



**Northwestern Middle School  
Orchestra Syllabus 2016-2017  
Grades 6-8**



**Teacher:** Evelyn Champion, [ChampionE@Fultonschools.org](mailto:ChampionE@Fultonschools.org)

**Textbooks:** Essential Elements 2000 Book One, Two & Three

**Course Description:** Orchestra utilizes a Standards-Based Curriculum which focuses on the following nine standards:

- Singing, alone & with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Performing on instruments, alone & with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Composing & arranging music
- Reading & notating music
- Listening to, analyzing & describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances
- Understanding relationships between music & other disciplines
- Understanding music in relation to history & culture

**Course Outline:** The following topics will be covered as our skills develop through the year: characteristic tone quality of stringed instruments, rhythmic studies, bowing technique development, left hand finger patterns, scales and arpeggios, ear training, music reading, music vocabulary, shifting, vibrato, music theory, music history, composer study, orchestral literature, and musical creativity.

**Teacher/Parent Communication:**

Email – is the most efficient way to contact teachers

Conferences – may be scheduled based on each student's needs

Interim Report Cards – come home every 4 1/2 weeks

Home Access Center – please check frequently for your child's progress

Mrs. Champion's email is [ChampionE@Fultonschools.org](mailto:ChampionE@Fultonschools.org). The orchestra website is [NMSperforms.org/orchestra](http://NMSperforms.org/orchestra).

Also expect weekly email notes with announcements and reminders.

Please ensure you are registered for the Home Access Center (HAC) so you can view your child's grades. Teachers will post grades in HAC within 2 weeks of test dates or project/assignment due dates.

**Grading:**

**1. Major Assignments: 50%**

**\*Playing Assessments/Written Assessments 30%**

Students will be assessed on performance skills, music theory, music history and notation. The performance assessment may be live or recorded online.

**\*Concert Performances/Projects 20%**

Performance is an important aspect of a student's learning experience in a musical ensemble. Without performing alone and with others, students are not gaining the full benefit of the musical experience. **All students are expected to be present at all performances.** Serious situations such as illness, a death in the family or some other sudden emergency; however, may make it impossible for a student to attend a particular performance.

Attendance at before-school rehearsals is strongly encouraged, although extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration. Please let us know if your child has to miss a rehearsal (via phone, email, or note) **at least a day** in advance whenever possible.

Absences are classified into two categories: excused and unexcused. Excused absences are those regarded as necessary and unavoidable. Unexcused absences are those for which no prior notification was given and which could have been avoided with some advance planning.

Request for an excused absence must be in writing, either note or email from a parent **one week before the concert date**, except in case of illness. Those with excused absences will need to make an appointment with a director in order to play through all of their concert pieces or complete an alternate project for the concert grade. This must be taken care of within a week after the concert date.

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## **2. Minor Assignments: 50%**

### **\* Performance Preparation 45%**

Due to the performance-based nature of our curriculum, having all required materials for class is essential for participation in learning. Students should have their instrument, bow, shoulder rest, rock stop, book, sheet music, pencil, and other materials in order to successfully achieve many of our Georgia Performance Standards listed above. Additionally, being actively engaged in listening, playing, notating, and evaluating activities will lead to accomplishment of the standards.

**\*Homework 5%** Students are expected to practice their instrument for minimum 100 minutes weekly outside of class, preferably in small increments.

Fulton County Grading Scale:

A: 100-90

B: 89-80

C: 79-70

F: 69 and below

**Connections Recovery Policy:** Recovery is available for Major Assignments. Most recovery assignments will be different in scope and magnitude. All students are eligible for recovery if all work to date is completed and recovery is initiated by student. Student will receive the higher grade for recovery.

**Help Sessions:** Every Tuesday beginning at 8:00am students are welcome to come in for help. Students may also practice independently or in small groups any day of the week, except Fridays, when we will have Fiddle Fun Friday (group performance).

**Absence Make-Up Procedures (FCBOE Policy JBD):** Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teachers to request make-up work. Make-up work must be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. At NMS, students will be given the same amount of time to make up the work as the student was absent unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon. The student will receive the actual grade on the make-up work if the absence was "excused."

**Work not Turned In:** Students who do not turn in a major assignment are allowed to recover, but 10 percent per day is deducted for lateness. Any major assignment not turned in by the end of the 9 week quarter results in zero points due to 9 week Connections courses and report card grading deadlines.

**Study Guide Policy:** Students at Northwestern Middle School will be provided a study guide to use when studying for their assessments. This study guide will include key vocabulary and essential questions to be answered. This guide will be given at least a week prior to the test and answers will be provided in class and online.

**Plagiarism Policy:** Academic honesty is very important at Northwestern Middle School. It is the responsibility of both the student and parent to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism consequences.

### **Examples of Plagiarism and Cheating**

- ✗ Falsifying laboratory data (both copying and creating it)
- ✗ Copying others words, ideas, thoughts and images
- ✗ Modifying an image when the assignment requires original work
- ✗ Paraphrasing and summarizing without citing the source
- ✗ Providing another student with your work, even if you do not know they are going to use it as their own (includes sharing homework answers)
- ✗ Providing others with quiz/test answers either before, during, or after the quiz/test

### **How to prevent plagiarism**

- ✓ Words/ideas: cite sources for information that is quoted, summarized, and paraphrased.
- ✓ Images: cite source of image.
- ✓ If an assignment calls for original images, this means they must be created from scratch and not taken/traced from books, magazines, internet, etc. Original work is also not a modification of images from books, magazines, internet, etc.
- ✓ Do not wait until the last minute to complete your work.
- ✓ If you are unsure if you are plagiarizing, please consult your teacher.
- ✓ Grade entered will be a zero until the new assignment is received.

All plagiarizing will result in the following:

1. Parents will be notified
2. Students will re-do the assignment or an alternative assignment
3. Possible administrative referral

**A copy of this syllabus, the orchestra handbook, and event schedule including concert dates can be found on the Orchestra Website**  
**[NMSperforms.org/orchestra](http://NMSperforms.org/orchestra). The confirmation of receipt is on the orchestra website and was also sent in an email.**