

# *Jolliff Orchestra*

# *Handbook*

## *2015-2016*

Dear Students & Parents/Guardians,

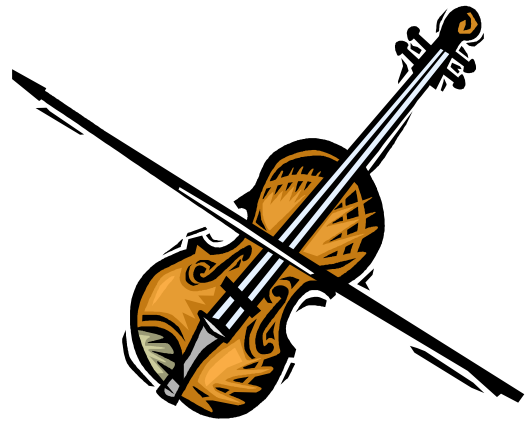
Welcome/welcome back to the Jolliff Orchestra program! This handbook contains information for a successful year; please read through it. **Note that this does not include a concert calendar; it will be distributed once it has been finalized.** I look forward to a great year with the Jolliff Orchestra students!

*Musically,*

*Mrs. Leah Katz Rosenberg*  
Jolliff Middle School Orchestra Director  
Master of Music – Ithaca College  
Bachelor of Music – James Madison University

## CONTENTS

- ♪ Program Overview
- ♪ Communication
- ♪ Performance Attire
- ♪ Grading
- ♪ Materials
- ♪ T-Shirt Order Form
- ♪ Information & Agreement Form *(to be filled out & returned)*



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra

- ♪ Review playing position
- ♪ Continue working on & finish *Essential Elements, book 1*
- ♪ Learn concert pieces
- ♪ Begin learning how to tune
- ♪ Begin learning vibrato exercises
- ♪ Begin learning to shift into higher positions
- ♪ Begin *Essential Elements, book 2*

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra

- ♪ Continue learning how to tune
- ♪ Review shifting into higher positions
- ♪ Continue developing vibrato
- ♪ Learn Jr. District Orchestra audition material
- ♪ Learn concert pieces
- ♪ Continue working on & finish *Essential Elements, book 2*
- ♪ Study classical music eras & select composers



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra

- ♪ Continue learning how to tune
- ♪ Continue developing vibrato
- ♪ Learn Jr. District Orchestra audition material
- ♪ Learn concert pieces
- ♪ Learn ensemble sight-reading skills
- ♪ Be evaluated at the District IV Concert Orchestra Assessment (formally Festival)
- ♪ Begin learning the Sr. Regional Orchestra audition material

## Honor Orchestras Through School

- ♪ All-City Orchestra: exemplary 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders may be selected
- ♪ Jr. District IV Orchestra: all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders may audition

# COMMUNICATION



## Contact Methods

- ♪ Leah.Rosenberg@cpschools.com (*preferred*)
- ♪ (757) 465-5246 (*a main office secretary/volunteer will take the message & I will return it*)

## Staying Informed (in addition to information distributed to go home)

- ♪ www.westernbranchorchestra.com (primarily under the “JMS Orchestra” section
  - Almost everything distributed to go home (including this handbook) plus many in-class handouts will be submitted to the website director to post
  - In this handbook, documents with a “+” are already on the website or will be available when appropriate
- ♪ Remind (*a safe system that enables teachers to send information to students & parents via text message & email*)
  - How to sign up: www.remind.com, the Remind app., or text the class code to “81010”
  - Class Codes:
    - Bell 1: @bell1o
    - Bell 2: @bell2o
    - Bell 3: @bell3o
    - Bell 4: @bell4o
    - Bell 5: @bell5o
    - Bell 6: @bell6o
    - Bell 7: @bell7o

# PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

*A concert calendar will be distributed once it has been finalized*

## Formal

- ♪ *6<sup>th</sup> grade*: Plain White Dress Shirt (any sleeve length)/ *7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade*: White Tuxedo Shirt\*
- ♪ Solid Black Dress Pants (to the ankle)
- ♪ Black Dress Shoes (with Black Socks)
- ♪ *7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade*: Bowtie & Cummerbund (owned by the Jolliff Orchestra)

## Casual

- ♪ Orchestra T-Shirt\* or a Plain Navy Blue T-Shirt
- ♪ Blue Jeans (to the ankle)



\*Purchased through the orchestra program

# GRADING

## Performance (50%)

### ♪ **Playing Quizzes**

- Given individually during school
- Grading categories: playing position, notes, intonation, rhythm, tempo, bowing, dynamics, tone quality, & style
- Students new to the program will receive a rubric+ prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> playing quiz
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will also have a “Playing Position Evaluation”+ quiz

### ♪ **Concerts**

- Grading categories: reporting on time, being dress appropriately, having all materials, & displaying appropriate concert etiquette
- Required (if absent, a make-up assignment will be assigned)
- *A concert calendar will be distributed once it has been finalized*
- Approximately 3 weeks before each concert, a letter+ will be distributed to go home outlining the grading categories

### ♪ **Music History Unit (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Only)**

- In lieu of a March concert
- Composer poster project+
- Music eras listening quiz

## Practice Records (15%)



### ♪ **Guidelines**

- A log to record practice time outside of class
- Turned in weekly
- “A” = 20+ minutes, 5+ days a week
- A full grading scale & guidelines are on the back of the practice record+

### ♪ **Starting Time**

- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school

## Participation (35%)

### ♪ **Daily Grade**

- Each student begins with 10 points a day
- Deductions reasons: not having necessary materials & inappropriate actions/behavior
- Students will receive a “Gradebook Key”+ that outlines the violations & their point deductions

### ♪ **Special Items to Note**

- While both items below are inappropriate actions, they are often overlooked
- Long nails: prevent correct playing technique & will likely cause the notes to be out of tune; very long nails can make it impossible to play
- Leaving personal instruments at school overnight

# MATERIALS

Please have by **Wednesday, September 16**

*Mrs. Rosenberg recommends writing your child's name on all materials.*

*Mrs. Rosenberg sells select materials through the school; however, parent/guardians are under no obligation to buy them through the school.*

*Cash or check made payable to JMS. Put your child's name in the "For" section of checks.*

## Obtaining & Carrying For An Instrument

- ♪ Mrs. Rosenberg will provide a music stores list+ if needed
- ♪ Unless your child measures for a full-size (4/4) violin or cello, 16-inch viola, or a 3/4 bass, a bigger size may be needed as he/she grows
- ♪ Be VERY cautious of instruments found on the Internet
- ♪ Just a few brands found on the Internet to avoid: Academy, Cecilio, Crescent, & Mark II
- ♪ Avoid instruments from big box stores
- ♪ All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive an "Instrument Care and Maintenance"+ handout; Mrs. Rosenberg recommends that parents/guardians familiarize themselves with it also

## Everyone

- ♪ **1-Inch 3-Ring Binder** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells this: \$2*)
- ♪ **Tissues or Hand Sanitizer** (*not required, but greatly appreciated*)
- ♪ **Name Tag** on the outside of personal instrument cases
- ♪ **Music Stand** for home practice (*recommended, but not required*)



## Violin & Viola (supplies to be kept in the case)

- ♪ **Wooden-Colored Instrument**
  - To be brought to school & taken home daily (unless Mrs. Rosenberg specifies otherwise)
  - Send a note if your child is unable to bring it (for example: it is in the repair shop)
- ♪ **Shoulder Rest** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells foam shoulder sponges: 50¢*)
  - Recommended: Kun shoulder rests
  - Avoid: Resonans, Softie, Super-Sensitive, & Muco
  - Some shoulder rests cannot fit in some cases, music stores sell pouches (that attach to the outside of the case) to carry them
- ♪ **Rosin** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells this: \$2*)
- ♪ **Cleaning Cloth** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells this: 10¢*)
  - Music stores carry special clothes
  - A clean rag also works well
- ♪ **Extra Set of Strings** (*recommended, especially if the student has a full-size violin or 16-inch viola, although Mrs. Rosenberg sells them if a string breaks: prices vary*)

