***Morehead Middle School***

***Orchestra***

Syllabus

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**Class Description**

Orchestra is where students will learn to perform on the Violin, Viola, Cello or Double Bass. Each student will need to have their own instrument to use during Orchestra class; the correct size and in proper working order. Students learn correct playing technique, bow technique, sound production, note reading and interpretation of music symbols. We will have evening performances and district festivals as well as outreach performances to our feeder elementary schools.

**Topics Covered**

To promote growth in Orchestra, students will….

* Learn to read and play different notes and music symbols on their instrument
* Learn correct playing technique and bowing technique
* Develop ensemble playing skills such as watching a conductor and listening to the group
* Develop and awareness of different music genres and using appropriate music styles

**Essential Questions**

* How do I decode and correctly interpret the language of music?
* What habits do good musicians employ?
* How does using good posture and correct technique help me progress?
* What is the global impact of music relating to other subjects, history and everyday life?

**Grading**

Grading is based on the director’s evaluation of each student’s work done in class, their participation, practice, preparedness and performances.

Grades will be broken down as follows:

 \*Weekly participation

 \*Each 2 weeks – class performance

 \*Periodic tests and quizzes – playing or written

 \*Homework/Practice

 \*Performances

**Practice**

Because this is an ensemble class, the lack of participation of one student affects all other students in the class. To be a learning contributing member of the Orchestra, students are required to practice individually outside of class time. You will play as well as you practice, and the better you practice, the better you and our Orchestra will be! Students minimum practice show be 30 minutes, 3 times a week or more.

**Performances**

An Orchestra performs its best with all members present. Every member is important for the success of the Orchestra. Therefore, all concerts are considered part of the class requirement for the Morehead MS Orchestra and attendance is mandatory. Missing or being late affects the entire orchestra. If a family emergency or illness occurs that prevents the student from attending the concert, the director must be notified in writing as soon as possible in order for the absence to be considered excused. Unexcused absences cannot be made up. Excused absences however can be made up with an additional assignment.

**Discipline**

Behavior problems waste valuable time and energy, and make class less enjoyable for everyone. Behavior problems will not be acceptable. A conduct grade will be given on each 3 week progress report and 9 week report card. Students are always expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct.

Orchestra requires strong commitment and self-discipline to learn a stringed instrument.

**Membership Dues**

Students are asked to pay a yearly membership of $20.00. These dues will go to pay for new class materials, strings and supplies for school instruments, classroom technology upgrades, fieldtrip transportation and student incentives throughout the school year. Checks should always be payable to “Morehead School”. The orchestra will also have a fundraising project to help raise additional funds to benefit all students.

**Concerts Uniform**

Performance dress will be worn for all concerts unless told otherwise by the director.

 **6th Grade Students**

 ***Red*** Polo Shirt

 Black Pants

 Black Shoes

  **7th/8th Grade Students**

 ***Black*** Polo

 Black Pants

 Black Shoes