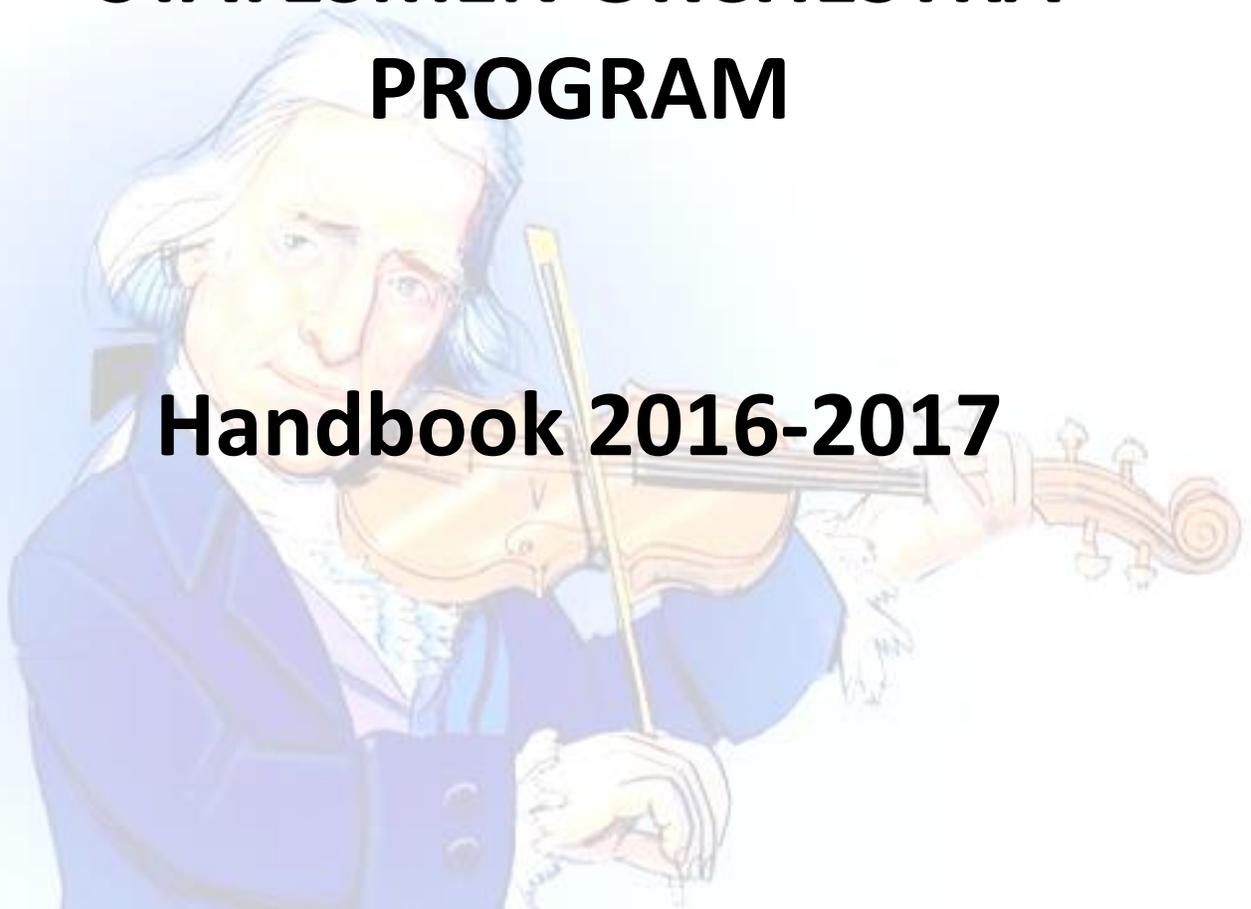


# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## STATESMEN ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

