

Pinellas County Schools Key Learnings for High School Orchestra

The Next Generation Sunshine State Standards guide the curriculum for all courses offered in our public schools. While these provide a clear picture of what students should learn conceptually from a course, translating them into actual classroom practice can be a challenging task. The Pinellas County Schools Key Learnings are designed to assist teachers by distilling the most critical elements of the standards into a considerably more user-friendly format.

The state course descriptions divide High School Orchestra into six distinct levels, Orchestra 1 – 6. The state course description is included on the first page of each level in this document, but the general design is:

- Orchestra 1: A beginning level class for students with no prior experience
- Orchestra 2: An advanced beginning class for students with a little experience
- Orchestra 3: An intermediate level class for students who have previous orchestra experience and are ready for a more challenging level of work.
- Orchestra 4: An intermediate level class for students who are ready for challenging literature and comprehensive study in music.
- Orchestra 5: An advanced course with quality point for students who are proficient musicians ready to study advanced literature and concepts in depth.
- Orchestra 6: An advanced course with quality point for students who have a high degree of proficiency and are ready to study the most challenging level in great depth.

In order to study orchestra literature effectively as well as master ensemble performance skills, students must study the course curriculum in the context of a performing orchestra. As a practical matter, this means that students at various levels of proficiency will be studying different levels of the curriculum while in the same orchestra class.

In a very small program, all levels may have to be included in one class period; this is not ideal by any means, but enrollment may make it unavoidable, especially with newer programs. Slightly larger programs will have a lower level and an upper level class, which is much more workable; the largest programs will have multiple classes more aligned to the state courses, but will still have some mixing of levels.

The Pinellas County Schools Key Learnings for Orchestra break the standards down into ten key areas. Thorough, in-depth study for mastery of these ten specific areas should make up the majority of conceptual instruction. Links to each of the state benchmarks are provided in alignment to these ten areas. A variety of assessment forms and teaching resources are provided. The resource links are part of a living document and will be enhanced and expanded continually. All Pinellas County orchestra directors are encouraged to submit resource items throughout the year.

Pinellas County Schools Key Learnings

High School Orchestra 1

State Course Description: Students who have little or no orchestral experience study and perform high-quality beginning orchestra of diverse times and styles. Rehearsals focus on the literature development of critical listening skills, rudimentary string techniques, music literacy, ensemble skills, and aesthetic awareness. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) an instrument from an outside source.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student may truthfully say:

1. I can demonstrate proper assembly, care, and maintenance of my instrument.
2. I can demonstrate proper tone production on my instrument using correct posture, bowings, hand position, articulation, and releases.
3. I can identify, match, and perform musical pitches both aurally and in the clef generally used for my instrument.
4. I can accurately identify and perform basic written rhythm values including whole, half, quarter, eighth, dotted half, and dotted quarter notes and rests in simple meters.
5. I can demonstrate proper rehearsal and concert etiquette and understand the importance of rehearsal and concert attendance.
6. I can demonstrate control of rhythmic pulse by myself and within an ensemble.
7. I can accurately sight-read short examples of music for my instrument in simple meters in the keys of G and D major.
8. I can improvise short musical phrases in the keys of G and D major.
9. I can identify and classify a variety of musical elements using appropriate terminology.
10. I can demonstrate fundamental notation skills, accurately drawing clefs, notes, rests, time signatures, and key signatures.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Big Ideas:

