



Content Area: Music

Grade Level: 4

Course Name: Orchestra 4

### Course Description:

Orchestra 4 is an elective course in elementary school. Students begin with small-group lessons in the fall, and the full 4th grade Orchestra meets together in rehearsal beginning partway into the year, often in December. Orchestra meets once a week for the full year, during the school day. 4th grade Orchestra students perform in a Beginners' Recital during the winter or early spring, and the 4th grade Band, Chorus, and Orchestra perform a concert in June.

Orchestra students will have a required small-group lesson once each week. Lessons rotate through the day so that no student should be excused from the same class more than once in each four weeks of school.

Skills	Description
String Instrument Skills	Students who play in the Orchestra program (violin, viola, cello, bass) will be introduced to skills in the areas of posture, left and right hand technique, bowing, plucking, scales and arpeggios, note and rhythm reading, extended positions, shifting, tuning, and intonation. They will begin the year learning how to open their case and pluck a string and end the year performing a concert for families. Students who come into 4th grade with previous experience on a string instrument will have a modified program of study matching their skill level.

Skills	Description
Ensemble Skills	Students enrolled in 4th grade Orchestra will be in their first year of experience playing within a large ensemble. They will develop skills in listening, entrances and releases, balance, blend, intonation, expression, articulation, pulse, phrasing, and independent playing. Musical vocabulary will be introduced, and students will learn to respond to a conductor's gestures. Simple key signatures and tonalities and a foundational understanding of compositional form will be explored.

NYS Standard	Links
NYS Standards for the Arts, Traditional and Emerging Ensembles Strand	<a href="http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/nys-music-at-a-glance-final-8.2.2017-high-res-v2.pdf">http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/nys-music-at-a-glance-final-8.2.2017-high-res-v2.pdf</a>