

JENISON



ORCHESTRAS

Carol Johnson
Director of Orchestras
Jenison Junior High
cjohnso2@jpsonline.org

Dan Scott
Director of Orchestras
Jenison High School
dscott@jpsonline.org

Josh Zallar
Asst. Director of Orch.
Jenison Junior High
jzallar@jpsonline.org

Joe Harmsen
Asst. Director of Orch.
Jenison High School
jharmen@jpsonline.org

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Dear Orchestra Students and Parents,

Welcome Back!!

I had a wonderful summer with family and friends and hope to hear about your adventures, but most of all I cannot wait to make music with you again. I am confident that the Jenison Orchestras will continue to be a haven from the craziness of the world and a place where we can get away from it a bit and enjoy music making.

One big change is the arrival of Mr. Harmsen. Joe Harmsen replaces the position left vacant by Mrs. Bush last August. He is a violist who graduated from the Jenison Orchestra Program and has been teaching in Escanaba and Rochester Hills. He is very excited to be returning to his family and friends in Jenison and to carry on our tradition of excellence in the orchestra program.

In other exciting news, the Jenison Symphony Orchestra has been selected to perform at the Michigan Music Conference. This honor is awarded to only 8 bands or orchestras in the state of Michigan. The Symphony Orchestra is only one of 4 HS orchestras that will perform at the conference. The performance will take place in January at DeVos Performance Hall.

This handbook contains all the expectations for the coming school year. Please put the calendar dates in your schedules immediately and report any concerns to the directors. All conflicts can be figured out with notice and communication. Please return the form on the back to your directors by Thursday, September 1st. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out at anytime.

Best wishes for a GREAT year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Scott

Mr. Harmsen

Grading

Grades are based on preparation, participation and performance. The points for class are earned in three categories: Daily Rehearsal Technique (15%), Concert Attendance (30%), and Class Assignments (30%) and Playing Tests (25%). Our goal is a system that is 100% fair and awards you with a grade that is appropriate and not a surprise.

Daily Rehearsal Technique (15%):

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 (30%):

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, family emergency, or prior approval from the director. Excused absences are not permitted without a **minimum of two weeks notice** to the director. 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.

Class Assignments (30%):

Regular assignments will be given to be turned in electronically. These include, but are not limited to, recorded excerpts, written work, semester letters, or other materials to be turned in. Most of this will be done through Google Classroom or Flipgrid and will be assigned and tracked in Powerschool.

Playing/Chair Tests (25%)

Twice per marking period students will be assigned more in-depth performance exams that are longer in length with more detailed expectations. These tests will be used for seating, exams, or other types of assessment.

Equipment

It is every musicians responsibility to keep up his/her instrument and supplies. Mr. Scott does have an inventory of supplies. 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.

Extra Rehearsals - Symphony & Chamber Orchestras

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. Attendance at these rehearsals is required! 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. Given the work needed for the Michigan Music Conference performance, there will be a few more of these than we traditionally have. Please communicate any conflicts or concerns as soon as possible.

Full Orchestra Rehearsals

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Concert</u>
Sat., October 15th	9 AM - Noon	String Sectional and Clinics	for MMC
Thurs., November 17th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for MMC
Tues., November 22nd	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for Xmas
Tues., November 29th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for Xmas
Sat., December 3rd	9 - Noon	Full Orchestra Workshop	for MMC
Tues., December 6th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for Xmas
Tues., December 13th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for Xmas
* Fri., December 30th	10 - Noon	Full Orchestra Workshop	for MMC
* Fri., January 6th	10 - Noon	Full Orchestra Workshop	for MMC
Tues., January 10th	7:30 PM	MMC Send-off Concert	for MMC
Tues., January 17th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for MMC
Fri., January 20th	6 AM	Arrive JHS	for MMC
	8 AM	MMC Performance	
Tues., May 2nd	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for spring

Charms Office!!

“Charms” is an online system for managing all aspects of a music program. You can check out Charms by going to the Jenison Orchestra website at jpsonline.org. Once here you simply login by entering your child’s student number. This number is on your students’ ID, it is in PowerGrade - our online grading system, and your student uses the number for purchases in the cafeteria. Once logged in you can see your child’s orchestra account, make orchestra purchases - like sweatshirts, pay fees via credit card, and much more. Please check out the site at your convenience and update ANY information so we can keep in touch with you in the way that best suits your needs. We are very excited about this system to help manage the Jenison Orchestras.

