

JENISON



September 2010

Dear Orchestra Students and Parents,



ORCHESTRAS

Welcome back to another great year for the Jenison High School Orchestras. I hope you've enjoyed a wonderful summer. Mine has been great as my family and I took a wonderful trip to California and I spent some quality time with my daughters.

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This school year has MANY changes from past years. There is a wonderful new concert to talk about, a trip, and some new faces. Late in August Miss Klein was offered the full-time orchestra directing position in Cadillac Public Schools. While Miss Klein found it very difficult to leave the Jenison Orchestras, this was an opportunity she could not refuse. We wish her all the best. In a very short amount of time we managed to find a wonderful temporary replacement for Miss Klein. Mr. Joe Oprea is a bass player who holds a Bachelor's degree from CMU and a Masters degree from WMU. Mr. Oprea has taught with Mr. Scott and Mrs. Johnson at the MASTA String camps and was a successful orchestra director at Forest Hills Eastern for 5 years. We welcome Mr. Oprea to the team.

Also this year the entire Music Department will be presenting a very exciting concert. We will be performing a departmental Collage concert on February 10th. This concert will take place at Grand Rapids First Church and will feature 1100 student performers. An exciting concert for sure.

This handbook gives you all the information you will need for the 2010-2011 school year. You and your parents should read through this thoroughly and discuss any questions with Mr. Scott. **Please also return the forms at the end of the packet by Friday, September 10th, and bring any fees that are applicable to you.**

If there are any concerns this year, you may reach my office phone at 667-3504 and I will return your message as soon as possible. I also appreciate e-mail and you can feel free to contact me at anytime at dscott@jpsonline.org. Also, please check out our updated website www.jenisonorchestras.org. At the site we will keep announcements, handouts, account updates and all orchestra information.

Once again, welcome back for another GREAT year!!

Sincerely,

Mr. Scott

Announcements

First JOPA meeting: Tuesday, September 7th, Junior High Media Center - 7:30 p.m.
Join us to discuss all aspects of our orchestra program for the upcoming year.

Grading

Grades are based on preparation and participation. The points earned are divided among three categories: Daily Rehearsal Technique (20%), Concert Attendance (50%), and Playing Quizzes and Letters (30%). My goal is a system that is 100% fair and awards you with a grade that is appropriate and not a surprise.

Daily Rehearsal Technique (20%):

An Orchestra is only as good as its rehearsals!! No musical ensemble can be good without constant attention and focus during the rehearsal. Talking (out of turn), playing (after the director has stopped), tardiness, food, drink, and gum all distract from the rehearsal and cannot be accepted. Musicians should also have all their music and a pencil at every rehearsal. Failure to follow these rules will result in a deduction of points from your Daily Rehearsal Technique Grade.

Concert Attendance (50%):

Every member of this orchestra is an invaluable contributor to the final musical product. Therefore this is the largest portion of your grade. You are expected to be at every performance of your orchestra. You are also expected to be in an appropriate concert uniform. Uniform violations will result in a loss of points for the concert. Absence from a concert will result in loss of ALL points for the concert. The only excused absence is one due to illness or family emergency. Plan ahead so work, vacations, and other activities do not conflict with our concerts or rehearsals. Check your sports schedule as soon as you receive it and inform Mr. Scott immediately of potential problems so we may resolve them. Concert make-ups must be planned at least 2 weeks prior to the concert in order for credit to be applied.

Playing Quizzes and Letters (30%):

Playing quizzes will be assigned at different times throughout the year. These are a chance for Mr. Scott, Mr. Brook, Mrs. Johnson, or Mr. Oprea to listen to you individually and offer suggestions.

You are also expected to write one letter to Mr. Scott or Ms. Klein during the 1st and 2nd Marking Period. You may write on any topic you choose. These letters are due at anytime before the end of the marking period and count toward your grade. If you do not turn in your letters you cannot receive a grade higher than a "B". Letters will not be required during the 3rd and 4th marking periods, but you are free to write them at any time.