**Handbook 2016-2017**



Ms. Bobbe Jo Butler- director of orchestras

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to the Merritt Island High School Orchestra Program	3
<b><u>MUSTANG ORCHESTRA PROGRAM HANDBOOK</u></b>	
Preface	4
Statesmen Orchestra Program Objectives	4
Membership in the Program	4
The Importance of Attitude	4
The Importance of Discipline	5
Statesmen Orchestra Program Conduct Policy	5
Statesmen Orchestra Program Discipline Policy	5
Grading	6
Rehearsals	6
Rehearsal Procedures	7
Concerts	7
Assessments	7
Excused & Unexcused Absences	8
Make-ups	8
Attendance Policy	8
Example of Excused Absence Request Form	9
Conflicts with Statesmen Orchestra Activities	9
Practice Expectations	9
Private Lessons	10
Statesmen Orchestra Student Council	10
Use of Orchestra Room	10
Music	11
Binders	11
Method Books	11
Instrument Responsibilities	11
Music Store Rental	11
School Rental	11
Maintenance	11
Storage Policy	11
Uniforms	11
Formal	11
Informal	12
Supply List	12
Required Supplies	12
Highly-recommended Supplies	12
Recommended Vendors	12
Technology in the Classroom	12
Awards Cookout & Requirements	14
Fundraisers	14
Off-Campus Event Policy	14
MIOPA (Merritt Island Orchestras' Parent Association)	14
Course Descriptions	14
2016-2017 Concert Schedule & Important Dates	15

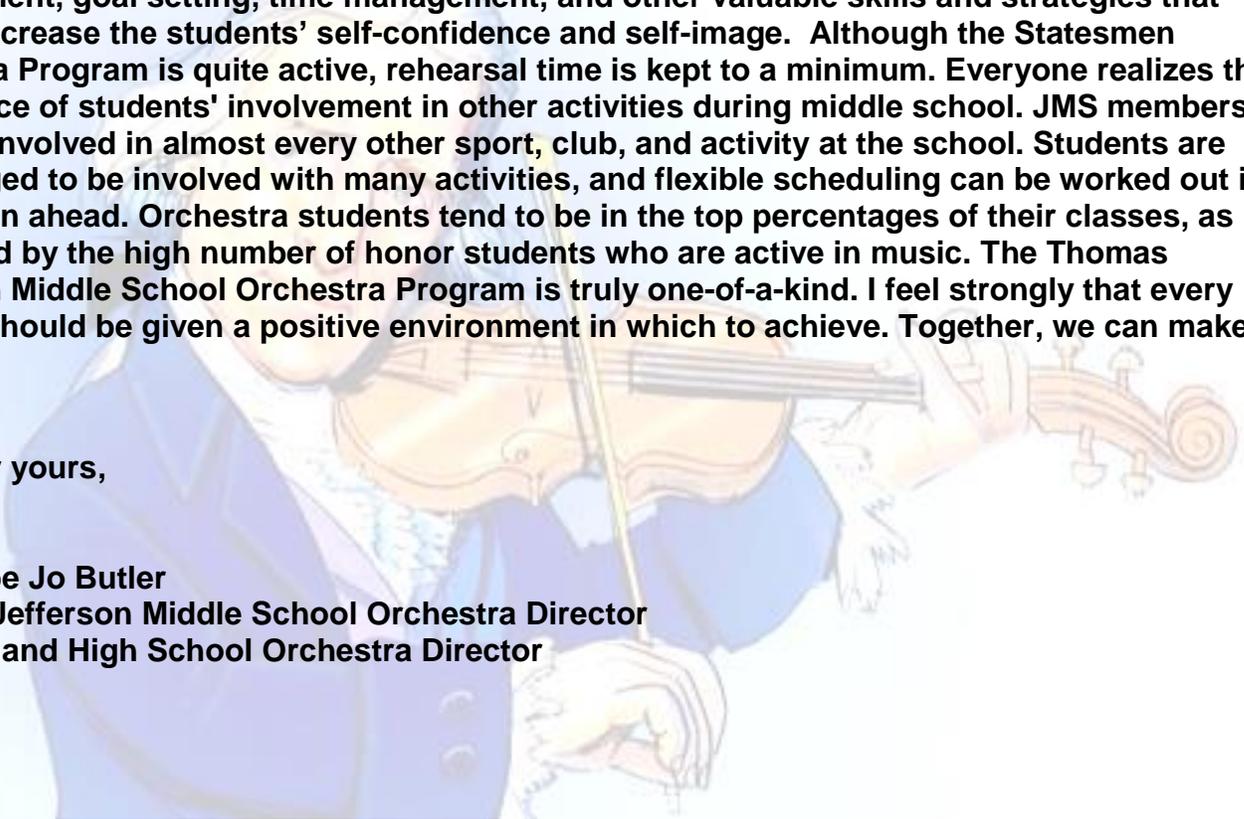
**Dear Statesmen Orchestra Students and Parents,**