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. 6th, 2022, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 8th, 2022, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 7th, 2023, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, April 25th, 2023, 7:30 pm

when your friends ask you why your
fingernails are always so short



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 must correct the problem. If there are financial problems, the Jenison Orchestra Parents Association can assist in getting an appropriate concert uniform.

Male Uniform Requirements

Black Tuxedo (rented from Jenison High School for \$15)

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. Mr. Scott has donated shirts for people who'd wish to have one of those. (very limited supply)

Female Uniform Requirements - see orchestra website for pictures.

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.

Orchestra Awards

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.

Jenison Orchestra Outstanding Student Award - this award will be given to a senior orchestra member whose spirit and commitment sets an example for the members of the orchestra program. This student will display excellence in character and a demonstrated commitment to excellence on a daily basis throughout their orchestra career.

H.S. Orchestra Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wed., Oct. 19, 7:30 pm	Fall Concert	ALL	JCA
Sat., Oct. 22nd	MSBOA All-State Auditions	OPTIONAL	Zeeland
Wed., Nov. 30th, 7:00 pm	5th Grade Concert	Concert & Sinfonia	JCA
Thurs., Dec. 15, 7:30 pm	H.S. Christmas Concert	Concert & Sinfonia	JCA
Fri., Dec. 16, 7:30 pm	HS Christmas Concert	Symphony & Chamber	JCA
Jan. 18-21	MSBOA All-State	OPTIONAL	DeVos
Fri., Jan. 20th, 8:00 am	MMC Performance	Symphony & Chamber	DeVos
Sat, Feb. 4th	Solo & Ensemble Festival	OPTIONAL	Wyoming
Tues., Feb. 14th, 7:30 pm	Pre-Festival Concert	All	JCA
Wed., Mar. 1st	District Orch. Festival	All	JCA
Sat, Mar. 18th	State S. & E. Festival	OPTIONAL	Portage N
Mar. 16-25	MUSICAL	OPTIONAL/Volunteer	JCA
Sat., Apr. 29th, 7:30 pm	Chamber Night	Chamber Orchestra	JCA
Wed., May 3rd, 7:00 pm	String Spectacular	Symphony & Chamber	JCA
Fri., May 12th, 7:30 pm	Spring Concert	All	JCA
Thurs., May 25th, 4:30 pm	High School Graduation	All	H.S.

First Week Check-list

Please return the form below by Thursday, September 1st!

- _____ 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.
- _____ Cello & Bass Players - I have/will paid my instrument usage fee (see below).
- _____ (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]
- _____ Males: I understand the uniform requirements and will purchase my own tuxedo shirt in time for the first concert. (Tuxedo fittings will happen in early October)
- _____ Females: I understand the uniform requirements and will purchase my own apparel in time for the fall concert. I will confirm that my purchase follows the guidelines set in this handbook.

Students Name

Student's Signature Date

Parents Name

Parent's Signature

School-Owned Cello / Bass Use Contract

Dear Family of Cello or Bass Student,

We are excited to have your student participating in the Jenison Orchestra Program! You are receiving this letter because your student has the opportunity to use a school-owned instrument during class this year. In order to be assigned a school-owned instrument to use in class, a small maintenance fee is necessary. **(If you are already renting a bass from the school, then you may disregard this form.)**

Due to the large number of low-string students in the program and the needs of our inventory, a \$30 fee will be assessed to cover some of the yearly maintenance needs of these stringed instruments. All of the money generated by this maintenance fee is used for the care and repair of the instruments. Typical yearly maintenance may include string replacement (\$10-\$30 per string), bow rehairs (\$50 per bow), open seam or crack repair (\$25 per seam), as well as other annual cleaning and replacement needs. The \$30 maintenance fee will not come close to covering the district's expense in maintaining these instruments, but it will help to ensure these instruments can be used by future students in the orchestra program.

The school-owned instruments must be well cared for by the students. Jenison Public Schools will cover the costs of repairs resulting from students' ordinary, reasonable handling and use of the instrument. Any damage from neglect, carelessness, or intentional misuse will result in additional financial responsibility on the part of your family.

Occasionally, a family wishes for their student to play their home instrument in class. If you would prefer for your student not to use a school-owned instrument during class, he or she will be expected to transport his or her home instrument back and forth each day.

If you agree to all of the above conditions, and would like to use a school-owned cello or bass during class, please complete the information below and return it with the \$30 (Checks payable to Jenison Public Schools). Your signature indicates your understanding that you will be responsible for any damage that occurs to the instrument beyond the normal "wear and tear" of daily use.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Parent Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Circle Instrument: Cello Bass Student Grade: _____

Email Address: _____

_____ Check here if you'd like to use your orchestra account to pay this \$30 fee.