



## JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA



## 2019-2020 PROGRAM HANDBOOK

21 Moffett Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
(412) 344-2120



Dear Jefferson Middle School Orchestra students and parents,

Welcome, and welcome back to another amazing year of Jefferson Orchestra! I am eager to be back to school and I hope that you will approach the upcoming school year with an excitement.

Being in an orchestra gives students a unique experience. I believe the most important concept that you will learn in orchestra is teamwork. To make your experience in orchestra as memorable and rewarding as possible, I am going to give my best to provide the best education possible for each and every one of you. Parents are going to support you as best as they can. I expect you to give your best. We are going to work together as a team.

Please review this handbook thoroughly to learn the expectations, mark important dates in your family calendar and your agenda, and minimize surprises.

Students are expected to sign and return the last page to Ms. Lim on Friday, September 6, 2019. Please do not turn it in before or after September 6th. If you will be absent that day, please let me know in advance. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Lim with any concerns or questions.

Looking forward to another fantastic year,

Hajung Lim, Orchestra Director  
hlim@mtlsd.net  
(412) 344-2120 Ext. 65029

## About Ms. Lim



August 2018 – Present	Orchestra Director at Mt. Lebanon School District Jefferson Middle School
August 2016 – June 2018	Orchestra Director at Loudoun County Public Schools Seneca Ridge Middle School Dominion High School
August 2014 – December 2015	Carnegie Mellon University Music Education Certification
September 2015 – December 2015	Student Teacher at Mt. Lebanon School District Mt. Lebanon High School Howe Elementary School Hoover Elementary School
September 2009 – April 2010	Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra
August 2007 – December 2008	Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra
August 2006 – June 2007	Alachua County Youth Orchestra

## Course Descriptions

Orchestra 6-8  
60770-60773  
70770-70773  
80770-80773

Orchestra is a two-semester elective course that fulfills the middle school music requirement. It is designed to provide the opportunity, the stimulation, the guidance and the encouragement necessary for each student to experience overall musical enjoyment. Concepts to be developed include tone, melody, rhythm, style, notation and auditory perception and discrimination. The major skills to be developed and refined include major and minor scales, fingerings, rhythmic patterns, baton responses and various bowing techniques. Student evaluation includes instrumental performances (individual and small groups), and rehearsal techniques. Students must have had some instrumental instruction before selecting orchestra.

## Expectations



### At the bell,

- You have already unpacked your instrument. You have rosined your bow.
- You have your music folder and pencil on your stand. You are ready to tune.



### During class,

- No restroom or water breaks unless it is medical emergency.
- Follow directions.
- Demonstrate positive attitude, undivided attention, and active participation.



### Violinists & Violists,

- On the days when you have orchestra, bring your instrument in the morning to the instrument storage room. Put your instrument on your spot.
- You must carry all the necessary accessories (shoulder rest – not a sponge, rosin, cleaning cloth, extra set of strings) in your case.
- After you had orchestra, put your instrument back to the storage room.
- After school, remember to pick up your instrument from the storage room.
- Non-orchestra members are not allowed in the storage room to pick up your instrument. See Ms. Lim with questions or concerns.



### Cellists & Bassists,

- Bring a rosin to use in orchestra class for your school instrument.
- Since you do not have to bring your home instrument for class, points will be deducted double if you do not bring your music folder or a pencil to class.
- You will need to bring your home instruments (cellos should have an extra set of strings) for rehearsals and concerts. See Ms. Lim with questions or concerns.



### Music

- You are going to need a music folder, a method book, concert music, and any worksheets or review packets you might receive in class.
- You have to put your name on your folder. Take a good care of your folder.
- You are going to have to return your method book at the end of the school year. Take a good care of your method book. If you lose your method book, you will need to purchase one and return it at the end of the school year.

- Your concert music will only be distributed ONCE. Understand that your daily rehearsal technique points may be deducted.
- If you are absent, you will find your copy in the folder by the orchestra closet.
- You must have your copy of music. You will not rely on your stand partner.



## Practice

- Preparation before participation is the key to success in orchestra. Students are expected to practice the concepts and repertoire they learned in class at home.
- Below is the minimum requirement for practice.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students should practice 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade students should practice 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students should practice 40 minutes a day, 6 days a week.
- Practice should not be used as punishment.



## Rehearsals & Concerts

- You are expected to behave like a professional musician and a professional audience.
- We follow the school handbook which also includes “no cell phone zone” policy.
- We follow district’s dress code.
  - Concert Attire – Students are expected to make professional stage appearances. The dress code is formal, and it is suggested that hairs are pulled back or parted with hair product. Please use black hair ties or bands. Please wear dress shoes. Closed toe is preferred. If you are going to wear open toe shoes, then wear black stockings or socks. No open shoulder, please. If you are ever unsure about your concert dress, show Ms. Lim a picture of yourself wearing the concert attire for pre-approval. You will not be able to go on stage if you violate the district’s dress policy.
    - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: All Black
    - 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: White Top & Black Bottom