**The middle school orchestra experience is a unique one and one that you will surely enjoy. The middle school program is quite different from the elementary school program. Students at the middle school level will be involved in many more performing experiences in comparison to their elementary school experience. Orchestra provides many opportunities for the type of musical enrichment and personal development that can only be found at the high school level. Students get the opportunity to perform, to travel, and to be a part of something exceptional. In addition to the many educational and cultural benefits, students grow both socially and emotionally through music. Entering a large school and facing new situations, students will be glad to have a place where they know that they belong. It will be comforting to have a large group of friends with whom they share many positive experiences.**

**The orchestra program offers a chance to develop leadership skills through the Statesmen Orchestra Student Council. Communication skills are stressed, along with group management, goal setting, time management, and other valuable skills and strategies that help to increase the students' self-confidence and self-image. Although the Statesmen Orchestra Program is quite active, rehearsal time is kept to a minimum. Everyone realizes the importance of students' involvement in other activities during middle school. JMS members are also involved in almost every other sport, club, and activity at the school. Students are encouraged to be involved with many activities, and flexible scheduling can be worked out if we all plan ahead. Orchestra students tend to be in the top percentages of their classes, as witnessed by the high number of honor students who are active in music. The Thomas Jefferson Middle School Orchestra Program is truly one-of-a-kind. I feel strongly that every student should be given a positive environment in which to achieve. Together, we can make it happen!**

**Musically yours,**

**Ms. Bobbe Jo Butler  
Thomas Jefferson Middle School Orchestra Director  
Merritt Island High School Orchestra Director**



# PREFACE

This booklet was written in order to provide students and parents with information concerning the various activities, policies, and phases of the orchestra program at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. It is impossible for this booklet to cover answers to all questions that may arise. All students and parents will need to read this booklet carefully, fill out the form included in the back of the handbook, sign it, and return it to the director. School rules and policies are in effect at all times a student is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of Thomas Jefferson Middle School. School policy shall have priority over music program policy in the event of any conflict. The director shall have the authority to suspend or amend any Statesmen Orchestra policy at any time in the best interest of the overall program.

## STATESMEN ORCHESTRA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Statesmen Orchestra Program is an integral part of school life and is recognized as a school activity. The primary objectives of the orchestra program are as follows:

- **Educational** - To develop interested and discriminating listeners, to provide a well-rounded musical education, and to prepare students for musical activities beyond high school. There are also many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of learning.
- **Cultural** - To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of music.
- **Service** - To lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting the dignity and reputation of Jefferson Middle School at all appearances.
- **Citizenship** - To develop the students' abilities to function as responsible members of a group, to interact with others in a positive manner, and to function as responsible members of the community.
- **Recreational** - To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE PROGRAM

The program is open to all interested students who demonstrate the desire, ability, and proper attitude to be a member of the group. Students desiring to join the program must audition for membership and must have permission from the director.

Students will be placed at the discretion of the director. It should be understood that everyone will have an equal and fair opportunity to participate. However, from time to time, it may become necessary to exclude or dismiss those students who fail to meet the required standards.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The right attitude involves sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the factor that makes the difference between a quality organization and a mediocre group. It takes intense commitment to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice daily on fundamentals in concentrated and routine practice. You who are in music are a favored few. This organization can do much for you. Make the most of this opportunity in every rehearsal and performance.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Because of the nature of the organization, discipline must be strict out of necessity. Students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Because music ensemble members are constantly on public display, each member must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on the group and school and may well undo the good work of many students. Any student who casts discredit on an ensemble with his/her conduct, either at school or on a trip, shall be subject to dismissal from the program in addition to other disciplinary action by the school.

