

Ridgefield Public Schools

6th Grade Orchestra Curriculum at a Glance

Overview

Concert Orchestra

The string orchestra works on both individual performing skills and ensemble playing that includes fun and exciting repertoire in a warm and welcoming environment. String orchestra students who have one or more years of experience on a string instrument at the elementary level are highly encouraged to sign up! Students continue to develop their abilities on their chosen instrument as they enter into this fun and collaborative community. Students in 6th-grade orchestra will participate in two concert events during the school year in order to give them public performance experiences.

Please note: In addition to attending their full ensemble class, all 6th-grade orchestra students attend small group instrumental lessons on a rotating basis.

The below concepts are taught both independently as part of direct technical instruction as well as in the context of performance repertoire. Units may be taught out of sequence below based on what concert repertoire is being performed in each concert cycle, as the units should be aligned with the repertoire for congruence and mastery.

Units of Study	
Unit 1:	<p>Review and Refine Concepts Covered in Elementary School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posture• Bow Hold• Technique• D, G, and C Major Scales• Intonation



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Method Book Instruction Begins
Unit 2:	<p>Introduction of Intermediate Orchestra Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuning• Hooked bows• Slurs• Lifts• Notes on the C String• Notes on the E String• Key Signatures• Supplemental Packets are Introduced<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pitch○ Rhythm○ C and E String○ Single String Exercises• Concert Music is Introduced to Exemplify Concepts• Method Book Instruction Continues
Unit 3:	<p>More Intermediate Orchestra Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dotted Rhythms• Sixteenth Notes• High 3rd Finger (upper strings)• Extended Position (celli)• Subdividing• Syncopated Rhythms• A, B, and E minor scales
Unit 4:	<p>Spring Concert Music is Introduced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music is Selected to Exemplify Concepts Taught During Sixth-Grade• Refinement of all Concepts Continues• Method Book Instruction Continues• Supplemental Work continues

