



Content Area: Music

Grade Level: 8

Course Name: Orchestra 8

### Course Description:

Orchestra 8 is an elective course at Shaker Middle School. The class meets every other day for the full year, during the school day. Chorus meets on the opposite day; students are encouraged to enroll in both Orchestra and Chorus as the two complement each other. Band, Chorus, and Orchestra perform in two school concerts per year and may have other performance opportunities. In addition, students in these performing groups are the only ones eligible to audition for Jazz Ensemble, Select Band, Treble Makers (soprano/alto), Syncopella (tenor/bass), Select Chorus, and Scherzo (strings).

Orchestra students will have a required small-group lesson once each week. Private lessons, while encouraged, are not substituted for in-school lessons at the middle school. 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. Students must already play a string instrument to enroll in the 8th grade Orchestra.

Skills	Description
String Instrument Skills	Students who play in the Orchestra program (violin, viola, cello, bass) will continue to develop 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.

Skills	Description
Ensemble Skills	<p>Students enrolled in 8th grade Orchestra will be in their fifth year of experience playing within a large ensemble. They will continue to develop skills in listening, entrances and releases, balance, blend, intonation, expression, articulation, pulse, phrasing, and independent playing. Their use of musical vocabulary will continue to grow. A larger variety of key signatures and tonalities, and a foundational understanding of compositional form and devices will be explored.</p>

NYS Standard	Links
<p>NYS Standards for the Arts, Traditional and Emerging Ensembles Strand</p>	<p><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></p>