

Jefferson Middle School Orchestra Program

Course Descriptions for 2016-2017

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA- MJ Orchestra 1

Beginning Orchestra is intended for students with little to no experience on string instruments. This class is open to all JMS students. Students perform in multiple concerts throughout the year and are required to conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. Upon completion of the class, students will be able to read music and play either violin, viola, cello, or upright bass at an intermediate level, and are prepared to move on in the learning of their instrument at more advanced levels.

INTERMEDIATE (CONCERT) ORCHESTRA- MJ Orchestra 2

Intermediate (Concert) Orchestra is intended for those students that have either successfully completed JMS Beginning Orchestra, or have successfully completed two years at the elementary level (See JMS Orchestra Department Elementary String Student Achievement Benchmarks) on the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass. Students perform in multiple concerts and contests throughout the year and are required to perform as well as conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. Concert Orchestra is the training ground for the advanced ensemble, Chamber Orchestra. Students must demonstrate a high level of commitment and enthusiasm, plus complete the required pre-requisites in order to advance to the Chamber Orchestra.

PRE-REQUISITE: Earned an A or B in JMS Beginning Orchestra or successfully completed two years at the elementary level. (See JMS Orchestra Department Elementary String Student Achievement Benchmarks)

ADVANCED (CHAMBER) ORCHESTRA- MJ Orchestra 2/3

Chamber Orchestra is an honors level orchestra course and is the premier performing orchestra at JMS. Students perform in multiple concerts, contests, and other events throughout the year and are required to perform as well as conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. All students have several years of playing experience before entering into this class.

PRE-REQUISITE: Earned an A or B in JMS Intermediate (Concert) Orchestra or through an audition with the orchestra director. Students must demonstrate a high level of professionalism and musical maturity and have no unexcused absences for required events in previous orchestra classes.