

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.

Chamber Orchestra

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 study privately and achieve and maintain a level of individual performance indicative of private study.

Philharmonic Orchestra

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.

Symphonic Orchestra

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

Concert Orchestra

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.

Rental Instruments:

\$46=shared fee (kept at school)

\$92=borrowing an instrument to use at home (for those who qualify and as equipment is available)

· Students enrolled in the JMHS Orchestra are expected to provide their own instrument.

Cellos and basses and some violins and violas are available for school use.

· If you participate in the **Free and Reduced Lunch Program**, FCPS will provide an instrument for you for \$20 after completing the appropriate forms.

Make all checks payable to JMHS

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!

Uniforms:

All students provide their own uniforms

Boys:

Black tuxedo jacket and pants

Black bow tie

White tuxedo shirt

Black dress shoes and black socks

Optional black cummerbund or vest

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

Grading:

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

Financial Information

Student Accounts/Fundraising

- Recognizing that participation in the orchestra requires funds beyond the normal costs for school attendance, the Orchestra Parents Association has established a formula so that students themselves will have a means to earn money to defray their individual costs for Spring Trip.
- A Student Account is established for each orchestra student. Students earn account credits by sharing in the profit from their sales of the cookie dough and citrus. These credits can only be used for Madison Orchestra activities and trips. The Orchestra Parents Association treasurer maintains the student credit accounts, which are reported to students and parents periodically.
- Each student is expected to bear his or her proportional share in the Orchestra Parent Association general budget (which covers expenses including equipment, awards, instruction, and music), either through fund raising efforts or through direct payment of the cost. **The general budget is established at \$125 per student.** The Spring Trip is financed by students themselves through fundraising (or direct payment) in excess of the \$125/student general fund budget.
- Credits that remain in a student's account upon graduation or when a student does not continue in the participation and enrollment in the orchestra program will be transferred at the beginning of the next fiscal year, to the Orchestra Parents general fund, unless there is a younger sibling in the orchestra, who then will inherit the credit.

The Financial Goal established by the James Madison High School Orchestra Parents Association is not a FCPS Required or Mandated Fee. Reaching the Financial Goal is not a requirement of participation in the orchestra at JMHS; however, the funds that are generated by all orchestra members reaching this goal allow the orchestra program to function at the level that is expected by the parents, the students, and the Vienna community.

Classroom Rules:

1. To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is unacceptable.
2. Students are not permitted to eat, drink, or chew gum in class. **ONLY WATER IS ALLOWED.**
3. Students are expected to come into class in an orderly manner. **YOU MUST BE IN THE CLASSROOM WHEN THE TARDY BELL SOUNDS.** Each student is to set up his/her instrument, be seated, properly warmed-up, and ready to play by 3 minutes after the tardy bell.
4. Students are to play only their own instruments! Do not “try out” other students’ instruments. **YOU BREAK IT YOU BUY IT!**
5. Students are to speak to the conductor and to each other with respect.
6. **GET YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW!**
7. Students are expected to keep their fingernails short. **NO EXCUSES!** Long fingernails interfere with curving the fingers correctly to produce a quality sound.
8. ***“To play a wrong note is insignificant. To play without passion is inexcusable.” - Beethoven***

**James Madison High School
Orchestra Parents Association**

Executive Board

Erin Eberly, Orchestra Director

Angela [REDACTED], President

Katherine [REDACTED], Vice-President

Shaun [REDACTED], Treasurer

Susan [REDACTED] and Brad [REDACTED] Secretaries

Committees

Hospitality: Claire [REDACTED]

Banquet: Katherine [REDACTED]

Ways and Means: Charissa [REDACTED]

Website: Amy [REDACTED]

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.**

Orchestra Trip:



CHARLESTON, SC

There is usually one trip in the spring each year to attend an orchestra clinic/competition. During the past few years, the orchestra has traveled to Boston, Myrtle Beach, Chicago, Philadelphia and Orlando. All students are invited to attend.

Students are charged for the full cost of the trip. Every effort is made to keep the cost of the trip reasonable. Financial assistance is available on a limited basis for those in need. The Orchestra Director reviews requests for financial assistance on a case-by-case basis. **Students are encouraged to use the amounts they have accumulated in their student accounts from their fund raising activities. Most students are able to pay their entire trip cost from their student accounts.**

Special Note on Trips

These trips are not “automatic”. They are taken if circumstances warrant. If, during the course of the school year, the Director and Orchestra Parents Executive Board determine there is sufficient reason not to travel, the trip will not be taken.

All students are expected to complete the necessary forms for the trip and to conduct themselves in accordance with trip rules. Possession, use, distribution, or failure to report evidence of illegal drugs, including alcoholic beverages, hazing of underclassmen, possession of weapons (guns, knives, including pocket knives, etc.) or other misconduct will not be tolerated. Violation of trip rules will result in the concerned student(s) being sent home at the parents’ expense. In case of an alcohol, drug, or dangerous weapon violation, those in violation will face possible suspension from school and will be referred to the Fairfax County Police (as required by Fairfax County School Policy). Each student is provided with a separate copy of Orchestra Rules and Regulations before the trip.