



Samuel Inman Middle School



COURSE SYLLABUS

2019-2020

Orchestra

Teacher: Kelli Shields
Room Number: 2070
Semester: **Fall 2019 and Spring 2020**

Phone Number: 404-802-3226
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Tutorial Days: **Mondays**
Tutorial Hours: 7:50a.m. - 8:50a.m.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/apsk12.org/imsorchestra>

Tutorial Location: Room 2070

Welcome to the new school year! I hope everyone had a great summer. I am so excited about working with such wonderful students again!!! The handbook is designed to communicate information about the Inman Middle School Orchestra to both the student and parent/guardian. Please take a moment to read over the information. When you have finished reading the handbook, please fill out the form in the back and return it to me by the due date listed at the top of the page. If you have any questions or concerns about the information in this handbook, please contact me. The best way to contact me is by email. Your input and comments are appreciated!

Course Outline: MMSBO.1, MMSBO.2, MMSBO.3, MMSBO.4

MMSBO.1 – Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music a.

Demonstrate the ability to match pitch and adjust intonation. b. Demonstrate an understanding of phrasing through singing simple melodies. c. Discuss the relationship between singing and quality tone production on a string instrument.

MMSBO.2 – Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music a. Demonstrate correct left hand position and finger placement, right hand position (bow hold), posture, instrument position and bow placement. b. Produce a characteristic sound using legato, staccato, slurs, detached slur, accent, and pizzicato. c. Utilize correct finger patterns in performing scales and repertoire in the keys of D, G, and C. d. Demonstrate awareness of individual and group roles within the ensemble relating to balance, blend, dynamics, phrasing, and tempo.

MMSBO.3 – Reading and notating music a. Identify notes in the staff and on ledger lines of respective clef. b. Read and notate notes within the following key signatures: D, G, and C. c. Read and notate rhythms containing whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted half notes and their corresponding rests in the time signatures of 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4. d. Recognize basic symbols for dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression as used in corresponding literature. B. Creation MMSBO.4

– Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments a. Play by ear simple melodies and provide rhythmic and melodic variations based on those melodies. b. Improvise simple harmonic accompaniments in the key of D. MMSBO.5 – Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines a. Create original rhythm patterns in 4/4 time. b. Compose simple melodies for respective instrument in the keys of D and

MMSBO.6 – Listening to, analyzing, and describing music a. Discuss the basic principles of meter, rhythm, tonality, and instrumentation in selected aural examples.



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b. Identify melodic and harmonic material in given aural examples. MMSBO.7 – Evaluating music and music performances a. Distinguish between correct and incorrect melodic and harmonic intonation and demonstrate ability to adjust accordingly. b. Evaluate the accuracy of rhythm and tempos for individual and ensemble playing. c. Judge the quality of performance in tone, intonation, balance, dynamics, and rhythm. D. Cultural and Historical Context MMSBO.8 – Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts a. Explain how music contributes to a well rounded education. b. Establish awareness that all subjects are related to music. MMSBO.9 – Understanding music in relation to history and culture a. Identify and compare performance styles of music learned in class. b. Discuss characteristics of music from various societies and cultures

will complete the following during this course:

Semester 1

Correct playing position and posture
Correct right and left hand techniques
Reading music at expected competency
Participating effectively as a member of performing ensembles
Performing selected music repertoire
Identifying the timbre of stringed instruments

Semester 2

Demonstrating ability to perform in various ensembles
Tuning instrument accurately and demonstrating awareness of good intonation
Performing with characteristic tone quality
Demonstrating knowledge of vibrato
Demonstrating knowledge of phrase and melody
Recognizing key signatures and performing appropriate scales and arpeggios
Recognizing harmonic structures in music
Demonstrating knowledge of music vocabulary

Evaluation and Grading:

- **Non-Academic Behaviors**

- Student progress toward non-academic goals that are critical to student success shall be assessed on age-appropriate competencies which may include, but are not limited to, conduct, citizenship, class participation, preparation, punctuality, meeting deadlines, neatness, organization, etc.
- Mastery of non-academic goals are assessed separately and grades of the report card.

