

Swainston Middle School
Orchestra Course Expectations
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I. Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed as an introductory study in Orchestra, and the fundamentals of music, with opportunities to explore a variety of styles in an ensemble setting. It is designed to teach the basics of Orchestral instruments, for students with little or no prior experience. Performance opportunities will be offered throughout the year. Performance in class is required. This course may be repeated for credit. Students will be required to attend a limited amount of rehearsals and performances outside the school day. This is an elective course.

II. Course Goals:

1. To develop a basic knowledge of the technique involved in playing a string instrument.
2. Introduction to music notation
3. To explore music of various styles, periods, and cultures
4. To learn about the characteristics of an ensemble
5. To develop an appreciation for all types of music
6. To discover the basics of concert etiquette as an audience member and performer

III. Course Activities and Criteria for Evaluating Students

Grades will be posted on Infinite Campus, each week school is in session.

Grading Scale will be as follows:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
50-59%	F

Summative Assessments – 60%

1. Concert

Attendance at all concerts are required, since every member of an Orchestra plays a vital role in the success of the entire ensemble. If you **must** miss a performance due to an **emergency**, I must receive a call or a note prior to the performance. You can not make up an actual performance, however, you must complete an alternate assignment. The maximum grade for this assignment is 75% of the Concert

Performance grade. A performance will be graded as follows: **Four separate grades of 100 points each.** There is one grade for the Performance, a grade for the Uniform, a grade for Audience etiquette, and Etiquette as a Performer.

2. Tests/Quizzes:

There will be both written and playing quizzes and tests. There will be an exam at the end of each unit. The final exam will be worth 10% of the student's semester grade. The students will be tested once a week either vocally or by written quiz or exam.

Formative Assessments – 40%

3. Rehearsal Skills:

The students will be graded by participation during rehearsal, group and individual practice. Students need to **fully participate** in class to receive full credit.

4. Classwork/Homework Policy:

Depending on the unit, homework may be assigned once a week and it will be graded based upon if it is a written assignment, depends on how many questions. If it is a listening assignment it will be assigned usually between 20-40 points. Both written and aural is frequently discussed and completed during class.

5. Semester Exams:

Semester exams are given at the end of the 2nd and the 4th quarters. These exams will make up no more than 10% of the student's semester grade. The 1st Quarter will constitute 45%, and the 2nd Quarter will consist of 45% of the Semester grade.

6. Make-Up Policy

According to CCSD Regulation 5113, after an absence, the student is required to initiate contact with the teacher to obtain the appropriate work within **three** school days immediately following the absence. Students will be allowed a minimum of three days to complete all work.

7. Grade Communication

Grade reports will be issued consistently throughout the school year. Additionally, you can access your student's grades on the Internet via Infinite Campus – campusportal.ccsd.net.

IV. Technology

Cell phones should be away during class, unless, strictly for a student recording their part, or accompaniment, in a song for purposes of practicing, or for student performances on Performance Fridays. Google Classroom will be used as a communication and practice tool.

V. General Materials needed

1. Pencil or Pen
2. Journal
3. Highlighter

Orchestra Fee: \$40

Instruments and Accessories:

1. Method book – Essential Elements(Book 1 for Beginners, and Book 2 for Intermediate/Advanced students)
2. Instrument with case and bow (If you do not have your own instrument, you may use the instrument provided by CCSD.
3. Music Folder (Provided by the Orchestra program)
4. Rosin for bow
5. Shoulder rest for Violins and Violas, and Rock stops for Cellos and Basses
6. Cleaning Cloth

Uniform for All Orchestra Students:

Young Men: Solid black slacks/pants (No denim jeans)

Solid black socks

Black dress shoes (No court or tennis shoes)

Swainston Orchestra Polo shirts (Ordered through the Orchestra Program)

Young Ladies: Solid black dress slacks/pants

Black dress shoes (No court or tennis shoes)

Black Hosiery or Black Socks

Swainston Orchestra Polo Shirts

VI. Behavioral Expectations:

- A. I expect students to participate with a positive attitude, communicate with others and myself with respect, respectful of equipment, be present and on time, function as a team, trust each other, and be respectful, responsible and cooperative.
- B. Students are expected to behave on accordance with the Swainston Middle School Student Handbook as well as CCSD policies and procedures.

Every classroom, hallway, locker room, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium, playground, athletic field, school bus, parking lot and other areas on the premises of a public school in this State must be maintained as a safe and respectful learning environment, and no form of bullying or cyberbullying will be tolerated within the system of public education in this state. NRS388.121-NRS 388.145; Senate Bill 504

I have read the above Course Expectations, and I agree to follow the above procedures and policies to the best of my ability.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date