



## BEGINNING ORCHESTRA



### STUDENT VOICE

In the orchestra, students have the freedom to choose their instruments and contribute to musical selections. Every member plays a crucial role by providing feedback, suggesting improvements, and taking on leadership roles. As their skills develop, students can lead warm-ups and introduce songs, with increasing leadership opportunities over time.



### HS CONNECT

The orchestra partners with Shadle Park High School for various events, including move-up concerts that facilitate collaboration with Shadle and Salk. 8th-grade night provides a chance for students to connect with the Shadle Park community. These activities help students become comfortable in the future high school performance space.



### PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Participating in a middle school orchestra can be a rewarding experience that introduces students to the world of music and ensemble playing. The following are expectations for students beginning their participation in a middle school orchestra:

- **Participation and Engagement:** Actively participating in rehearsals and lessons demonstrates commitment to the ensemble. Students are encouraged to ask questions, seek feedback, and engage in discussions about musical concepts. An orchestra is a team that depends on all members participating to be successful.
- **Respect for Others:** Students should show respect for their music teachers, and fellow ensemble members. This includes following instructions, being attentive, and fostering a positive and collaborative atmosphere.
- **Concert Attendance:** Attendance at concerts and performances is mandatory. Students should be prepared to perform in front of an audience and demonstrate the skills they have developed through rehearsals and practice.

## WHY ORCHESTRA?

Joining the middle school orchestra offers a rewarding experience, fostering connections with classmates and enhancing cognitive abilities through music expression. Orchestra participation emphasizes teamwork, teaching the art of harmonious collaboration in creating beautiful music. This collaborative spirit extends into daily life. Joining the orchestra connects you with like-minded peers, cultivating strong and enduring friendships. Beyond playing an instrument, it's a journey of personal growth, self-expression, and acquiring lifelong skills. The middle school orchestra becomes a community where passion for music intertwines with building lasting relationships and gaining valuable life experiences.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Beginning Orchestra class is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of playing a string instrument in a collaborative ensemble setting. Students will explore the basics of music theory, develop essential playing techniques, and build a foundation for musical expression. This course is open to students with little to no prior experience in playing a string instrument.



Please contact Caylee Olson for more information at [cayleeo@spokaneschools.org](mailto:cayleeo@spokaneschools.org).