

JENISON

August 2023



Dear Orchestra Students and Parents,

Welcome Back!!



ORCHESTRAS

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We had a wonderful summer with family and friends and hope to hear about your adventures, but most of all we cannot wait to make music with you again. We are 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.

We're currently working at bringing some great guest artists and clinicians to work with the orchestras this year. We've made some connections to some wonderful musicians who are excited to come make music with the Jenison Orchestras.

This year is also our trip to Chicago and Minneapolis. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear some professional performances, and work with college musicians on a college campus. Our hope is to give our students a special experience and have a fun time in the process. There are a few spots still available, so if you are not signed up and would like to join us, please reach out to one of the directors.

This handbook contains all the expectations for the coming school year. **Please put the calendar dates in your personal & family calendars immediately and report any concerns to the directors.** All conflicts can be figured out with notice and communication. Please return the form on the last page to your directors by Thursday, August 31st. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out at any time.

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, phones, earbuds, 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.

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 fundraisers, 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 the Jenison Junior High Media Center. 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. 5th, 2023, 7:30 pm

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

Tuesday, Feb. 13th, 2024, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, 7:30 pm

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.

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.

Concert Uniform Requirements

Concert attire for all of our concerts (unless otherwise notified) is "concert black". Specifics are as follows:

- A BLACK dress shirt (No t-shirts, please). Sleeves should go to the wrist. In a few exceptions, a student may wear medium-sleeve dress shirts, but long-sleeves are strongly preferred.
- Solid black dress pants, skirt, or dress (No jeans, jeggings, yoga pants, or sweatpants allowed). Anyone playing cello should wear pants or skirt/dress that permits you to sit comfortably to play the instrument properly. Also, skirts and dresses MUST BE at or longer than ankle length.
- Black dress socks or nylon stockings.
- Solid black dress shoes with no other colors, logos, etc.
- Modest (if any) jewelry. Don't let it get in the way of your playing.
- If you are found to be wearing inappropriate concert dress during a concert, points will be deducted from your grade, and you may be either required to change or not allowed to perform in the concert.
- If you need any assistance with acquiring the necessary concert uniform items for any reason, please do not hesitate to ask Mr. Scott or Mr. Harmsen.

Uniform Items for order

Gentlemen: A uniform black dress shirt must be purchased through the orchestra program to wear at concerts. This shirt will ensure the uniformity and dress expected at orchestra concerts. A tie will also be provided for concert use. Cost of the shirt and tie rental is \$15. JOPA will provide these items to families in financial need.

Ladies: A uniform black dress shirt in a female cut is available for purchase, but not required. This option is provided as a convenience to families. The dress shirt can be purchased through the orchestra program for \$15. This is not required for female students.

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.

Minnesota Trip

Details for our trip are coming together and we are excited for this great opportunity. If you are not registered for the trip, there are still a couple of spots available. If you are paying on the payment plan, the remaining pay dates are below.

September 22nd	\$150
November 10th	\$150
December 1st	\$100

While the trip is from Wednesday, February 7th thru February 10th, we will need students to drop off their luggage on **Tuesday, February 6th**. Details for this afternoon are still being worked out, but please plan on reserving some time to deliver your luggage to the high school this evening.

H.S. Orchestra Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wed., Oct. 18, 8:00 pm	Fall Concert	ALL	JCA
Th. & Sat., Oct. 19 & 21	MSBOA All-State Auditions	OPTIONAL	Zeeland
Wed., Dec. 6th, 7:00 pm	5th Grade Concert	Concert & Sinfonia	JCA
Thurs., Dec. 14, 7:30 pm	H.S. Christmas Concert	Concert & Sinfonia	JCA
Fri., Dec. 15, 7:30 pm	H.S. Christmas Concert	Symphony & Chamber	JCA
Jan. 25-27	MSBOA All-State	OPTIONAL	DeVos
Sat, Feb. 3rd	Solo & Ensemble Festival	OPTIONAL	Kent City
Feb. 7-10	Trip to Minnesota	OPTIONAL	Bus Trip
Tues., Feb. 20th, 7:30 pm	Pre-Festival Concert	All	JCA
Wed., Feb. 28th	District Orch. Festival	All	JCA
Sat, Mar. 16th	State S&E Festival	OPTIONAL	Portage
Mar. 15-23	MUSICAL	OPTIONAL/Volunteer	JCA
Wed., May 1st, 7:00 pm	String Spectacular	Symphony & Chamber	JCA
Fri., May 10th, 7:30 pm	Spring Concert	All	JCA
Th., May 23rd, 4:30 pm	High School Graduation	All	H.S.

Extra Rehearsals - Symphony & Chamber Orchestras

Jonison 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. 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>
Tues., November 28th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for Xmas
Tues., December 5th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for Xmas
Tues., December 12th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for Xmas
Tues., January 23rd	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	Festival
Tues., January 13th	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	Festival
Tues., May 2nd	3 - 4:30 PM	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	for spring

First Week Check-list

Please detach & return the form below by Thursday, August 31st!

_____ 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 the School-Owned Cello /
Bass Use Contract for details).

_____ (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 have included my \$15 fee for my orchestra uniform purchase. (check payable to JOPA)

_____ Please use my orchestra account for my uniform fee.

_____ **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.

OR

_____ I'd like to purchase an orchestra blouse for \$15 (check payable to JOPA).

_____ Please use my orchestra account for my uniform fee.

Student's Name

Student's Signature Date

Parent's Name

Parent's Signature Date

2023-2024

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.