

Beginning and Intermediate String Orchestra Syllabus
2011-2012

Instructor
Debra Morgan
dmorgan@hollandhall.org
Ext. 207

Course Description

This course is divided into three grade levels. The 6th grade class is an introduction to the string orchestra instruments. Beginners will be instructed on the instrument of their choice in basic string playing techniques. The 7th and 8th grade classes are a continuing exploration of string technique and orchestral playing.

Learning Objectives and Benchmarks

These classes are designed to teach basic and intermediate performance skills on a string instrument. These skills are show-cased in two major concert events, the Winter and Spring Concerts. Benchmarks are based on five criteria:

Correct right and left hand skill and basic playing posture

The understanding of rhythm concepts

The production of a beautiful tone

Basic scales/intonation

Note reading

Preparation for Class/ Course Materials

Students are encouraged to practice at home using their Essential Element Book 1 or 2. They are also expected to have their instrument for each class. The course material is Essential Elements Book 1 for the beginning 6th grade class and Essential Elements Book 2 for the 7/8 grade class. Other material may be assigned for each concert.

Methods of Instruction

There are a variety of methods used to teach these classes. One is teacher "modeling", the personal demonstration of quality string playing. Another is the use of instructional video; either Essential Elements or other chosen artists. A third method of instruction is the use of digital filming. A student observes their own playing and other students in the class and gives feedback, either for themselves or others. The use of singing and solfege is also applied to teach auditory skills.

Assessment:

This course is ungraded. Emphasis is placed on the continuing evaluation of the benchmarks.

Projected Course Schedule:

Winter Concert December 6, 2011

Spring Concert May 10, 2012