	4 Exemplary	3 Proficient	2 Progressing	1 Needs Improvement	0 Disregard for Expectations
Classroom Expectations	The student Always demonstrates behaviors that reflect school and classroom	The student Usually demonstrates behaviors that reflect school and classroom expectations.	The student Sometimes demonstrates behaviors that reflect school and	The student Rarely demonstrates behaviors that reflect school and classroom expectations	Disregard for Expectations



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	expectations.		classroom expectations		
Preparation	The student Always brings needed materials to class and is ready to work.	The student Almost always brings needed materials to class is ready to work.	The student Usually brings needed materials to class and is ready to work.	The student Often forgets materials and is rarely ready to get to work. Often does not accept redirection.	Disregard for Expectations
Student Punctuality	The student always arrives to class on time.	The student almost always arrives to class on time.	The student sometimes arrives to class on time	The student rarely arrives to class on time.	Disregard for Expectations
Work Completion and Punctuality	The student is punctual in turning in assignments and meets the requirements relative to adherence to conventions.	The student is punctual in turning in most assignments and most of the time meets the requirements relative to adherence to conventions.	The student is inconsistent in turning assignments or does not meet the requirements relative to adherence to conventions.	The student is not punctual in turning assignments or does not meet the requirements relative to adherence to conventions.	Disregard for Expectations
Academic Integrity	The student always submits learning activities that reflect their own thoughts	The student generally submits learning activities that reflect their own thoughts	The student inconsistently submitted work that does not represent their own thoughts	The student rarely submits learning activities that reflect their own thoughts	Disregard for Expectations

Course Components	Weights	Grading Scale	
Formative Assessment-Informal class performances	30%	100-90	A
Preparedness-Posture, technique, self-evaluations and peer evaluations	10%	89-80	B
Summative Assessments-Quizzes and Tests	20%	79-70	C
Performances	40%	69-0	F
TOTAL	100%	Not Evaluated	NE

Campus Portal for Parents and Guardians: Visit - <https://ic.apsk12.org/portal> to view class schedules, attendance records and grades. To activate your account, visit the school to receive your login (activation key).

Required Materials:

- instrument (daily)
- pencil
- music folder
- accessories needed for instrument (i.e. Rosin, Rockstops (Cello and Bases), extra strings, etc)



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School-wide Behavioral Expectations: Be Safe...Be Responsible...Be Respectful...Be Helpful...Be Mindful

Classroom Expectations:

A higher sense of professionalism and proper behavior are expected in all orchestra classes and orchestra events. Students are expected to follow the rules outlined below:

1. Listen carefully and raise your hand to speak.
2. Obey all school rules and follow the APS Code of Conduct.
3. Participate in all classroom activities and attend all after-school rehearsals and concerts.
4. Be courteous and show respect to others.
5. Proper concert attire must be worn during a performance.
6. Take proper care of our orchestra equipment and facility.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: It is important that students are responsible and meet established due dates for assignments. A late assignment is defined as work submitted after the teacher collected the assignment. **All missing/not turned in assignments will be recorded in Infinite Campus with an "M-Missing" designation.**

MISSING ASSIGNMENTS (late assignments or unexcused absences): Students with late assignments or unexcused absences will be expected to submit missed work within two weeks of the end of the grading periods. The deadlines for missing assignments are as follows:

- Midterm is October 4th. Deadline September 22- (for assignments from August 1- September 21)
- End of Semester is December 22nd. Deadline is December 8th (for assignments from September 22nd -December 7th)
- Midterm is March 16th. Deadline is March 2nd- (for assignments from January 8th through March 1st)
- End of Semester is May 25th. Deadline is May 11th (for assignments after March 2nd through May 10th)

As noted above, all missing/not turned in assignments will be recorded in Infinite Campus with an "M-Missing" designation.

Late assignments will be assessed a 20% penalty.

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS (Excused Absences): Students with an excused absence will be expected to submit missed work on or before the third class meeting after the absence. Pre-announced assignments are due upon return to school.

RETAKE POLICY:



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Students will have opportunities to truly display their mastery of content knowledge and skills - even if that doesn't happen during the initial assessment. This may occur during "lunch and learn" sessions, or at other times when students will not miss required instruction. Therefore, the following policies are in place to outline the process for students to participate in assessment/activity retakes:

- Teacher coordinates either formal or informal retake with students individually to determine changes in proficiency level or
- Student makes formal request to teacher for retake assessment
- Teacher approves request if evidence supports students has made effort to prepare for
- Assessment.
- All students are afforded the opportunity for a retake within ten (10) school days, provided the student "adequately prepares for the retake" per confirmation of the teacher.
- After ten (10) school days, only students who have not shown mastery on the standards, grades less than 70% are deemed as not showing mastery, can retake.
- There will be a maximum of two (2) re-takes for all students (given that their initial attempts do not exceed 70%).
- Teachers must post the highest grade achieved by the student (not the most recent; not the average).

