

FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK 2018-2019

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Welcome to the Franklin Middle School Orchestra Program. It is great to have you and your many talents. In orchestra at Franklin you will be challenged to grow as a musician and as a person. By working toward a common goal and participating in many activities (concerts, contests, community events), you will maximize your musical potential. You may be surprised at how much potential you have and how much you have to offer. I hope that you feel that the orchestra program at Franklin will be your “second home”, and together we will make orchestra a great place to be. Please feel free to contact me at school through phone or email. We have a new class website at: <https://franklinmsorchestrajb.educatorpages.com>. Please use it to look for class updates about upcoming events or class announcements.

Mrs. Jennifer Jim-Brundidge
630-682-2226 school
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SCHEDULE OF REHEARSALS:

6th Grade - Prelude Orchestra

Combined 7th/8th Grade Orchestras - Con Brio Strings, Franklin Sinfonia

Overview of Band/Orchestra Daily Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Groups</u>
8:00-8:45	1	7/8th Grade Band Rehearsal <i>In Band Room</i> Small Group Band Lessons With Mrs. JB <i>In Orchestra Room</i>
8:49-9:34	2	6th Grade Orchestra Rehearsal with Mrs. JB <i>in Orchestra Room</i> Small Group Orchestra Lessons With Mr. Makaryk <i>In Band Room</i>
9:38-10:23	3	7th/8th Grade Orchestra Rehearsal <i>In Orchestra Room</i> Small Group Orchestra Lessons With Mr. Makaryk <i>In Band Room</i>
10:27-11:12	4	7/8th Grade Band Rehearsal <i>In Band Room</i> Small Group Band Lessons With Mrs. JB <i>In Orchestra Room</i>
11:16-11:46	Lunch	
11:50-12:35	5	6th Grade Woodwinds Rehearsal <i>In Band Room</i> Small Group Band Lessons With Mrs. JB <i>In Orchestra Room</i>
12:39-1:24	6	7th/8th Grade Orchestra Rehearsal <i>In Orchestra Room</i> Small Group Orchestra Lessons With Mr. Makaryk <i>In Band Room</i>
1:27-2:12	7	6th Grade Brass/Percussion Rehearsal <i>In Band Room</i> Small Group Orchestra Lessons With Mrs. JB <i>In Orchestra Room</i>
2:15-3:00	8	6th Grade Orchestra Rehearsal <i>In Orchestra Room</i> Small Group Band Lessons With Mr. Makaryk <i>In Band Room</i>

CLASS RULES:

- Be prepared for class. Bring the following materials to class every day:
 - Pencil
 - Black 3-ring binder
 - Instrument
- Be in your seat tuning up by 1 minute after the second bell.
- Raise your hand to speak.
- Stop playing when the conductor stops directing.
- No food during rehearsal. Make sure you clean up after yourself.
- Everyone, including all students, teachers, FMS staff, guest teachers/speakers will be treated with respect.
- No unnecessary use of electronics during instructional time.
- Always try your best!



Orchestra is a fun place to be - let's keep it that way! If a student disobeys the rules, Mrs J.B. reserves the right to contact parents and assign after school detentions.

FRANKLIN ORCHESTRA GRADING POLICY

The following categories will be utilized in determining students' final quarter grade:

- In class behavior - 100 points per quarter
- In-class participation- 100 points per quarter
- Concert Attendance - 100 points per concert
- Concert Evaluation after each quarterly concert – 100 pts.
- Practice Record- 10 points per week; Evaluation- 50 points per quarter.
- Student playing tests: 10 points each done 2-3 times per semester
- Participation in ILMEA: 100 points.
- Special Units : 25 – 50 pts.



All tests will be performed during class with the support of classmates. During the 4th semester, the Con Brio level will have 2 scale tests per week. The Practice Record needs to be signed and dated every week and turned in every Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday for a weekly grade of 10 points. Each student will keep the original practice record until the end of the quarter when it is turned in for final grade. If they lose it, they must create another one themselves drawing it by hand or by computer. Be sure to review instructions on your Practice Record to see what activities can be added to your total practice time.

EXTRA CREDIT

Orchestra students may earn extra credit points from the following activities:

- Performance outside of school -10 pts./ per performance
- Audition for ILMEA Festival: 20 pts.
- Participation in ILMEA Festival: 50 pts.
- Stage crew for concerts – 1- 10 pts./per concert
- Attend a concert outside of school: 10 pts.

SEATING

6th Grade Prelude:

Seats will be assigned by the teacher and rotate after every concert.

7th/8th Grade Con Brio:

Seats will be assigned by the teacher and rotate after every concert.