## MATERIALS (CONTINUED)

### Cello (supplies to be kept with the home instrument)

#### ♪ **Wooden-Colored Instrument**

- Students are provided an instrument to use at school after returning the Instrument Check-Out Card+
- Students need a home instrument that should be brought in once a month for a tuning (this counts as a participation grade)

#### ♪ **Rock Stop**

- Necessary if practicing on a hard surface (may not be needed on a carpeted surface)
- Recommended: an anchor strap that goes under a chair leg

#### ♪ **Rosin** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells this: \$2*)

#### ♪ **Cleaning Cloth** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells this: 10¢*)

- Music stores carry special clothes
- A clean rag also works well

#### ♪ **Extra D & A Strings** (*recommended, especially if the student has a full-size cello, although Mrs. Rosenberg sells them if a string breaks: prices vary*)

### Bass, for those renting (supplies to be kept with the home instrument)

#### ♪ **Wooden-Colored Instrument**

- Students are provided an instrument to use at school after returning the Instrument Check-Out Card+
- Students need a home instrument & Mrs. Rosenberg will loan a tuner

#### ♪ **Stool** (*Mrs. Rosenberg MAY be able to loan one from school*)

- Preferably without a back
- Approximately 29 inches in height

#### ♪ **Rock Stop**

- Necessary if practicing on a hard surface (may not be needed on a carpeted surface)
- Recommended: an anchor strap that goes under a chair leg

#### ♪ **Rosin** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells this: \$10*)

- Must be specifically for the bass (violin/viola/cello rosin does NOT work)
- Recommended: Pops' Bass Rosin

#### ♪ **Cleaning Cloth** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells this: 10¢*)

- Music stores carry special clothes
- A clean rag also works well



### Bass, for those NOT renting (to be kept in the orchestra room)

#### ♪ Students are provided an instrument to use at school after returning the Instrument Check-Out Card+

#### ♪ **Rosin** (*Mrs. Rosenberg sells this: \$10*)

- Must be specifically for the bass (violin/viola/cello rosin does NOT work)
- Recommended: Pops' Bass Rosin

# Jolliff Orchestra T-Shirt Order Form

*Not required, but will be used in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade March concert.  
If your child does not purchase one,  
he/she will need to wear a plain navy blue shirt.*

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

(please submit a separate form for each child in orchestra)

♪ All sizes are ADULT

♪ S, M, L, & XL – \$10.00

♪ XXL & XXXL – \$12.00

♪ You may order for family  
members, too!



**ADULT** Size \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ADULT** Size \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ADULT** Size \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Order form & money due by **Tuesday, September 22**. Please **staple cash** (exact change preferred) **or check to the order form**. Make checks payable to **WBOPA** & put your child's name in the "For" section.

# Jolliff Orchestra

## Information & Agreement Form

To be filled out by a parent/guardian & returned next orchestra class

Student's FIRST & LAST NAME as it should appear in a concert program

---

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) the student resides with (*continue on the back if needed*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ who's # \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ who's # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email (*please, no student emails*)

One email is preferred, but you may provide two if necessary

---

Check preferred method of contact: Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



If interested in volunteering check availability:

Mornings \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoons (during school) \_\_\_\_\_ Evenings (for concerts) \_\_\_\_\_

JMS is hosting Jr. District Orchestra auditions Saturday, October 24. Volunteers are needed at the registration desk for a few hours. Check if you can help. \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you do NOT give permission for your child's picture & or first initial & last name (ex. J. Smith) to appear on the Western Branch Orchestra website. \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the orchestra handbook & give permission for my child to participate in the program.

---

Parent/Guardian Signature