## Name Tags

- All music instrument cases must be marked with the student’s name, address, telephone number, and school. Serial numbers should be recorded and stored at home.
- *Students may leave musical instruments at school when used in class or practice. Parents should take steps to adequately insure their children’s instruments. They can be insured on the parent’s homeowner’s policy. The Mt. Lebanon School District takes no responsibility for instruments left on school premises and does it only as a matter of convenience to the parents and students. The District may or may not have adequate security of the instruments in its possession.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Performances

Winter Concert	November 21, 2019	Mt. Lebanon HS Auditorium	Call time 7:00 PM Start time 7:30 PM	Grades 6, 7, 8
Elementary District Orchestra Concert	March 30 & 31, 2020	<u>Waiting Area</u> HS Fine Arts Theatre <u>Performance</u> Mt. Lebanon HS Auditorium	Call Time TBD <i>(Elementary students perform first.)</i> Start time TBD	Grade 8
High Note Festival Adjudication	May 29, 2020	Carnegie Mellon University & Kennywood	Departure 7:15 AM Arrival 7:00 PM <i>(Drop off + Pick up at JMS)</i>	Grade 8
Spring Concert	June 4, 2020	Mt. Lebanon HS Auditorium	Call time 7:00 PM Start time 7:30 PM	Grades 6, 7, 8

### Rehearsals

#### Winter Concert

Thursday, November 7, 2019	Periods 1, 2	Grades 6, 7, 8	JMS Band Room
	Period 3	Grade 8	JMS Band Room
Wednesday, November 20, 2019	Periods 6, 7, 8	Grades 6, 7, 8	HS Auditorium

#### Elementary District Orchestra Concert *(combined with Mellon MS 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra)*

Monday, March 16, 2020	Periods 2, 3, 4	Grade 8	MMS Auditorium
Monday, March 30, 2020	Periods 5, 6, 7, 8	Grade 8	HS Auditorium

#### High Note Music Festival Adjudication

Friday, May 8, 2020	Periods 1, 2, 3	Grade 8	JMS Band Room
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#### Spring Concert

Friday, May 8, 2020	Periods 1, 2	Grades 6, 7, 8	JMS Band Room
	Period 3	Grade 8	JMS Band Room
Wednesday, May 20, 2020 <i>(tentative)</i>	Periods 1, 3	Grade 8	JMS Orchestra Room
Thursday, June 4, 2020	Periods 6, 7, 8	Grades 6, 7, 8	HS Auditorium

It is your responsibility to talk to your teachers a few days in advance to your rehearsals so that you can make up any missed work. Students must reserve the above dates for orchestra commitments.

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## Evaluation

Daily Rehearsal Technique (80 points)

Playing Tests (3 x 20 points = 60 points)

Performance (60 points)

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Total of 200 points per 9 weeks

## Daily Rehearsal Technique

- Students must be ready for class.
  - Getting to class on time.
  - Bringing required materials (instrument, folder, pencil, rosin, shoulder rest).
- Following directions.
  - Demonstrating undivided attention, active participation, and positive attitude.
- Having neatly trimmed fingernails.

## Playing Test

- There will be 3 playing tests per quarter.
- Every playing test will be consisted of an excerpt from a method book and/or an excerpt from concert music. There should be no surprises.
- You will submit your playing tests through Google Classroom.
- Each student will be evaluated on individual improvement.
- *If there are only two playing tests scheduled during a specific grading period, the assignment will be replaced with music theory quiz, music history quiz, or ensemble project.*

## Performance

- 30 points for rehearsal
- 30 points for the concert
- Demonstrate proper etiquette as both a performer and as an audience.
- Wear proper concert attire.
- Stay for the entire duration of the concert.
- *If there is no performance scheduled during a specific grading period, the assignment will be replaced with music theory quiz, music history quiz, or ensemble project.*

## Suggestions

- Private Lessons
  - If you want to be more serious about your instrument, private lessons are strongly suggested. Individual instruction is not a part of the school district's secondary music program. Finding a competent and caring teacher is important. Different students will experience differently with the same teacher. Please see Ms. Lim for a list of local private teachers.
  - If a price or a ride is an issue for any students who might be interested in taking private lesson, Mt. Lebanon High School Orchestra students have put together an after school private lesson program. Once you sign up, the high school students will match the JMS students and the HS students according to the information that you provide. JMS students will then walk over to the high school for their lesson.  
Here is the website – <https://mtlmusiccrossagetutoring.wordpress.com/about>
  
- Extracurricular Orchestra
  - It is a lifetime opportunity to be a part of an orchestra. If students want to expand their musical experiences beyond JMS Orchestra, and challenge themselves further with their instrument skills and musicianship, it is strongly recommended to audition and join the orchestra such as PYSO, TRYPO, South Hills Orchestra, PYPO, and more.

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### Orchestra Contract for SY 2018-2019

By signing below, I affirm that:

- I have read and understand the policies stated in the Orchestra Handbook.
- By enrolling in orchestra, I agree to comply with these policies, procedures, and expectations.
- I have this year's orchestra calendar and am responsible for attendance at all events.
- I understand the district policy on instrument storage.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2019

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2019

**Please turn it in by September 6, 2019.**