## STATESMEN ORCHESTRA PROGRAM CONDUCT POLICY

Orchestra students are expected to present a positive attitude towards themselves, their fellow musicians, and director at all times. The "right attitude" in conjunction with sincerity, concentration, and dedication are key to the artistic success of the orchestra program. Remember, it's all about "*RESPECT.*"

**R**espect people & Property

**E**nter Prepared and On Time

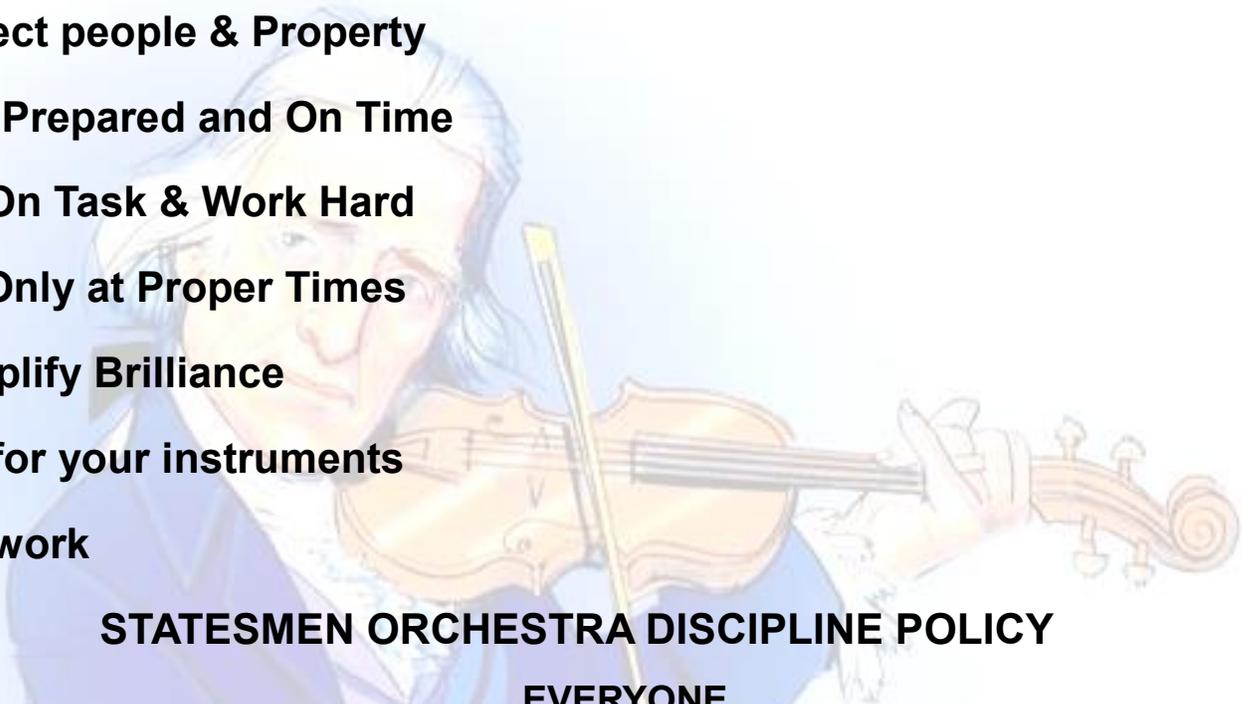
**S**tay On Task & Work Hard

**P**lay Only at Proper Times

**E**xemplify Brilliance

**C**are for your instruments

**T**eamwork



## STATESMEN ORCHESTRA DISCIPLINE POLICY

### EVERYONE

**STOP & STILL**- director raises right hand and students mirror action while ceasing all talking to await next instruction.

