

BLYTHEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

8TH GRADE

FIRST QUARTER

- **Instrument Review of Basic Skills**
 - Left and Right Hand Positions
 - Tetrachord Études: Major-Lydian
 - Scales: C Major-Eb Major, G and D Natural Minor
 - Bowing Variations A-D, I-L
- **Positions and Shifting I (Ex. 2-28)**
 - Elements of Good Shifting
 - 3rd Position Tetrachord Finger Patterns
 - 3rd Position Tetrachord Etudes
- **Vibrato**
- **Positions and Shifting II (Ex. 29-68)**
- **Spiccato**
- **Sight-Reading**
 - Grade 2 literature
- **Cultural Connections**
 - Composers/Overview of Musical Time Periods
 - Comparisons of Disciplines and Styles

SECOND QUARTER

- **Instrument Review of Basic Skills**
 - Left and Right Hand Positions
 - Tetrachord Etudes: Major-Lydian in III, IV positions
 - Scales: C Major-Eb Major, G and D Melodic Minor
 - Bowing Variations E-H
- **Vibrato**
- **Concert Unit I, Continued**
 - Concert Piece #3: Grade III
 - Concert Piece #4: Grade III
- **Sight-Reading**
 - Grade 2+ literature
- **Cultural Connections**
 - Composers/Overview of Musical Time Periods
 - Comparisons of Disciplines and Styles

THIRD QUARTER

- **Instrument Review of Basic Skills**
 - Left and Right Hand Positions
 - Tetrachord Etudes: Major-Lydian in II, III, IV positions
 - Scales: C Major-Eb Major, G, D, A, E Melodic Minor
 - Bowing Variations M-P
- **Vibrato**
- **Concert Unit II**
 - Concert Piece #1: Grade II
 - Concert Piece #2: Grade III
 - Concert Piece #3: Grade III
- **Positions and Shifting III (Ex. 69-103)**
- **Sight-Reading**
 - Grade 3 literature
- **Cultural Connections**
 - Composers/Overview of Musical Time Periods
 - Comparisons of Disciplines and Styles

FOURTH QUARTER

- **Concert Performance Unit III**
 - Concert Piece #1: Grade III
 - Concert Piece #2: Grade III
 - Concert Piece #3: Grade III
 - Canon Variations: Lines 1-5, A-D
- **Final Review and Exit Exam**
 - Scale Review: Eb, Bb, F, C, G, D, A Major; G and D Melodic Minor
 - Bowing Variations: A-P
 - Major-Lydian in II, III, IV Positions
- **Sight-Reading**
 - Grade 3+ literature
- **Cultural Connections**
 - Composers/Overview of Musical Time Periods
 - Comparisons of Disciplines and Styles