[](http://www.anderson5.net/southwood)

**Orchestra Course Syllabus**

**2015-2016**

Matthew Speer, Orchestra Director

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**Course Description**

The middle school orchestra at Aynor Middle School is a compilation of different classes: 8th grade orchestra, 7th grade orchestra, and 6th grade beginning orchestra. Students will be given the opportunity to play a varied repertoire of music in all classes. These orchestras will concentrate on a variety of music fundamentals while incorporating the state standards for a beginning/intermediate/advanced level strings class.

**Goals**

All classes will seek to provide training for all students at their current playing ability while working to bring each student to his/her highest potential in performance on his/her chosen string instrument. All orchestra classes will provide challenging music opportunities to improve each student’s overall musicianship.

**6th Grade Orchestra Objectives**

Students will be able to apply skills and techniques learned in class to improve their overall performance level. These skills and techniques include:

* Instrument Parts
* Maintenance of Instrument
* Note values
* Note reading
* Rhythms (syncopation)
* Time signatures (simple and compound meters)
* Bow control
* Tone
* Key signatures (major/minor)
* One octave scales (major/minor)
* Terms (music vocabulary)
* Theory skills
* Aural skills
* Music history (composers/music time periods)

**7th Grade Orchestra Objectives**

Students will be able to apply skills and techniques learned in class to improve their overall performance level. These skills and techniques include:

* Instrument Parts
* Maintenance of Instrument
* Note values
* Note reading
* Vibrato
* Shifting (learning different positions)
* Rhythms (syncopation)
* Time signatures (simple and compound meters)
* Bow control
* Tone
* Key signatures (major/minor)
* One and two octave scales (major/minor)
* Terms (music vocabulary)
* Music theory
* Aural skills
* Music history (composers/music time periods)

**8th Grade Orchestra Objectives**

Students will be able to apply skills and techniques learned in class to improve their overall performance level. 8th Grade Orchestra Objectives are a continuation of techniques they began in 7th grade, but with more emphasis to fine tune these skills to prepare them for high school orchestra during their 8th grade year. These skills and techniques include:

* Instrument Parts
* Maintenance of Instrument
* Note values
* Note reading
* Vibrato
* Shifting (learning different positions)
* Rhythms (syncopation)
* Time signatures (simple and compound meters)
* Bow control
* Tone
* Key signatures (major/minor)
* One and two octave scales (major/minor)
* Terms (music vocabulary)
* Music theory
* Aural skills
* Music history (composers/music time periods)

**Requirements**

**Students are *REQUIRED* to attend *ALL* performances**: Be there on time and in appropriate concert attire (see below). Students are required to participate in class. This includes being prepared for class – having his/her instrument, method book (Essential Elements 2000 – 6th grade; Expressive Techniques for Orchestra: 7th/8th grades), orchestra music and a pencil.

**Concert Attire**

**Students are required to wear a white dress shirt and black dress pants or a long black skirt (for ladies) to concerts, unless otherwise instructed from Mr. Speer**. Guys must wear a black bow tie. No flip flops or tennis shoes, dark colored jeans or t-shirts will be allowed for anyone. When we perform, we present ourselves in a professional manner and represent our school well. Dress to impress!

**Males**: black dress pants (slacks; not jean material), white, long-sleeve dress shirt (with collar), black bow tie, belt and black dress shoes (please wear black socks).

**Females**: black dress pants (slacks; not jean material) or long black skirt (must cover knees when sitting), white, long-sleeve dress shirt and black dress shoes (no flip-flops).

**Orchestra Class Schedule**

6th Grade Advanced Orchestra: 8:10-9:00 (1st period)

6th Grade Intermediate Orchestra: 9:03-9:53 (2nd period)

7th Grade Orchestra: 10:14-11:04 (3rd Period)

7th Grade Orchestra: 11:07 – 11:57 (4th period)

8th Grade Orchestra: 2:16-3:05 (7th period)

The above classes will meet every day. Students must bring their instrument to school every day. I strongly recommend that (**instruments go home every day**). Students may bring their instrument to the orchestra room when they arrive to school (to store for the day until time for orchestra class – this will be the safest place for their instrument throughout the day).

**Grades**

Students will be graded on their **Class Participation, Mid-Level Assessments, Final (Concert Performances**. Being prepared for class include bringing instrument, method book/music and a pencil to class every day. Dress Rehearsals are rehearsals that typically take place the before a concert and are after school – usually 3:45 to 4:45) **It is *MANDATORY* that *ALL* students attend *ALL* performances and dress rehearsals**. In the case of an emergency and a student misses a performance or dress rehearsal, a written note/email (or phone call made) from the parent/guardian must be given to Mr. Speer the following day back to school. If possible, please try to notify Mr. Speer the day of the emergency. If these procedures are not taken, the student will receive a 0 for missing the performance and/or dress rehearsal.

**Materials**

Each student is responsible for having the following books and accessories for in-class and at-home use:

* Measures For Success bk1 (6th Grade)
* Measures for Success bk 2 (7th Grade)
* All for Strings bk 3 (8th Grade)
* Shoulder Rest (violin/viola)
* Rock Stop (cello/bass)
* Rosin (all instruments)
* Cloth (all instruments)
* Pencil

**Attendance/Tardies**

Please be on time and in class every d ay. Excessive absences/tardies will be dealt with through the main office.

**Classroom Rules**

* Treat others the way you want to be treated
* Raise your hand when you need to speak
* Be prepared
* Be on time

**Classroom Consequences**

* Warning
* Phone call home/email
* Office referral

**REMEMBER…**

**YOU HAVE 2 EARS AND 1 MOUTH…LISTEN MORE THAN YOU SPEAK!**

Regardless of whether we are in the classroom or in public performing, we are a representation of Aynor Middle School and I expect the very best behavior from each of my students!

**Important!!! Read Below!!!**

**My main form of communication this year will be via school email. If you do not have email, please let me know and I will give your child a hard copy of any information I email home!**

**Thank you and I look forward to a great year!**