C – Critical Thinking and Reflection

S – Skills, Techniques, and Processes

O – Organizational Structure

H – Historical and Global Connections

I – Innovation, Technology, and the Future

	Pinellas County Schools High School Orchestra 1 Key Learnings Teacher Planning Tool	NGSSS Code
1	I can demonstrate proper assembly, care, and maintenance of my instrument.	MU.912.S.3.1 DA.912.S.2.1
2	I can demonstrate proper tone production on my instrument using correct posture, bowings, hand position, articulation, and releases.	MU.912.C.2.1 MU.912.S.2.1 MU.912.S.2.2 MU.912.S.3.1
3	I can identify, match, and perform musical pitches both aurally and in the clef generally used for my instrument.	MU.912.C.2.1 MU.912.C.2.2 MU.912.S.1.4 MU.912.S.2.2 MU.912.S.3.1 MU.912.S.3.3
4	I can accurately identify and perform basic written rhythm values including whole, half, quarter, eighth, dotted half, and dotted quarter notes and rests in simple meters.	MU.912.C.2.1 MU.912.S.1.4 MU.912.S.2.1 MU.912.S.2.2 MU.912.S.3.1 LACC.910.RST.2.4
5	I can demonstrate proper rehearsal and concert etiquette and understand the importance of rehearsal and concert attendance.	MU.912.C.2.1 MU.912.C.3.1 MU.912.S.2.1 MU.912.S.2.2 MU.912.S.3.1 MU.912.O.2.1 MU.912.O.3.2 LACC.910.SL.2.4 DA.912.S.2.1 DA.912.F.3.1
6	I can demonstrate control of rhythmic pulse by myself and within an ensemble.	MU.912.C.2.1 MU.912.S.2.2 MU.912.S.3.1 MU.912.O.3.2
7	I can accurately sight read short samples of music for my instrument in simple meters in the keys of G and D major.	MU.912.C.1.1 MU.912.C.2.1 MU.912.S.2.2 MU.912.S.3.1 MU.912.S.3.2 MU.912.O.2.1 MU.912.O.3.2

8	I can improvise short musical phrases in the keys of G and D major.	MU.912.C.2.3 MU.912.S.1.1 MU.912.S.1.3
9	I can identify and classify a variety of musical elements using appropriate terminology.	MU.912.C.1.2 MU.912.C.1.3 MU.912.C.2.2 MU.912.C.3.1 MU.912.S.3.4 MU.912.O.1.1 MU.912.O.3.1 MU.912.H.1.1 MU.912.H.1.2 MU.912.H.1.3 MU.912.H.1.4 MU.912.H.1.5 MU.912.H.2.1 MU.912.H.2.4 MU.912.F.3.1 MU.912.F.3.2 MU.912.F.3.3
10	I can demonstrate fundamental notation skills, accurately drawing clefs, notes, rests, time signatures, and key signatures.	MU.912.C.2.3 MU.912.S.1.3 MU.912.S.1.4 MU.912.S.3.3

Assessment Tool for Key Learnings
Orchestra Level 1

Name: _____

E.L. 1.1 Instrument Maintenance and Care Checklist

Student consistently brings instrument and music to class.

Student can properly assemble their instrument.

Student consistently has all necessary supplies for their instrument – listed below:

Student has kept their instrument in good working condition – specifics listed below:

Student consistently demonstrates proper care of their instrument (i.e. not dropping instrument, not losing instrument, not letting others play instrument, etc.)

E.L. 1.2 Tone Production Checklist

Posture is consistent. Student sits straight, feet flat on the floor, head level. Instrument is held in standard position.

Bow hold is correct. Bow is placed on the instrument correctly using proper bow speed and pressure.

Hand position is consistent. Student demonstrates proper position showing relaxed finger movements.

Articulation is consistent.

Note Releases are consistent. Student releases note endings with a tapering effect.

E.L. 1.3	4	3	2	1
Rhythmic Pulse Control	The student performance of the rhythmic pulse is accurate and the tempo is consistently maintained.	The student performance of the rhythmic pulse is generally accurate, but there are some errors.	The student performance of the rhythmic pulse contains a number of critical errors.	The student performance of the rhythmic pulse contains many critical errors.

E.L. 1.7	4	3	2	1
Note Accuracy	The student performed all pitches/notes accurately.	The student performed most pitches/notes accurately.	The student performed numerous inaccurate pitches/notes.	The student performed inaccurate pitches/notes consistently throughout the music.
Rhythmic Accuracy	The student performed accurate rhythms throughout.	The student performed nearly accurate but lacked precise interpretation of some rhythm patterns.	The student performed numerous rhythm patterns accurately.	The student performed most rhythm patterns incorrectly.
Tone	The student's tone is full and rich, characteristic of the tone quality of the instrument in all ranges and registers.	The student's tone is a characteristic tone quality in most ranges, but distorts in occasional passages (i.e. loud or soft, high or low tessitura, etc.)	The student's tone has some flaws in basic tone production (i.e. thin sound, unfocused tone, forced tone, etc.)	The student's tone has several major flaws in basic tone production (i.e. consistently thin and unfocused)

