

Newtown Middle School Orchestra Program

TEACHER: Keith A. Hedin
SUBJECT: Grade 7 and 8 Orchestra

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students continue to refine previously learned string skills. Students are introduced to new string techniques (i. e. left hand skills and right hand skills) to continue their musical development. Group lessons take place during the Learning Lab/Lunch period.

TEACHER EXPECTATIONS:

Students should have an interest, a cooperative attitude, and a willingness to be part of a large group. Instrument, folder, pencil, and student handbook are required at each meeting. Attendance at lessons and concerts is expected.

TEXT(S) USED:

Strictly Strings Book 2. Advanced Technique for Strings. Performance pieces for concerts.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING MATERIALS:

Eting Intermediate String Techniques, Melody Book For Strings, Daily Warm Ups For Strings, various Fiddle, Folk, and Pop Tunes.

HOMEWORK POLICY:

Frequency: Six days per week.
Approximate Time Per Night: 20 minutes.

PROJECTS, RESEARCH PAPERS, ETC.:

Minimum of two concerts per year.

QUIZZES AND TEST POLICY:

Playing quizzes each marking period. Weekly check of previously learned material, and student self assessment.

HOW REPORT CARD GRADES ARE DETERMINED:

Playing quiz grade, class participation, and lesson attendance.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES:

Chamber Orchestra will again be meeting on Friday afternoons from 2:00-3:00.
Student prepares a solo piece to be performed in class with piano and/or string orchestra accompaniment.
Visiting Artist Program available for private lessons.
Students are encouraged to perform in local youth symphonies (Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk, and Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra.)

OTHER TEACHER COMMENTS:

Newtown District Mission Statement: "All students will create, perform, respond, and connect with understanding to all of the arts, including visual arts, music, theatre, and dance. Students will develop in-depth skill in at least one art form, appreciate the importance of the arts in expressing human experiences, and be prepared to apply their arts knowledge and skill throughout their lifetime."