AMNESTY DAY(S): Students may, on no more than two occasion per semester, as designated by the teacher, devote time and/or opportunities to complete make-up, alternative, or replacement assignments outside of the policy window to assist with increasing their grades. These events must not inflate grades or penalize students. Additionally, the opportunities must be standards aligned.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS – Orchestra students will complete a practice record that will serve as a homework grade. Practicing at home is considered an orchestra student's homework each day. All orchestra students are required to practice a minimum of 120 minutes each week. Practice records must be signed by a parent or guardian. **** Students will submit a practice record at the end of each week. ****

PERFORMANCES: Attendance at concerts is required. Being a part of an orchestra is being a part of a team. Just like all students on a sports team attend their sporting events, all students in orchestra must participate in concerts. Performances will be 40% of the final grade. If the student must miss a performance, please inform me in writing as soon as possible. **Students who miss a performance will be required to do a make-up assignment in order to make-up the missing points.** Information will be sent home in the event the student misses a performance. Students are required to report to concert sites 60 minutes before the concert begins. **They are also required, as part of their grade, to stay the duration of each concert.** A letter of information about the concert will be sent home with each student at least three weeks before a concert.



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REHEARSALS: In order to prepare for performances it is imperative to have rehearsals. Students will be given the time, date, and location in advance. Mandatory rehearsals will be held the week of a performance. All mandatory rehearsals are considered an assignment grade. If a student misses a mandatory rehearsal the student will lose points from their grade. Therefore, make transportation arrangements well in advance. **Please pick up your student on time. Please be considerate.**

UNIFORM/PERFORMANCE ATTIRE: Dress for performances are:

Black Bottoms (no jeans or athletic wear)

Inman Orchestra polo shirt

Black socks

Black shoes (no sneakers)

The orchestra shirt is purchased through me for \$12.00 youth size (Very Small) and \$12.00 adult size. **All students must have the correct concert uniform to perform with the orchestra.** Again, we are a team and we must match. When performing for judges we will be marked down for not being in uniform. An order form will be sent home and all money and order forms are due **Friday, September 6th**. If you have any questions please see me.

INSTRUMENTS: The Inman Orchestra Program has a limited amount of instruments available for student use. The instruments are checked out to individual students for their personal use and are expected to be kept in good condition. **Students who own instruments will not be eligible to use school instruments.** Students using school instruments must follow the instrument usage schedule that will be available. **Should damage be done to ANY instrument or equipment, there will be a charge. Students can practice in the mornings from 8:00AM-8:35AM if there are no rehearsals.**

Instruments are not to leave the classroom without permission. That will be considered a theft. A list of places to purchase or rent instruments will be provided. All students using a school instrument will be required to complete and return a loan application form before usage. This includes in school usage.

Those students who own an instrument are expected to keep the instrument in good playing condition. Students will **NOT** be loaned an instrument for the day if they forget their instrument at home. Students who continually forget their instrument will receive an alternative assignment to complete during class.

If you take in the instrument for repair, **please bring a note from a parent to Ms Shields.** Students **NEED** rosin, a shoulder rest/pad (violin and viola only), a rock stop (cello and bass only), a clean cloth, and good strings.

EXTRA CREDIT: Students are given opportunities to earn extra credit. Opportunities include: attendance at other concerts in the area (other than rock/country/popular groups and of course the student's own concert), performing in optional activities such as honor groups and solo / ensemble, and writing a report on any articles about orchestras, musicians, or composers the student reads. A written report can be completed anytime during the year.



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ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY: Students wanting to participate in athletic programs governed by the GHSA and extracurricular activities must meet eligibility requirements to participate. The Athletic Director (and the Extracurricular Activities sponsors) will collaborate with teachers to monitor and to identify students in danger of failing courses. A master list of students participating in extracurricular activities and athletics under the auspices of the GHSA will be available to all staff.

Inman Orchestra Daily Procedures

1. Enter the room quietly. **Please no yelling, loud talking, or running around the room.**
2. Students will get materials ready before class starts. **All instruments are ready to be played, music is on the stand, and pencils are sharpened.**
3. Rehearsal order will be on the board each day. **Have your music in order and ready before class starts.** Begin warming-up on your own.
4. All playing and talking will cease once the director raises her hand. **Students need to remain in their seats and ready to listen and follow directions for the remainder of the class period.**
5. Directions for tuning will be given to each grade level.
6. At the end of class students will quickly and quietly put away instruments and return to their seats for dismissal. **The room is quiet before the class is dismissed.**

Inman Middle School Orchestra Handbook and Information Form

Please complete this form and return it to Ms. Shields by **Friday, August 16th**.

I have reviewed the Inman Middle School Orchestra Handbook with my child. I understand the requirements of this class and I will encourage my child to participate to the best of his/her ability.



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Student Name (printed) **and** Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) **and** Signature

Date

Home Phone

Work Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address

Best Time to Call: _____

Address: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parents/Guardians circle all that apply.

I am interested in volunteering for:

Chaperone

Classroom Assistance

Helping out at concerts

Helping out at festivals

Fundraisers

Comments: