



The Orchestra

Henry James Memorial School

Directed by Mrs. Ferrari-Beernaert

Being an orchestra member means students will be performing, listening, creating, and responding to music. With thorough instruction and skills practiced with repetition, students will have ability in a fine art. The orchestra becomes an outlet for expression, innovation, and self-assurance. Through musical artistry we forge friendships and become a community of talented musicians.

General Information

Orchestra Classes

There are two 7th Grade orchestras and two 8th Grade orchestras at Henry James Memorial School. The groups are split according to instrumentation and scheduling of other courses. These orchestras meet during school two-three times per week on A, C and E days. For students that desire a more challenging and advanced level of orchestra music, there is our advanced group, Select Symphony. This ensemble is for advanced band and orchestra students, entry is by audition and we meet after school on Thursdays from 2:20pm- 3:35pm.

Sectional Lessons

Students in the orchestra are required to take sectional lessons which meet during different periods throughout the school day. These lessons provide an opportunity to get instrument-specific instruction to focus on technique, beautiful duets and solos, scales, orchestral repertoire and continue skill-building. Many times, sectional lessons are taught by incredible guest artists such as Eric Dahlin, Melinda Daetsch, Katie Kennedy or Jessica Meyer. Sectional lessons are always a favorite amongst orchestra students and they highly motivate everyone to practice.

Students are excused from their classes to come to their sectional lesson as long as they get their homework assignment ahead of time. Students that have tests scheduled do not miss their class and do not come to their sectional lesson. When students cannot miss their class for a sectional, many students opt to have lunch and practice during homeroom with Mrs. Ferrari or their close friends. This is a fun way of getting a lesson or practice time without missing classes. More details and information about sectional lessons can be found on the HJMS orchestra website.

Practicing

Students are expected to practice at home three-four times a week. In class students are taught that *"ability is skill times 1000."* This quote by Shinichi Suzuki means that when a skill is taught in class, once they practice it at least 30 times a week, it becomes ability. Students will be motivated to practice by fun rehearsals in school and performing exciting repertoire.

The Orchestra Website: a vital resource

The orchestra website is an important and supportive resource for parents and students. On the HJMS Orchestra website you will find concert dates, general information about what is happening in orchestra, guest artists, practicing requirements, combined rehearsal information, photos taken in class, and links to the orchestral repertoire being performed in class. Listening to the repertoire is vital for learning and practicing the music. I encourage all parents to please visit my website. Go to: www.simsbury.k12.ct.us and *search*: JoAnna Ferrari Beernaert or just *Ferrari*

Concerts

Concerts are in December and May at Simsbury High School Orchestra. Concert & rehearsal attendance is mandatory as it is a performing ensemble. Grades are based on participation. Parents/Students and Guardians are urged to record concert dates in early September on their family calendars and to give notice of any scheduling issues two months prior to the concert. In addition, there is one mandatory dress rehearsal before every concert with all 7th and 8th grade students at Simsbury High School auditorium.

Additional & Special Activities for HJMS Orchestra Members:

- **Northern Regional Middle School Orchestra** – Auditions and Orchestra festival Repertoire and information is in this handbook. More information will be posted on my website in the fall.
- **After-School and Before-School extra help-** Some students may find they need a one on one extra help session once in a while. They can email me and schedule a time for them to come in for help. Please do not email me the day of, or the evening before asking for extra help. Extra help must be scheduled at least 3 days in advance.
- **Special-Guest Artists-** Friends for Music supports our orchestra program by funding professional, talented, youthful and inspiring musicians to come in and perform for our students. For instance our guest artists this year are: Eric Dahlin, Katie Kennedy, Jared Gardner, Jessica Meyer and Melinda Daetsch from the Hartt School.
- **Select Symphony-** An advanced and select group of band and orchestra students that create a full-orchestra and play arrangements of the best, most famous symphonies. Conducted by Mr. Robarge and Mrs Ferrari on Thursday afternoons from 2:20-3:30pm.

Fun Events & Activities 2014:

“Simsbury Takes Manhattan” Fundraiser

March 28, 2014 6:00pm HJMS Cafeteria; an orchestra fundraiser to contribute to FFM, scholarships and our big competition trip to New York City on May 2, 3, 4, 2014. ***Sea Tea Improv*** will perform improv-comedy, we will have pizza, dessert, refreshments and a Silent Auction with many goodies! Everyone is invited, as it is a great cause and a fun night out for families!

May 2-4th, 2014: “Simsbury Takes Manhattan” Overnight Trip to NYC

Students will perform and compete amongst other orchestras around the nation! We will spend three days and two nights exploring New York City, attending a concert at Lincoln Center and performing for the Heritage Festival.

Want to become more involved?

Parents are welcome to help out for orchestra field trips and for concerts. In addition, there is a special group of parents that help in the advocacy of our district music program called, *Friends for Music*. You can find out more information and become an active member of this group by emailing our music supervisor, Angela Griffin at agriffin@simsbury.k12.ct.us

Mrs. Ferrari-Bernaert, Orchestra Director

Simsbury Public Schools

Music & Performing Arts

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<OR> www.simsbury.k12.ct.us and Search: Ferrari

