>																				
Overview	The River Trail 7th and 8th Grade Concert Orchestra classes are a year-long course. Students will continue to fine-tune techniques from 6 th Grade while developing intermediate level performance techniques and music concepts. More advanced techniques will be introduced later in preparation for high school orchestra.																				
Textbook	Textbooks/Workbooks are provided by the Orchestra Program																				
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-ring binder with notebook paper, Mechanical Pencil • School Device with Headphone/Earbuds • Class/Ensemble Music and Textbook • Additional materials and equipment for each specific instrument may be found through this link: 																				
Additional Teacher Information	<p><u>Orchestra Calendar</u> A list of important concert dates and events may be found online through this link: http://rtmsorchestra.com/2024calendar</p> <p><u>Orchestra Handbook</u> 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/</p>																				
Grading Policy	<p>Grading Scale:</p> <table> <tr> <td>90% -100%</td> <td>A</td> <td>Semester Grade will be determined by:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80% - 89%</td> <td>B</td> <td>Major Assessments: 50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70% - 79%</td> <td>C</td> <td>Minor Assessments: 40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Below 70%</td> <td>F</td> <td>Practice: 10%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Codes in Infinite Campus:</p> <table> <tr> <td>NG – No Grade</td> <td>Grade Minimums each 9-week reporting period:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I – Incomplete</td> <td>- At a minimum, two grades should be major</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M – Missing</td> <td>- At a minimum, three grades should be minor</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- At a minimum, three grades should be practice</td> </tr> </table>	90% -100%	A	Semester Grade will be determined by:	80% - 89%	B	Major Assessments: 50%	70% - 79%	C	Minor Assessments: 40%	Below 70%	F	Practice: 10%	NG – No Grade	Grade Minimums each 9-week reporting period:	I – Incomplete	- At a minimum, two grades should be major	M – Missing	- At a minimum, three grades should be minor		- At a minimum, three grades should be practice
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Final Exam	If a final exam is administered, it will count as a major assessment.																				
Grading Categories	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>																				
Classwork/Homework	Classwork and/or homework will be assigned daily. Students are expected to show evidence demonstrating their thinking.																				
Attendance & Make-Up Work	<p>Regular attendance in this class is essential for each student to be successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. <p>*All Orchestra students are required to attend and perform at Major Concerts listed in the Orchestra Calendar. These concert performances are graded as a Major Grade.</p>																				
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.																				
Limited AI Use with Teacher Permission	In this course, the use of generative AI tools is permitted only with explicit teacher approval for specific assignments. AI can serve as an aid to enhance understanding and interaction with course content, within the boundaries of academic integrity. If AI tools are used, all AI-generated content must be accurately cited, and students are responsible for the integrity and correctness of their submissions, including any content derived from AI tools. It is essential to critically evaluate AI outputs to ensure they meet academic standards. Unauthorized use of generative AI, without proper citation, is considered a violation of the Fulton County Schools Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.																				

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
	<p>>Be ready at the start of class including your instrument, mechanical pencil, music, and all required equipment</p> <p>>Show respect to other students and the music regardless of performance or skill level.</p> <p>>Participate to the best of your ability in all written and performance activities in class</p> <p>>Follow Classroom Procedures to avoid accidental damage to instruments and school devices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal Warning • Lunch Detention • Teacher Detention/Parent Contact • Office Referral/Parent Contact
	<p>Academic Honesty (The Honor Code/Honesty):</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 & 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>	
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	<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"> • Consistently Demonstrates • Often Demonstrates • Sometimes Demonstrates • Rarely Demonstrates 	
Communication to Parents	<p>Communication with parents/guardians on student’s academic progress will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress Reports (Every 4.5 Weeks) • Report Cards (End of the Semester: 18-week and 36-week) <p>Additional communication with parents/guardians will occur when a student is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In danger of not meeting expectations and/or their course average goes below a 75 • 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 	
School Website	https://www.fultonschools.org/rivertrailms	
RTMS Orchestra Website	https://rtmsorchestra.com	

Parents/Guardians will sign acknowledging you have received the syllabus through this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/19uyMrrxuc>

(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: _____

Practices that should not be used per FCSS.	Bell Curve Multipliers *Bonus Points/Extra Credit (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. (PPT 7))
Examples with more detailed descriptions of Major/Minor/Practice specific to a content area.	
Science	<p>Major (50%): 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>Minor (40%): 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>Practice (10%): 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>
HS Physical Science *District % change	<p>Major (55%): 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>Minor (35%): 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>Practice (10%): 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>
GA STUDIES	<p>Major (50%): 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>Minor (40%): 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>Practice (10%): 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>
Music	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
*Enhanced Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry	<p>EOC (20%): 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. Weight subject to change according to GADOE.</p> <p>Major (40%): 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>Minor (30%): 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> <p>Practice (10%): 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.</p>