



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

7/8 Orchestra Syllabus 2025-2026



Welcome to Orchestra! This is a year-long class where you'll learn to play violin, viola, cello, or bass, and make music together as a team. We'll rehearse two to three times a week in large groups, plus smaller lesson groups to focus on your individual skills. You'll get to play all kinds of music — from classical to movie themes, popular songs, and music from around the world.

What You'll Learn

- How to play with good tone, posture, and technique
- How to read music and follow a conductor
- How to listen, blend, and perform as part of a group
- How to prepare for and perform in concerts

What You'll Need

- Your instrument and supplies (rosin, extra strings, shoulder rest, endpin anchor, etc.)
- A folder for music
- A pencil and notebook

Expectations

Come prepared, practice regularly, and take care of your instrument. Most importantly, bring a positive attitude and be ready to make music together! Performances are a big part of orchestra, so attending concerts is required.

Grading:

- **Participation:** 50%
- **Tests & Assessments:** 30%
- **Performance:** 20%

Performances (Required):

- **December Concert** - Date/Time TBD
- **May Concert** - Date/Time TBD
- **Teen Arts Festival Field Trip** - May 15, 2026

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Rehearsal Participation: Daily points are awarded for rehearsal attendance and preparation. Students must bring their instrument, music, and pencil to every rehearsal and lesson.

Weekly Group Lessons: Students will receive a weekly lesson and must bring their instrument for a grade.

Tests/Assignments: Three playing tests per semester, based on concert music. Tests are submitted via Google Classroom, either at home or during school recess.

Google Classroom: Students can access music, recordings, and submit tests through Google Classroom.

Concert Participation: Concerts are mandatory. In case of a conflict, the following applies:

1. **Prior Commitment:** Notify the director at least two weeks in advance and complete a make-up assignment.
2. **Illness/Family Emergency:** Notify the director ASAP and complete a make-up assignment.
3. **No-show:** Lose all performance points. Half the points can be regained by completing a make-up assignment.

Concert Attire: Black button-up shirt, black dress pants/skirt, black socks, and black shoes.

Instrument Care:

- If an instrument isn't working, bring it to Mr. Trinidad or Mr. Hochgesang for possible repairs. If rented, have it serviced promptly.
- Instruments should be taken home daily for practice. The school isn't responsible for damage to instruments stored on campus.

Contact Information: For any questions, email Mr. Trinidad at mtrinidad@teaneckschools.org or jhochgesang@teaneckschools.org

Also feel free to reach out through Google Classroom.

Thank you for being part of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School 7/8 Orchestra!