



NORTHSHORE SCHOOLS

Discovering Your Dreams

Middle School Strings, Grade 6

Department “Why” Statement

The Fine & Performing Arts Department fosters a love of the arts, develops cultural awareness, and nurtures social and emotional well-being. Meaningful experiences in arts supports students’ capacity to engage fully in the world and cultivates creative and innovative thinking.

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Shared Valued Outcome of Focus	Innovators apply solutions that meet new requirements or existing needs in order to impact self, others and society within local and global communities.
National and/or State Learning Standards	NYS Music Learning Standards
Course Understandings	● Performers understand the basic fundamentals of music that help musicians to be able to express themselves through their instruments. ● To express their musical ideas, musicians analyze, and refine their performance over time through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria. ● Musicians interpret musical composition through the lens of their skill level, artistry, and knowledge of music history and culture. ● Performers improve in proficiency and artistry through quality and consistent practice, acquired knowledge and experience. ● Musicians engage in problem solving to enhance their performance through experimentation, evaluation, collaboration, and reflection. ● Committed individuals understand how the individual parts come together as a whole. ● Music relies on teamwork, a life skill that can be developed. ● Music provides access for human connection, interactions and emotions and is an important cultural marker of the human race. ● Educated music listeners listen with a critical ear and engage in the process of musical critique.

	● Exposure to a wide range of music opens our views and perceptions of music and how to perform it. ● Innovation is a key element in groundbreaking compositions/ performances/musicians that transcend time and space.
Course Essential Questions	● What is music? ● What is a musician? ● How and why do we listen to music? ● How does process impact the product? ● Why is collaboration and teamwork essential to the success of a group? ● How do reflective practices and feedback help performers improve their musicianship? ● How do musicians think critically about music? ● How does understanding the structure of musical works influence performance?
Key Units and Topics	● Proper posture and position ● Basic tuning using fine tuners ● Tone quality and production ● Intonation: Half steps vs. whole steps ● Rhythmic values: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, dotted half and dotted quarter notes and rests ● Time signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 2/2 ● Key signatures/scales and associated sharps and naturals: D Major, G Major, C Major, F major ● Form: ABA, Theme and Variations, Round, D.C./D.S. al fine/ al coda ● Dynamics: pianissimo, piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte, fortissimo; crescendo and diminuendo ● Tempo variations: Allegro, Moderato, Andante, Largo, a tempo, ritardando ● Articulation: slurs, staccato, legato, detache, tremolo, accents ● Strategies for persisting through musical challenges (individual and group) ● Ensemble: etiquette, routine, balance, blend, following the conductor
Resources	NAFME NYSSMA Improving Intonation Making Practice Time Productive