***Bennett’s Mill Middle School Orchestra Syllabus***

***Objectives***

* To develop individual and group musical skills.
* To prepare and perform a varied repertoire of orchestral music, appropriate for grade level.
* To become critical thinkers about personal music making.

***Performance Standards***

* Demonstrate the ability to match pitch and adjust intonation
* Demonstrate correct left hand position and finger placement
* Demonstrate correct right hand position(bow hold), posture, instrument position and bow placement
* Utilize correct finger patterns in performing scales and repertoire
* Demonstrate awareness of individual and group roles within the ensemble
* Evaluate the accuracy of pitches and rhythms within the ensembles
* Judge the quality of performances in tone, intonation, balance, dynamics and rhythms
* Identify and compare performance styles of music learned in class

***Philosophy of Music Education***

***Any child can learn.***

Children are born with a natural eagerness to learn, and if they are provided with a nurturing and stimulating environment, their desire to learn will flourish.

***Every child learns at their own rate.***

Children are unique individuals and their musical skills will progress at different rates. They should learn each stage thoroughly and resist becoming overly competitive with others in the class.

***Encourage every small step.***

The early stages of a new skill or technique require patience from students and parents. Recognize each accomplishment, however small, as a step in the right direction. Every expert was a beginner at one point. We are building a strong foundation for future music students.

***Music education is like life – it has its ups and downs.***

Even students who are making good progress may occasionally experience problems. Give honest praise when students are doing well and encourage them during difficult times.

***The study of music provides life-long benefits.***

Studying music improves listening skills, coordination, concentration, memorization and increases sensitivity to all forms of art. Our goal is to help your child develop into a positive productive, well-rounded, and successful adult – not necessarily a professional musician.

##### Grading Policy

Final numeric averages will be determined using the following formula:

* **Performances (25%**) –The success or failure of each performance depends upon the hard work, cooperation and dedication of our members, therefore, our **concert performances are mandatory**. I will provide the schedule of performances at the beginning of the year. Absences due to illness or family emergency will be honored, but please try to give the director at least 24 hours notice if possible. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in grade reduction and/or exemption from any Orchestra trips.
* **Quizzes (30%)** - Written and playing tests will be given. A test grade will be given for each performance. Unexcused absences will result in a test grade of zero.
* **Participation (40%)** – Participation includes bringing class supplies, proper behavior, cooperation, and following the orchestra rehearsal procedures.
* **Practice Charts (5%)** – Please record your practice weekly on the practice sheets that will be provided. Total the points for the week and turn in EVERY Friday. This is your homework for orchestra. Practice charts without parent signatures will NOT be accepted. I will accept a late practice chart for ONE WEEK after the due date only.

100 min. 100

90-99 min. 95

80-89 min. 90

70-79 min. 85

30-69 min. 80

1-29 min. 75

0 min. 0

110 min. 110 (extra credit)

***I look forward to an exciting and successful year, and greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with your children. Please don’t hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns during the year.***

***Musically yours,***

***Mrs. Patti Davis, Orchestra Director***

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