

Fairfield Public Schools  
Music Department  
Curriculum  
Orchestra Skill Levels

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FORM**  
**LEVEL I**  
**(Grade 4)**

**A. Executive Skills**

1. Exhibits proper posture and playing position
2. Exhibits proper rehearsal and performance procedures in ensemble playing
3. Understands effective practice habits
4. Demonstrates proper care and safety of instrument
5. Demonstrates proper right hand position
6. Demonstrates proper left hand position
7. Identifies parts of the instrument

**B. Tone Quality**

Students should:

1. Draw a straight bow
2. Demonstrate proper contact point between bridge and fingerboard
3. Demonstrate even bow speed
4. Produce a characteristic sound on the instrument
5. Use appropriate articulation techniques.
6. Play dynamics

**C. Bowing**

Demonstrates the following bow strokes and articulations:

1. Detache (legato)
2. Staccato
3. Two-note slur, three-note slurs and ties
4. Bow lifts
5. Right hand pizzicato
6. Left hand pizzicato
7. Imitate bowing patterns

**D. Rhythms and Note Reading**

Read and play music which includes the following:

1. Rhythms using quarter, half, dotted half, whole, pair of eighth notes and corresponding rests
2. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and perform various rhythm patterns.

3. Read music in the following Time Signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
4. Identify and Perform symbols and terms: Half note, Clef, Time signature, Bar line, Repeat sign, Up bow, Down bow, Whole note, Staff, Quarter note, Eighth notes, Key signature, Quarter rest, Half rest, Whole rest, Dotted half note, Bow lift, Measure, Tie, Slur, Plucking and Bowing

**E. Scales and Scale Patterns**

1.

Scales	Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass
G MA	1 octave	1 octave	1 octave	1 octave
D MA	1 octave	1 octave	1 octave	1 octave
Positions	I	I	I	I, (II & III on G string)

**F. Finger Patterns**

	Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass
Finger Patterns	0 1 2 3 4	0 1 2 3 4	0 1 3 4	0 1 4 0 1 2 -2 4 -1 4
	0 1 2 3 4	0 1 2 3 4	0 1 2 4	

**G. Performance**

Students should:

1. Perform various solos throughout the year.
2. Perform in a Beginners Concert and the Spring Concert
3. Improvise simple melodies on their instrument
4. Compose simple melodies on their instrument in D

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FORM**  
**LEVEL II**  
**(Grade 5)**

**A. Executive Skills**

8. Exhibits proper posture and playing position
9. Exhibits proper rehearsal and performance procedures in ensemble playing
10. Understands effective practice habits
11. Demonstrates proper care and safety of instrument
12. Demonstrates proper right hand position
13. Demonstrates proper left hand position
14. Identifies parts of the instrument

**B. Tone Quality**

Students should:

1. Draw a straight bow
2. Demonstrate and define good tone quality
3. Demonstrate proper contact point between bridge and fingerboard
4. Demonstrate even bow speed
5. Produce a sound that is characteristic of the instrument
6. Use appropriate articulation techniques
7. Play dynamic ranges of piano and forte
8. Adjust bow speed

**C. Bowing**

Students should demonstrate the following bow strokes and articulations:

1. Detaché and Staccato
2. Two, three, and four note slurs
3. Hooked bowing
4. Double stops with open strings
6. Playing in the upper half, lower half, middle of the bow and adjust bow speed
7. Bow lifts
8. Right hand pizzicato
9. Left hand pizzicato
10. Imitate bowing patterns

**D. Rhythms and Note Reading**

Students should:

1. Demonstrate eighth, quarter, half, dotted-half, whole, notes and corresponding rests, in addition to dotted quarter, dotted eighth, four sixteenths, and corresponding rests.
2. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and perform various rhythmic patterns.
3. Demonstrate the ability to read music for the full range of their instrument in first position (Bass includes second and third position).
4. Read music in the following Time Signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8
5. Identify and perform symbols and terms: Half note, Clef, Time signature, Bar line, Repeat sign, Up bow, Down bow, Whole note, staff, Quarter note, Eighth notes, Key signature, Quarter rest, Half rest, Whole rest, Dotted half note, Bow lift, Measure, Tie, Slur, Plucking, Bowing, Staccato, Hooked bow, Sixteenth notes, Dotted eighth note, Piano, Forte, Crescendo, Double stops

**E. Scales and Scale Patterns**

Scales	Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass
G MA	1 octaves	1 octave	1 octave	1 octave
D MA	1 octave	1 octave	1 octave	1 octave
Positions	I	I	I	I, 1/2 (II & III on G string)

**F. Finger Patterns**

	Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass
Finger Patterns	0 1 23 4 0 12 3 4	0 1 23 4 0 12 3 4	0 1 3 4 0 12 4	0 1 4 0 12 -24 -1 4

**G. Performance**

Students should:

1. Perform various solos throughout the year
2. Perform in the Winter and Spring concerts
3. Improvise simple melodies on their instrument
4. Compose simple melodies in D or G major for their instrument