

Anoka Middle School Orchestra Syllabus

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Welcome to Orchestra! It my expectation that orchestra should be a fun experience. If all students adhere to the following expectations, class time will be enjoyable and exciting. With all of you giving your best each day, this ensemble can achieve great things.

Course Description

The orchestra classes are open to students who desire to learn to play an offered instrument. In all classes the student will receive guidance in techniques for producing proper tone, pitch, rhythm, posture, dynamics, and performance at different levels. Orchestra is also a class designed to help build self-esteem (achievement), cooperation (playing in an ensemble), and life skills (practice, study, commitment) through the discipline in learning to play an instrument.

Grades

Students accumulate points during the quarter as a reflection of their progress towards meeting the goals and expectations of the orchestra program.

Participation/Preparation, Technical/Musical Development, Tests/Assignments – 60%
Performances – 30%
Summative Assessments – 10%

Grading Scale

A 90%-100%
B 80%-89%
C 70%-79%
D 60%-69%
F Below 60%

Rehearsal Participation and Preparation

If all students adhere to the following expectations, this orchestra will have a successful year!

1. Be in class on time.
2. Be in your assigned seat with your instrument ready to play, music in order, and a pencil on your stand two minutes after class begins.
3. Be quiet when the director steps on the podium or is working with another section.
4. Bring instruments into playing position when the director raises his/her arms.
5. Stop playing immediately after the director stops the orchestra.
6. Follow building rules in regard to food/pop/gum/electronic devices.
7. Play only your instrument unless other arrangements have been made with your director.
8. Return instruments to assigned areas after each rehearsal.
9. Keep your instrument clean and in good playing condition at all times.
10. Practice your concert music on a regular basis and be prepared to play it well at least two weeks prior to a major concert. A good starting point is 20 minutes, six days a week.
11. Fingernails must be at an appropriate length so the fingertip (not just the pad of the finger) can be placed on the fingerboard.

Tests/Assignments

Students will periodically have both written and playing tests, as well as other assignments.

Performances

All orchestra classes are performance-based, meaning that the students will be required to perform to earn a portion of their grade. Performances are important events. We depend on each student to make the concerts successful. Each performance is a culmination of the entire group's hard work. Students are expected to be there prepared and on time and in attendance for the entire concert. If students have a conflict, see your band/orchestra teacher.

*Students are responsible for the transportation of their instrument and music to and from the concert site except when directed otherwise.

Concert Participation

Concert schedules are distributed well in advance of any performance. Parents and students are expected to note dates on their calendars immediately, and make every effort to avoid conflicts as they make any other plans.

In the event that a student is unable to attend a concert, the following make-up work will be required.

If there is a(n):

- 1.) Prior commitment: The director must receive a note from a parent at least **two weeks** before the concert. (Curricular events always take precedence over co-curricular events.) Students must complete a make-up assignment.
- 2.) Illness/Family emergency: Parents must call and notify the director of the situation as soon as possible. Students must complete a make-up assignment.
- 3.) No advance warning or no-show: Student will lose all of the Performance Points given to the performance. **Students may earn back half of the points attributed to the performance by completing the missed concert make-up assignment.**

Concert Attire

Boys: white shirt, black pants

Girls: white shirt, black pants or skirt, or black dress

Repairs/Maintenance

If your instrument is not working... bring it in. Much of the time, your teacher will be able to repair it for you. If your teacher is unable to repair your instrument and you are currently renting an instrument from Groth, Schmitt, Reynold's Music, All Strings Attached, or Music Connection, bring it to school. A representative from the store will come to Anoka Middle School usually within the week, pick it up, have it repaired, and have it back to you the following week. If your instrument is being privately repaired, please send a note to your band/orchestra teacher so we will have an idea of what the problem is, and how long the repairs will take. This will help us know how we can best accommodate the musician and his/her predicament.

Renting/Purchasing an Instrument

If you would like info on where to rent or purchase an instrument, ask your teacher.

Instrument Storage

Anoka Middle School provides storage shelves in the music area for the storage of instruments during the day. The area is supervised via security camera installed on the ceiling, and locked before and after school hours. Though incidents rarely occur, we strongly recommend checking your homeowner's insurance policy to be sure your instrument is covered in the unlikely event that something should happen. The teachers, school, and/or district are not responsible for damage to your instruments.

Concert Dates

Winter Concert

Thursday, January 24th - 7:00 PM - AMSA Fred Moore

String Fling Concert

Thursday, February 28th - 7:00 PM - Anoka High School Field House

Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 21st - 7:00 PM - AMSA Fred Moore