### INDIVIDUALS

**"3" WARNING**- director shows 3 fingers to disruptive student as a non-verbal warning to cease behavior.

**"2" WARNING**- director shows 2 fingers and gives verbal warning to disruptive student as a warning to cease behavior.

**5 MINUTE TIME-OUT**- director will signal 5 fingers to disruptive student at which time the student must pack up their instrument and move to the designated time-out seat. Disruptive student will then fill out the Time-out Slip which will either be a short apology or request for a conference with the director. At the end of the 5 minutes, student may then rejoin the orchestra rehearsal.

The reputation of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School Orchestra Program is built on quality of character and musicianship. I expect your best!

- All students are expected to behave properly and courteously at all times. They are representing Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Merritt Island, Florida. Anyone guilty of gross misbehavior may be dismissed from the program.
- All school rules will be strictly enforced by the Statesmen Orchestra Program. The orchestra director and the school authorities will deal with any infraction of the rules.
- Students who are repeatedly disciplined by school authorities for violation of school policies are a liability to the program and will be subject to dismissal from the program.
- All students are required to attend all Statesmen Orchestra activities unless excused by the director. Multiple absences from regularly scheduled rehearsals will not be tolerated and may result in the loss of your position. Please refer to the Grading Policy (page 6) and Attendance Policy (page 8) for details.
- Insubordination directed toward staff or volunteers will not be tolerated.
- Young adults must not damage property or equipment. As Statesmen Orchestra members, you reflect not only the values you learn at JMS, but what you have learned from your parents and community as well.
- Absolutely no hazing or initiation of any person in any form will be tolerated.

*Students who violate the rules of the program are subject to changes in chair placement, loss of leadership positions, or dismissal.*

## GRADING

REHEARSALS	30%
CONCERTS	30%
ASSESSMENTS	40%

### REHEARSALS 30% (20 points per rehearsal)

1. 20 points may be earned through diligent daily rehearsal participation. Students are expected to come prepared to rehearsal with the following:
  - Instrument & Bow
  - Binder w/ music
  - Pencil
  - Enthusiasm to Learn
  - Team Spirit
2. Orchestra is a collaborative team where all opinions and ideas are welcome. Therefore, students will be asked periodically to critique rehearsals and performances through various methods of analysis (ie. Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down, Fist of Five, Verbal Discussions, Written Reviews) These critiques will count towards student's daily rehearsal grade.
3. Students can lose those daily points for the following:

No pencil=	-5 points
Tardy (unless has a pass)=	-10 points
No binder=	-15 points
Long Nails=	-20 points
Off-task Cell Phone Use=	-20 points & confiscation of cell phone to Ms. Butler
No instrument=	-20 points
Time Out=	-20 points
4. Students are required to be punctual for every rehearsal. All musicians must be in their seats and ready to tune 2 minutes following the late bell. Unless accompanied with a late pass, those who fail to comply will be marked tardy.
5. All rehearsals are mandatory. The vast majority will be during class but a few after-school rehearsals will be necessary and announced at the beginning of the grading period.

# REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Rehearsal time is valuable time and every moment must be used efficiently!

1. Upon entering the room, gather your required supplies and go directly to your seat.
2. ALL MUSIC MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL TIMES.
3. When the director or staff member steps in front of the ensemble, all noise will cease.
4. Warm-up will be handled by the director or a designated student.
5. Do not roll your eyes at any time.
6. Act like you want to be here.
7. Students are expected to make a real effort to make daily improvement. This cannot be accomplished without outside practice and effort.
8. At the end of rehearsal, each student is to put away his/her own required supplies.

Violations of these procedures may result in detention or other disciplinary action.

## CONCERTS 30% (500 points, MPA 1,000 points)

1. All concerts are mandatory.
2. Students will be assessed prior to each concert on their concert literature proficiency using the playing test rubric as part of their pass-off testing procedure. Those students earning an 80% or higher will be allowed to perform with the ensemble.
3. Concerts will be assessed using the following rubric.

