

Welcome to orchestra! *We are so glad you're here.*

1. What dates should I put on my calendar?

November 11, 2026: Veterans' Day Performance (*required for 7th/8th grade*)
December 10, 2026: Christmas Orchestra Concert (*required*)
February 20, 2027: IGSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest @ Hubble MS
April 12, 2027: Joint Concert @ Wheaton Academy (*required for 7th/8th grade*)
May 4, 2027: Spring Orchestra Concert (*required*)

2. What should I know about sectionals, classes, and concerts?

- Students are required to attend weekly sectionals. JH sectionals are often during FLEX and may extend into 5th period. This small group time is essential for their success in learning an instrument. Students will not be allowed to miss sectionals to make up homework, tests, or quizzes.
- If a JH student has to leave early from 8th period, please call the office beforehand.
- We have two concerts per year, which receive a summative grade. Don't miss these! These experiences are what students will cherish long after they graduate. Attendance at concerts is absolutely mandatory.

3. Students wear Concert Black to concerts. What does my student need?

An outfit that's *all black, all formal*.

Boys: Black shirt, black dress slacks, black belt, black socks, black dress shoes.

Girls: Black dress OR black blouse and skirt (ankle-length or longer) OR black blouse and black dress pants; black socks and shoes.

- Skirts must be ankle-length or longer! Remember that musicians play with legs apart, so skirts must be modest when seated.

4. My student wants a challenge this year in orchestra. What should I do?

First of all, talk to Ms. Terdina! Let me know you're up for a challenge. I will likely recommend you audition for Honors Orchestra, play a solo or group piece at IGSMA, audition for ILMEA (very advanced players), or give you a more challenging piece of music to learn.

Parents, thank you so much. Of course, we do orchestra because music is excellent, but we mostly do orchestra to be changed as individuals and in community into truer reflections of Christ. I'm so grateful for your support in this. I pray that orchestra students will continue to become wise, courageous, and kind. I pray that our 8th graders will exemplify the fruits of the Spirit, and lead others to do likewise.

Orchestra Commitment Form

By signing this form,

I commit my student to a full (wonderful!) year of orchestra.
I commit myself to clearing my calendar for our December and May concerts.

Student's Name
(please write legibly)

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Please sign this form and return it to Ms. Terdina by **Thursday, August 27.**