

**James Madison High School Orchestra Department  
2017-2018 Student Syllabus  
www.jmhsorchestra.com**

Mrs. Erin Eberly, Director of Orchestras  
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***Welcome to the James Madison High School Orchestra Department! I am looking forward to another year of making music together. We have many exciting events planned for this year and I look forward to sharing these experiences with you. Please feel free to contact me anytime via e-mail should you have questions or concerns throughout the year.***

**EXPECTATIONS OF JMHS ORCHESTRA STUDENTS**

- 1. Respect others. Respect yourself. Respect property. Respect performances.***
- 2. No gum chewing will be allowed in the orchestra room at any time.***
- 3. No food or drink is to be consumed in the orchestra room without Mrs. Eberly's direct permission. Only water is permitted in rehearsals; students are encouraged to have a water bottle with them each day.***
- 4. Students are expected to arrive for class on time and prepared. When the bell rings, students should be in their seats and ready to begin rehearsal. Students who abuse the school attendance policy will be referred to their administrator for disciplinary action and/or will not be considered a Warhawk In Good Standing.***
- 5. Unnecessary talking and disruptions will not be tolerated in the rehearsal setting.***
- 6. Students are not allowed to have cell phones, gaming devices, etc. during class time, performances, or rehearsals.***
- 7. All policies outlined for students of James Madison High School are to be upheld, both on and off campus, as a member of the Orchestra Department.***

## **Overview of Orchestras**

The Madison Orchestra is comprised of the Concert, Symphonic, Philharmonic, and Chamber Orchestras. Membership in each of the orchestras is by annual audition.

### **Advanced Orchestra II (923917) Chamber Orchestra**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: one

Prerequisite: Successful audition

FCPS: Students continue developing as individual musicians and as members of a musical group. Emphasis is placed on the development of advanced level technical and ensemble skills necessary for performance. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

The Chamber Orchestra is the most advanced of Madison's ensembles. It prepares and performs orchestral masterworks, contemporary string literature, and music that would be best described as college-level, advanced, or Grade 6 music. This ensemble will perform at various concerts, festivals, and civic events. It is expected that all members of the James Madison Chamber Orchestra achieve and maintain a level of individual performance indicative of private study.

### **Advanced Orchestra (923916) Philharmonic Orchestra**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: one

Prerequisite: Successful audition

FCPS: Students in this course form the representative string performing group for the school. Emphasis is placed on the sequential development of advanced technical, ensemble, and disciplinary skills necessary for refined rehearsal and performance both in and out of school. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

The Philharmonic Orchestra plays grade 5 and 6 music. The level of performance of this ensemble is far beyond most orchestra programs' top level of performance nationwide. This

ensemble will perform at various concerts, festivals, and civic events. It is expected that all members of the James Madison Philharmonic Orchestra achieve and maintain a level of individual performance indicative of private study.

**Advanced Orchestra (923915) Symphonic Orchestra**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: one

Prerequisite: Successful audition

FCPS: Students in this course form the representative string performing group for the school. Emphasis is placed on the sequential development of advanced technical, ensemble, and disciplinary skills necessary for refined rehearsal and performance both in and out of school. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922

The Symphonic Orchestra plays grade 4 and 5 music and includes accomplished musicians. This ensemble will perform four concerts and two festivals per year.

**Intermediate Orchestra (923816) Concert Orchestra**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: one

Prerequisite: Attainment of beginning level skills and permission of instructor.

FCPS: Students continue developing as individual musicians and as members of a musical group. Emphasis is placed on the development of intermediate level technical and ensemble skills necessary for performance. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922

The Concert Orchestra plays grade 3, 4, and 5 music. It focuses on musical development, ensemble, and technique to progress as accomplished musicians. They will perform in concerts, festivals, and competitions throughout the year.

## **Grading:**

All grading will be based on a total points system. Grades will then be calculated using the FCPS grading policy as outlined here:

- A (93-100) = 4.0
- A- (90-92) = 3.7
- B+ (87-89) = 3.3
- B (83-86) = 3.0
- B- (80-82) = 2.7
- C+ (77-79) = 2.3
- C (73-76) = 2.0
- C- (70-72) = 1.7
- D+ (67-69) = 1.3
- D (64-66) = 1.0
- F (below 64) = 0.0

### **Daily Performance Evaluation (50%)**

***“To be early is to be on time.***

***To be on time is to be late.***

***To be late is unacceptable.”***

Area 1-Group Rehearsal Assessment—Formative Assessment

Rehearsals during school hours

Rehearsals after school

Area 2-Group Performance Assessment—Summative Assessment

Concerts and Performances

Attendance at after-school rehearsals is mandatory. The only excused absences will be due to family emergency, illness (with proper documentation given to director), and observance of religious holidays. Any student who is absent for any portion of a school day for any other reason is still expected to attend afterschool rehearsals and concerts without exception. All absences must be submitted in written form to the director prior to the day to be missed and will be approved/denied at the discretion of the ensemble director.