### CONCERT RUBRIC

Music Proficiency	70%
Concert Etiquette	10%
Correct Uniform	10%
Punctuality	10%

## ASSESSMENTS 40% (100 points/test, 50 points/quiz)

1. Assessments both written and playing will be given throughout each nine weeks.
2. Students will be tested on concepts covered in class lectures, scales/arpeggios, solo/chamber literature, and concert literature.
3. Playing tests will be for a grade and seating. Students will be assessed using the following rubric.

### PLAYING TEST RUBRIC

Intonation	25%
Rhythm	25%
Fingering	20%
Bowing	20%
Confidence	10%

4. Most individual playing tests will be recorded and assessed by the director as well as the individual student. Group playing tests will be live during class and assessed by the director as well as the ensemble.
5. Section Leaders will be determined using playing test grades (50%) and leadership skills (50%), which are defined using these 5 factors:  
(1) attendance; (2) good character; (3) positive attitude;  
(4) punctuality; and (5) willingness to help others.
6. Challenges will be blind and performed for the class. The winners will be determined by majority class vote. The director will only vote in the event of a tie. Challenges will be conducted 10 days prior to a concert.

## EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Students will be given ample notice of all rehearsals and concerts that occur outside of the school day so that any conflicts can be resolved ahead of time.

However, there are times when emergencies do present themselves.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES** will only be granted for the following reasons:

1. Sickness or death in the family
2. Unexpected emergencies (Student becomes sick.)

Director must be notified of all impending absences via an absence request form completed by the orchestra student and parent. (see example of Excused Absence Request Form on page 5) This form must then be submitted to the director for review at least one week prior to the absence. In the event that a student becomes sick during the school day and is subsequently checked-out, the absence request form must be submitted the next day the student is in class. Please note that filling out the absence request form does not guarantee that the absence will be excused.

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES** will be granted for the following reasons:

1. Didn't know about it
2. Couldn't get a ride
3. Being out of town
4. Had another commitment
5. Became sick after school
6. Grounded from after-school activities
7. Had to work

Excessive absences not only prevent students from learning, it holds back the entire orchestra program. In order for maximum achievement to be realized, every musician at every rehearsal and performance is vital. With proper planning, conflicts CAN be avoided.

## MAKE-UPS

### 1. EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Absences excused by MIHS or the Director will *not* lower a student's grade. However, an alternate assignment may be given at the discretion of the Directors.

### 2. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

Points lost from an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Director will also call student's home to determine absence.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY (After school rehearsals/performances)

In order to operate in the most efficient manner, we must have every student at rehearsals and performances. Excessive absences not only prevent individual students from learning, they hold back the entire organization. Every member is critical to our maximum achievement. With proper planning, conflicts CAN be avoided.

The only excusable absences are those recognized by the school system for normal attendance purposes (i.e., illness, death in immediate family, religious holiday, etc.). Individual needs will be addressed as they occur.

In order to obtain an excused absence, the following criteria must be met by student/parent:

- Absence request form (see example below) available outside orchestra director's office must be filled out and turned in. Phone calls, if made, must be followed up by the appropriate paperwork.
- The mere filing of a request does not guarantee an excused absence. Request must be approved by director.
- Director must be notified in advance—one week in normal situations. Sudden illness does not apply.
- In cases of sickness, if a student is in school, he/she is expected at rehearsal/performance that day.
- All follow-up paperwork for the absence is the responsibility of the student and parent.

# Example of Excused Absence Request Form

## EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (\* Please note: Be specific! We must have enough information to be able to determine whether or not an absence may be excused. "Important matters," "Family reasons," etc. do not give the Directors an opportunity to excuse a student. \*)

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\* FILLING OUT THIS FORM DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE ABSENCE WILL BE EXCUSED. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT/PARENT TO FOLLOW UP WITH FURTHER INFORMATION OR MAKE-UP WORK. \*\*\*\*

Director's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

EXCUSED / UNEXCUSED

## CONFLICTS WITH STATESMEN ORCHESTRA ACTIVITIES

The director believes that students should be able to participate in many school activities. However, conflicts between music and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance, and students must approach the director with conflicting activities as soon as they know there is a potential scheduling problem (at least one week in advance).

