

Strings Program – Gr 3-12 Curriculum Benchmarks

Grade 3

- Weekly 45 minute group lesson
- Study and practice correct posture and basic playing technique
- Establish good practice habits and consistent practice routines
- Develop active listening, self-reflection, and critical thinking skills
- Basic music theory with emphasis on note reading in D major

Grade 4

- Weekly 45 minute group lesson
- Expanded scale areas to three or more keys
- Playing on all strings
- Expansion of rhythmic patterns
- Additional bowing and finger patterns
- Extended note reading practice and two or more part playing
- Refining posture, tone and intonation

Grade 5

- Weekly 45 minute group lesson with addition of weekly orchestra rehearsal before school
- Extension of music theory and playing knowledge into four or more keys
- Emphasis on musical expression, ensemble playing skills and more advanced playing technique
- Development of collaborative skills
- Grade 1 or higher string orchestra literature

Grade 6

- Weekly 45 minute group lesson and additional weekly 60 minute orchestra rehearsal
- Refinement of a variety of articulations and bowing techniques
- Advancing playing concepts including shifting and two octave scales
- Grade 1.5 or higher string orchestra literature
- Emphasis on playing in the Baroque style
- Introduction to tuning concepts
- Introduction to orchestral leadership skills and roles

Grade 7

- Weekly 45 minute group lesson and additional weekly 60 minute orchestra rehearsal
- Expansion of tuning concepts and introduction of the harmonic series
- Grade 2 or higher string orchestra literature
- Emphasis on playing in the Classical style
- Use and identify the fundamentals of music
- Opportunity to audition for the MMEA Junior District Orchestra
- Development of ensemble leadership skills and independent musicianship skills

Grade 8

- Weekly 45 minute group lesson and additional weekly 60 minute orchestra rehearsal
- Extension of rhythmic patterns and meters
- Use and identify the fundamentals of music
- Development of advanced music theory skills such as form and analysis
- Grade 2.5 or higher string orchestra literature
- Emphasis on playing in the Romantic style
- Opportunity to audition for the MMEA Junior District Orchestra
- Advancement of ensemble leadership skills
- Community performance
- Refinement of all areas of musicianship

Orchestra/Philharmonia

- Perform appropriate literature level 3 to 5 from a wide variety of genres and styles in the Fall, Spring, and Holiday concerts annually.
- Expand student level of detail in performing dynamics, playing in tune, realizing expressive markings, and playing expressively.
- Sequential study of basic music theory

- Discuss and employ a variety of bowings including, staccato, spiccato, and pizzicato
- Expand their left hand technique through study of shifting and double stops.
- Advance technical facility through study of scales, arpeggios and etudes.

Form a small ensemble and arrange three public performances

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Benchmarks

Grades 3-12

String Instrumental Music

Compiled by Curriculum Task Committees
under the direction of
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“Shaping the future one child at a time”

Visit our website at: westfordk12.us

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