E.L. 1.7 Checklist:

The student observed dynamic markings

The student performed tempo changes

The student performed phrases with tension and release

The student performed articulations in correspondence with written notation

E.L. 1.8	4	3	2	1
Tonality	The student performs All melodic patterns in proper context of all harmonic changes as well as an awareness of chord tones verses passing tones and they were performed accurately.	The student performs most melodic patterns in proper context of harmonic changes and were performed with few if any inaccuracies.	The student performs some melodic patterns in proper context of harmonic changes, mainly with relation to the tonic and performed with many inaccuracies.	The student performs most melodic patterns are outside of the context of chord changes.
Rhythm	The student performs Advanced rhythmic patterns (i.e. pickups, syncopation etc.) which are creative and appropriate to the style and setting of the accompaniment and were performed accurately.	The student performs contrasting rhythmic patterns, which include divisions and/or subdivisions of large beats and show competence in rhythmic creativity and were performed with few if any inaccuracies.	The student performs few or no interesting patterns with little or no contrast and performed with many inaccuracies.	The student's response did not display an understanding of rhythm or meter.
Variation and Embellishment	The student performs variations and embellishments are performed with ease in both rhythm and melody and show creativity appropriate to the style and setting of the piece.	The student performs Variations and/or embellishments, both rhythmically and melodically which are appropriate to the style of the piece.	The student performs variations and/or embellishments, that are primarily rhythmic or melodic.	The student performs few if any variations or embellishments of any type.

E.L. 1.8 Checklist:

Well conceived solo structure having a beginning, middle and end.

Motivic development rather than a reliance on unrelated melodic licks

Appropriate melodic and harmonic resolutions

A chosen mood appropriate to the musical setting

Original solo, melodic and rhythmic ideas offered in a personal style

E.L. 1.10	4	3	2	1
Rehearsal and Concert etiquette	Consistently demonstrates self-discipline and the ability to work in a group setting.	Student demonstrates self-discipline, at times is inattentive.	Student demonstrates inconsistent self-discipline, at times disruptive.	Student is not responsible of self, disruptive of others, extreme number of absences.

Key Learnings Assessment

LEVEL 1

Name: _____

Skill 1.1	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Assembly, care and maintenance			4	Consistently assembles and maintains instrument correctly
			3	Meets standards of instrument assembly; rarely needs assistance
			2	Needs some assistance; maintenance is inconsistent
			1	Progress in this area is not evident
Skill 1.2	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Tone production			4	Consistently produces correct tone (I.e. posture, articulation)
			3	Meets standards; rarely needs correction
			2	Tone is inconsistent
			1	Progress in this area is not evident
Skill 1.3	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Rhythmic pulse			4	Consistently demonstrates rhythmic integrity
			3	Demonstrates rhythmic control most of the time
			2	Rhythmic pulse is inconsistent
			1	Progress in this area is not evident
Skill 1.4	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Rhythm values			4	Consistently performs basic rhythm values accurately
			3	Meets standards with some minor errors
			2	Performance is inconsistent, frequent errors.
			1	Progress in this area is not evident
Skill 1.5	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Pitch identification			4	Consistently identifies and performs all pitches accurately
			3	Meets standards with some minor errors
			2	Inconsistent or lacking on some elements
			1	Progress in this area is not evident
Skill 1.7	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Sight-Reading			4	Consistently exceeds in areas of performance with no errors
			3	Meets standards with some minor errors
			2	Performance is Inconsistent, frequent errors
			1	Progress in this area is not evident
Skill 1.8	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Improvisation			4	Consistently exceeds requirements and guidelines given
			3	Meets standards and expectations
			2	Inconsistent or lacking on some elements
			1	Progress in this area is not evident
Skill 1.10	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Etiquette and attendance			4	Consistently demonstrates proper rehearsal and concert etiquette
			3	Meets standards, rarely needs correction
			2	Performance is Inconsistent on some elements
			1	Progress in this area is not evident
Written Elements of 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.9	PRE-TEST	POST-TEST	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
				Record your scores from the pre and post test