Equipment

It is every musician's responsibility to keep up his/her instrument and supplies. All supplies may be ordered from Marshall Music and will be delivered to Jenison on Fridays. Students may also order items on their own through catalogs or online stores. Both Catalogs and web-sites can be obtained from the directors. Please do your best to keep your equipment in top shape so that it best displays your musical abilities.

Michigan High School Initiative

Freshmen this year are required to pass all aspects of the Michigan High School Initiative in order to receive their high school diploma. The music portion of the initiative requires three items, an end of the year playing quiz, a written concert evaluation, and passing a written test. Students must receive an average of 70% across all three areas in order to receive their Fine Arts Credit. Specific details on the High School Initiative will be given in class but below is an overview of the expectations.

Playing Quiz: Students will perform a playing quiz which will be assigned in March and be taken in April. The playing quiz will be an assigned music sample from skills learned during the year. The quiz will be video-taped and graded much like all previous playing quizzes.

Concert Evaluation: Students must write a 2-page evaluation of a concert attended during the school year. The performance must be of an approved group. Approved performances include concerts by the Grand Rapids Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphonic Band, Lakeview Choral Society, Opera Grand Rapids, or performances by the JHS music department. You may not evaluate a performance that you perform in. Guidelines for the evaluation will be handed out in class.

Written test: Students will take a multiple choice test on musical terms, facts, and skills learned in class. Preparation for the test will be done in class with ample time to understand the concepts tested.

Evening Rehearsals

Jenison High School is privileged to have a full Symphony Orchestra. Oftentimes this group will have the opportunity to perform with our choirs or other additional artists. It may be necessary for us to call an evening rehearsal to put major works together. These give us a chance to put special works together and invite guest clinicians in to work with us. Attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory! Absences will be excused only if you are gone from school the day of the rehearsal, or, you have discussed the absence with the director accompanied by a letter from parents/guardians. Please adjust work schedules and other events to accommodate these rehearsals. If an evening rehearsal is necessary you will be given at least one month's notice and any conflicts can be worked out with the director.

Uniforms

The look of our orchestra is almost as important as our sound. It is the first impression of our group and distinguishes us as mature musicians. All uniform requirements must be followed for full credit for a concert. You will be informed if your uniform does not meet the requirements and will be asked to correct the problem. If there are financial problems, the Jenison Orchestra Parents Association can assist in getting an appropriate concert uniform.

Men

Black Tuxedo (rented from Jenison High School for \$10)

The tuxedo must be returned in the condition it was received or additional charges will be assessed.

Black Dress Shoes with Black Socks

White Tuxedo shirt with wing tip collar. This can be purchased from a variety of sources including Tuxedo shops, JC Penney, and Hobby Lobby

Women

Ladies must provide a Concert **Black Outfit** with **black** dress shoes and **black** stockings (no elevator shoes, or soles thicker than 1-1/2 inches).

- the dress must be a minimum of tea length that touches the floor when seated.
- sleeve length must be below the elbow.
- all necklines should be high in front and back.
- dress shoes with black stockings
- separates may be worn (particularly by cellists), but no midriff may be showing.
- if pants are worn, they must be all black, long, loose-fitting dress pants of a formal fabric (not tight or clinging - no stretch pants or leggings). Tops should be long-sleeved (over the elbow) and dressy.

JOPA

Jenison Orchestra Parents Association

The Jenison Orchestras are enthusiastically supported by the Jenison Orchestra Parents' Association. This "booster" group provides scholarships, parent support, uniform maintenance, and other extras to our orchestras. They are funded by two fund raisers during the year. The Jenison Orchestra "Smart Card" is our community discount card that is good at many area businesses. The card is sold in the fall and is an annual success. JOPA also sponsors a spring fund raising sale.