7th/8th Grade Sinfonia:

All seats will be assigned by the teacher and will rotate after every concert. Section leaders in this class will be chosen by the the director based on three criteria: the students' in class audition, the student's demonstration of musical leadership during rehearsals, and involvement in extracurricular orchestra activities. Section leaders are expected to be strong players, role models, and mentors to their peers. These students are the ones who come to class prepared, seek extra help for themselves and others, while also ensuring that orchestra is a class where everyone is able to participate and contribute to making beautiful music.

OFFICERS

Officers are elected in the 7th & 8th Grade Sinfonia Orchestras:

- President - Serves as spokesperson for the group. Assists conductor when necessary.
- Vice-President - Assists president, and makes out monthly activity calendar.
- Treasurer/Repair - Collects money for activities, strings, etc. Reports weekly to Mrs. J.B. about needed supplies. Helps to replace strings when one breaks during class.
- Librarian - Helps to pass out new music, collects and organizes used music. Notifies teacher of students needing to pay fines.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are important to the development of a maturing musician. Miss Jim can assist you in locating a private teacher if you are interested. Please also refer to the teacher referral list in this packet. This is highly recommended for every member of the Franklin Orchestras.

CONCERT DRESS

The concert attire is as follows:

6th Graders:

Girls: White blouse, solid black skirt or pants (no miniskirts, please), black dress shoes

Boys: White dress shirt (collared, button-up shirt), black necktie, solid black pants - no jeans, please; black socks and dress shoes.

7th & 8th Graders:

We are utilizing ready-made uniforms from Southeastern Performance Apparel. These uniforms have been very well received at concerts and contest. Girls wear a floor length black dress with black dress shoes (no flip flops!). The dress costs \$65.00. Boys wear an ensemble consisting of a tuxedo shirt, vest, bow tie, and dress pants, for a total of \$65.00. In addition, boys need black socks and black dress shoes - no athletic shoes, please! If the cost of the uniform is prohibitive, the orchestra activity account may be used to help. Contact Miss Jim if you have a need for assistance. For all students needing uniforms, an invoice will be sent home in the first weeks of school. Checks are payable to Franklin M.S.



VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS, GUITAR RENTAL

In most cases, cello, bass, and guitar students will be able to rent school instruments so that they do not need to transport their home instruments back and forth. The cost to rent a school instrument is \$35.00 per school year, and the proper forms will be sent home with students at instrument pickup in the first weeks of school. Please make checks payable to Franklin MS orchestra. Let Mrs. JB know if you are in any need of financial assistance.

PRACTICE

Regular at home practice is crucial to continued improvement. A good minimum amount of practice would be two to three hours weekly. It is a good idea to be consistent in the time of day, place, and routine of practice. Be sure to get a parent signature and date your practice records correctly. Practice records are due every Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday for 10 points per week. I have attached a sample practice record to this packet. The back page of the sample practice record will tell you what additional activities count for practice time.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to get involved with the orchestra program! We need volunteers to:

- Chaperone field trips
- Help with transportation of instruments (cellos and string basses)
- Attend and support performances
- Encourage home practice and private lessons
- Do clerical work (tally fundraiser orders, money)
- Drive large instruments to contests
- Help with fundraisers
- Help with instrument tuning
- Design concert programs

Outside Class Activities

FRANKLIN FIDDLERS

This fun, informal group is open to any orchestra student at Franklin! The Fiddlers meet once a week after school (Wednesdays, beginning October 10th) to practice traditional Bluegrass music, Irish Fiddling, Jazz, and other alternative styles. The Fiddlers perform for the Franklin Family Night, the Variety Show, Elementary School Tour, and the Franklin Art Walk in downtown Wheaton. We are also looking for students who play other instruments such as banjo, harmonica, guitar, piano; you name it!

FRANKLIN FULL ORCHESTRA

Advanced students looking for a fun challenge should join the Full Orchestra, a year-round symphonic orchestra (with top students from band & orchestra combined). Beginning students are welcome to join but I would recommend taking private lessons to help with the difficulty level of the repertoire or coming for after school help. The music will be of 7th/8th grade level, so students will need to practice faithfully. The Full Orchestra performs at all Franklin Band & Orchestra concerts, so there is a higher level of commitment needed. The group meets every Tuesday morning before school (starting at 7:15 a.m.), beginning Tuesday, September 4.



Please sign this sheet stating that you have read all of the information presented in this handbook, and return to Miss Jim by **Friday, August 31st, 2018.**

Completion of this form counts towards your first quarter grade!

I have carefully read and fully comprehend the procedures, policies and requirements for participation in the Franklin Orchestra Program.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent email(s): _____

I have put all these dates on the family and student calendars.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Please indicate if you can help the orchestra program in any way - please be specific!