Key Learnings Overview, High School Orchestra 1 - 6

KL#	Orchestra 1	Orchestra 2	Orchestra 3	Orchestra 4	Orchestra 5	Orchestra 6
1. Instrument Fundamentals	I can demonstrate proper assembly, care, and maintenance of my instrument.	I can demonstrate mastery of the F, C, G, and D major scales and arpeggios.	I can demonstrate mastery of B-flat, F, C, G, D, and A major scales and arpeggios and the chromatic scale with the appropriate chromatic fingerings over the commonly applied range of my instrument.	I can demonstrate mastery of B-flat, F, C, G, D, and A major and g, a, and d minor scales and arpeggios and the chromatic scale over the commonly used range of my instrument.	I can perform all scales and arpeggios applicable to the literature studied in the course.	I can perform all twelve major scales over the standard accepted range of my instrument; the chromatic scale over the full range of my instrument, and minor scales as used in the literature studied.
2. Tone	I can demonstrate proper tone production on my instrument using correct posture, bowings, hand position, articulation, and releases.	I can demonstrate characteristic tone quality over an extended range on my instrument.	I can demonstrate characteristic tone quality throughout the common applied range of my instrument.	I can demonstrate characteristic tone quality including commonly used expressive techniques throughout the range of my instrument.	I can identify, perform, and notate all major and minor key signatures, major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads and dominant seventh chords, and intervals.	I can independently prepare musical performances in solo and small ensemble settings.
3. Pitch	I can identify, match, and perform musical pitches both aurally and in the clef generally used for my instrument.	I can identify in-tune and out-of-tune pitches.	I can demonstrate proper tuning techniques on my instrument.	I can tune my instrument to a given pitch without assistance.	I can effectively tune major and minor chords within an ensemble setting.	I can sing simple melodic patterns at sight and notate them by ear.
4. Rhythm	I can accurately identify and perform basic written rhythm values including whole, half, quarter, eighth, dotted half, and dotted quarter notes and rests in simple meters.	I can accurately perform additional rhythmic patterns including sixteenth and dotted eighth notes and rests in simple meters including cut time.	I can accurately perform additional rhythmic values including quarter and eighth note triplets in both simple and compound meters.	I can identify, notate, and perform pitches, intervals, and major and minor triads on my instrument and on the grand staff.	I can apply concepts of balance, blend, intonation, precision, and response to the conductor appropriate to the literature being performed.	I apply phrasing concepts consistently to enhance the expressive qualities of my performance.
5. Performance Fundamentals	I can demonstrate proper rehearsal and concert etiquette and understand the importance of rehearsal and concert attendance.	I can define, describe, and perform basic dynamic, tempo, articulation, and expression markings commonly found in music of FOA grade E.	I can define, describe, and perform dynamic, tempo, articulation, and expressive markings commonly found in music of FOA grade D.	I can accurately interpret and perform all notated elements of music of FOA grade C.	I can accurately interpret all notated elements of music of FOA grade B.	I can work out complex musical passages that are new to me without assistance.
6. Evaluation	I can demonstrate control of rhythmic pulse by myself and within an ensemble.	I can perform music in the keys of F, C, G, and D major.	I can perform and notate music in the keys of B-flat, F, C, G, D, and A major.	I can accurately perform and notate a short melodic segment starting on a given pitch after hearing it.	I can apply phrasing concepts to melodies to enhance expression and communication.	I can explain and discuss the formal structure and interpret all terms and markings in performed literature.