**Absence from a performance without a prior acceptable excuse may result in a letter grade deduction for the quarter.**

### **Individual Assessment (50%)**

#### **Playing Tests**

No incomplete will be given on assigned playing tests. Failure to perform will result in a grade of F (53) for that particular test

#### **Theory Tests**

#### **Projects**

No incomplete will be given on assigned tape tests or other projects. Failure to submit a required assignment will result in a grade of F (53) for that particular assignment.

### **Scale Tests**

### **Musicianship Tests**

### **Seating Tests**

### **Materials:**

- Instrument (of correct size) with new strings and fresh bow hair annually
- Instrument accessories
  - o Rock stop, shoulder rest, soft cloth (for cleaning)
  - o Rosin
- Uniforms:

*All students provide their own uniforms*

- o **Boys:**

- Black tuxedo jacket and pants
- Black bow tie
- White tuxedo shirt
- Black dress shoes and black socks
- *Optional* black cummerbund or vest

- o **Girls:**

- Floor length black skirt—no slits above the knee
- Black shirt with sleeves  $\frac{3}{4}$  length or longer
- Black stockings
- Black dress shoes

### **Responsibility and Care of Instruments:**

Students using school-owned and county-owned instruments are responsible for keeping the instruments in good shape. The Instrument Rental contract outlines the responsibility that students and parents have in caring for instruments. Instruments needing basic string repairs will be paid for by Fairfax County. Instruments in need of repair due to student neglect or abuse will be the responsibility of the family.

**Instrument Storage:** For added security and safety, each violinist/violist will have an instrument locker available to use. Students who choose to use the instrument storage room will be issued a combination lock to secure their personal instrument with other class members of their choice.

**Instruments are NOT to be left loose in the orchestra or storage rooms. FCPS, Madison High School, and Mrs. Eberly are not responsible for instruments that are damaged or lost while stored at school. Please have your name clearly marked on your case!**

**Orchestra Parents Association of  
James Madison High School**

**Executive Board**

Erin Eberly, Orchestra Director  
Mary Foley, President  
Kathryn Kiokawa, Vice-President  
Yolanda Wartenberg, Treasurer  
Rhea Haner, Secretary

**Mission Statement**

The Association is committed to the importance and benefits of studying music as part of a student's education. It is our mission to support the James Madison High School (JMHS) Orchestra Program, Performing Arts Department, in providing quality musical experiences for students. We seek to provide additional resources and opportunities for students in conjunction with, but not in place of, those provided by the Fairfax County Public Schools. We are advocates for the life-long rewards of music and encourage our students to aspire to their highest level of musical achievement.

**\*\*The Bylaws of the JMHS Orchestra Parents Association are available for viewing in Mrs. Eberly's office or by contacting a member of the Board.**

**Student & Parent Acknowledgement Page**

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Orchestra Syllabus can be found online at**  
**JMHSorchestra.com or on Blackboard**

Please return this signature page, instrument rental contract (if applicable), and any other forms by **September 1, 2017.**

I have read and understand the following documents, policies, and procedures. Student and parent should initial each line below:

\_\_\_\_ Summary of course description and policies

\_\_\_\_ Grading policy

\_\_\_\_ Uniform code for all performances

\_\_\_\_ Required rehearsal and performance calendar for the entire school year

\_\_\_\_ Notice of class fees. Please return payment by the due date.

\_\_\_\_ Instrument contract and rental fee for FCPS-owned instruments (if applicable)

I understand that I am required to participate actively in all concerts and rehearsals, and that my attendance and compliance with the uniform code will be reflected in my grade.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Student email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**T-SHIRT SIZE** \_\_\_\_\_

(Adult S, M, L, XL)

I will work to the best of my ability to help my student meet the above requirements of the course. I will contact the teacher if there are any questions, problems, or concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/guardian signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Parent email:** \_\_\_\_\_