A portion of the profits from the JOPA fund raisers, is kept in orchestra student accounts. Students can use the money in their accounts to purchase music-related materials throughout the year. Strings, shoulder-rests, rosin, music, medals, and fees are just some of the things students use their accounts to pay for. All money in students' accounts must be spent on music materials by graduation. The accounts do carry over from year to year.

JOPA holds meetings every other month at Jenison Junior High. Please plan to attend as many meetings as you can as we discover new ways to show off our students' hard work.

JOPA Meetings
Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010, 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010, 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011, 7:30 pm
Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 7:30 pm

H.S. Orchestra Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tues. Oct. 26, 8:00 pm	H.S. Fall Concert	All	Fairhaven
Thurs.. Dec. 2, 7:30 pm	5th Grade Concert	<u>Concert Orch. Only</u>	J. H. Gym
Tues. Dec. 7, 6:30/8 pm	H.S.. Christmas Concert	All	Fairhaven
Thurs. Dec. 6th, 6-8 pm	Collage Rehearsal	All	JH Gym
Tues. Dec. 11th, 6-8 pm	Collage Rehearsal	All	JH Gym
Jan. 19th - Jan. 22nd	Minnesota Trip	Volunteers	Minn.
Sat, Feb. 5th	Solo & Ensemble Festival	Optional	TBA
Tues., Feb. 10, 7 pm	Fine Arts Collage	All	G.R. 1st
Thurs., Mar. 10, 7 pm	Clinic Concert	Concert/Sinfonia	Fairhaven
OPTIONAL Mar. 22-26	MUSICAL	Volunteers	H.S.
Sat, Mar. 26th	State S. & E. Festival	Optional	TBA
Tues., Apr. 19th, 7:30 pm	GRSO Side-by-Side	Symphony	Fairhaven
Sun., May 22, 2:00 p.m.	Baccalaureate	Symphony Orch.	Holy Cross
Tues. May 24, 7:00 pm	Spring Concert	Sinfonia & Symphony	Fairhaven
Thurs. May 26, 7:30 pm	Spring Concert	Concert Orch.	Fairhaven
Thurs. June 2nd, 4:30 pm	High School Graduation	(9th, 10th, 11th graders)	H.S.

Orchestra Letter and Awards

All students who are in orchestra for 6 semesters will receive their orchestra letter or pin. You have the choice of which you choose to receive. Orchestra letters are a symbol of your long commitment to our music program.

All graduating seniors receive a gift from their directors and JOPA, awarded at the final concert. Seniors are our leaders and are recognized for their commitment to their music.

National School Orchestra Association's Director's Award - this award will be given to an outstanding musical leader in the Jenison Symphony Orchestra. This award recognizes musical achievement, excellence, and leadership.

Jenison Orchestra Leadership Award - this award will be given to a senior orchestra member whose spirit and leadership sets the example for the orchestra student. This student will display excellence in character on a daily basis throughout their orchestra career.

First Week Check-list

Please return the form below by Friday, September 10th!

_____ I have read the letter above and have reserved the days of the orchestra concerts on my calendar.
I will report any conflicts to Mr. Scott immediately.

_____ (Boys Only) I have paid my tuxedo rental fee. - \$10

_____ (Girls Only) I have my uniform for this year and it follows the guidelines.

or

_____ (Girls Only) I will be purchasing my uniform through JOPA in the fall.

_____ (optional) I would like a lock for my instrument locker (\$5).
[if you purchased a lock previously you will get your lock from last year at no additional cost]

Students Name

Parent's Signature

Parent Questionnaire

There are several times throughout the year where parent help is crucial to some of our events. Please check below where you might be able to help.

_____ I can help with receptions at concerts.

_____ I can help JOPA when needed.

_____ I am available during the school day.

_____ Please call me for various tasks.

_____ I can help fit uniforms on September 10

_____ I can help hand out cookie dough for that fundraiser.

Parent Signature

Phone Number

Parent's E-Mail Address