7. Sightreading	I can accurately sight-read short examples of music for my instrument in simple meters in the keys of concert G and D major.	I can sight read music of FOA grade E to the level that the fundamental musical intent is understood by the listener.	I can sight read music of FOA grade E with minimal or no technical errors.	I can sight read music of FOA grade D to the level that the fundamental musical intent is understood by the listener.	I can sightread music of FOA grade D with minimal or no technical errors.	I can sightread music of FOA grade C with minimal or no technical errors and with distinct elements of musical expression and phrasing.
8. Creation	I can improvise short musical phrases in the keys of concert G and D major.	I can compose or improvise a four measure phrase in a given key.	I can create and accurately notate a short musical composition when given specific guidelines	I can create and accurately notate a short musical composition in more than one part to express an idea or feeling.	I can write a short musical composition with both melody and harmony in a major tonality.	I can create a variety of musical compositions (both notated and improvised) using stylistically appropriate harmonic practices.
9. Connections	I can identify and classify a variety of musical elements using appropriate terminology.	I can evaluate and analyze a variety of musical examples using appropriate musical terminology.	I can explain and describe the cultural and historical background and compositional style for one or more compositions that I have performed.	I can compare a variety of aesthetic, historical, and cultural aspects of at least two contrasting works I have performed as well as analyze their application and relevance to other musical and cultural issues both historical and contemporary.	I can discuss a variety of aesthetic, historical, cultural aspects of at least 3 works I have performed and their application and relevance to other musical and cultural issues both historical and contemporary.	I can discuss, analyze, and evaluate the aesthetic, cultural, and historical aspects of a variety of musical performances.
10. Additional Skills	I can demonstrate fundamental notation skills, accurately and neatly drawing clefs, notes, rests, time signatures, and key signatures.	I can accurately demonstrate basic ensemble skills (balance, blend, precision) while performing a variety of genres and styles with my band in a public setting on a consistent basis.	I can discuss the quality and effectiveness of a musical performance using appropriate musical concepts and terminology.	I can demonstrate basic principles of phrase shaping and direction.	I can freely improvise musical phrases based on a given scale.	I can discuss applications of music both historically and in contemporary society and apply this information in a musical performance.

Pinellas County School Key Learnings Assessment for High School Band

A - Complete Mastery with no errors
 B - Mastery with only minor or inconsequential errors
 In Progress - Not Mastered, but learning evident

Student: _____

Orchestra 1	A	B	In progress	Orchestra 4	A	B	In progress
1. Assembly, Care, Maintenance				1. Scales/Arpeggios – Major & Minor			
2. Tone Production				2. Tone Quality/Expressive Tech.			
3. Pitch – Identify, Match, Perform				3. Independent Tuning			
4. Rhythm Values				4. Pitch/Intervals/Triads			
5. Etiquette and Attendance				5. Expressive Markings – Grade C			
6. Rhythmic Pulse Control				6. Aural transcription			
7. Sight Reading				7. Sightreading			
8. Improvisation				8. Composition – multi-part			
9. Music Terminology				9. Analysis of Contrasting works			
10. Notation Skills				10. Phrase Shaping			
Orchestra 2				Orchestra 5			
1. Scales – F, C, G, D				1. All Scales & Arpeggios			
2. Tone Quality				2. Key Signatures/Chords			
3. In tune/Out of Tune				3. Chord Tuning			
4. Rhythm Patterns				4. Ensemble concepts			
5. Expressive Markings – Grade E				5. Expressive Markings – Grade B			
6. Perform in F, C, G, D				6. Phrasing Concepts			
7. Sight Reading				7. Sightreading			
8. Composition/Improvisation				8. Composition – Major key			
9. Vocabulary				9. Analysis of 3 contrasting works			
10. Ensemble Performance				10. Improvisation			
Orchestra 3				Orchestra 6			
1. Scales & Arpeggios – Bb through A				1. Scales			
2. Tone Quality – Extended Range				2. Independent Solo Preparation			
3. Tuning				3. Sight singing			
4. Rhythmic Accuracy				4. Phrasing Concepts			
5. Expressive Markings – Grade D				5. Technical Independence			
6. Perform in Bb, F, C, G, D, A				6. Formal Analysis and Interpretation			
7. Sight Reading				7. Sightreading			
8. Composition and Notation				8. Composition			
9. Cultural and Historical Connections				9. Aesthetic Analysis & Evaluation			
10. Aesthetic and Critical Analysis				10. Contextual Applications			