It is the practice of the director to assist students, within the scope of the Statesmen Orchestra Program Attendance Policy, when conflicts occur. Students should not expect excused absences for conflicts automatically. Students are reminded that the orchestra program can be a demanding activity and all conflicts must be resolved without sacrificing the program itself.

All conflicts in regard to performances must be worked out in favor of the student's responsibility to his/her ensemble.

## PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

As with any activity, an individual gets back in direct proportion to what he/she puts into this program. Remember, our progress as a group will only be as rapid as your progress as an individual. The better you play, the better we play. The practice routine may seem boring, and it is very hard to make yourself play every day, but the benefits will be very apparent when we get back together.

Individual practice is necessary, and it should be viewed and encouraged with the same enthusiasm as is homework for other subjects. Please help your student understand the importance of organized practice time.

### Suggested plan of study:

1. Pick a set time each day (or every other day).
2. Have a set place to practice.
3. Spend a few minutes on TONE.
4. Play scales at every practice session.
5. Work on technique (i.e. shifting, positions, finger patterns, bowing, etc.)
6. Practice sight-reading (i.e. etudes, scale studies, etc.)

7. Work to increase your dynamic range (practice soft and loud passages).
8. Remember to work on MUSICIANSHIP (try to be aware of details).
9. Set specific goals for yourself. Be realistic and start with: "I will practice \_\_\_\_ minutes every day."
10. Use a practice record to organize and track your progress.

You should strive to cover as many different areas as possible during a practice session. Play for 10 -15 minutes and stop for a break. **DO NOT OVER-EXERT YOUR EMBOUCHURE.** A few quality minutes of proper rehearsal is better than hours of unstructured playing or random "noodling". If you miss a day, or if you do not get to a particular aspect of playing during a session, try to make up the time during your next practice. **PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!**

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons give the music student a chance to progress at an accelerated rate towards the mastery of his/her instrument. The private instructor is able to work with the student on an individual level, gearing the lessons to fit the specific needs of the performer. Students are able to hear the improvement in playing almost immediately, encouraging them not to "hide" or cover their areas of inexperience in the full ensemble setting by allowing stronger players to carry the weight of the section.

At Jefferson Middle School, the orchestra program can benefit greatly from the utilization of the fine instructors who teach in the area. All students are encouraged to study privately. Past experiences show that these students achieve a greater level of musicianship, move to the top of our ensembles, and in most cases gain acceptance to more honor organizations as a result of the assistance of a specialist on their instrument.

The cost per lesson varies with the instructor, as does the location. Some teach at home, others at area music stores, and some at our neighboring colleges and universities. A list of private instructors will be provided through the orchestra room office as teacher schedules become available. Furthering your child's musicianship is well worth the time and effort of scheduling lessons.

## STATESMEN ORCHESTRA STUDENT COUNCIL

Eighth grade students who are selected as leaders in the orchestra program have undergone the necessary training and will be assigned to specific duties in regards to the operation of the Jefferson Middle School Orchestra Program (JMSOP). The officers are expected to set standards of musical achievement, discipline, and positive attitude for the other students. Being an officer is an important responsibility in the program. Student officers are chosen by audition during the first two weeks of school.

## USE OF ORCHESTRA ROOM

The use of music facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facilities and their contents will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. The following rules are in effect:

1. No orchestra students are permitted inside the room except for business with the director.
2. No gum.
3. No food or drink of any kind.
4. No hats at any time.
5. No roughhousing or horseplay.
6. No swearing/profanity.
7. No unauthorized persons on the podium.
8. When authorized person steps on podium, all noise and motion in the room ceases.
9. All equipment is off limits without expressed permission of the director.
10. No rearranging furniture without the permission of the director.

# MUSIC

## BINDERS

Students will be responsible for keeping a 1/2" 3-ring binder of all materials acquired during the course of the school year in good condition (clean & intact). Any lost or damaged music will be replaced at the expense of the student in the amount of 25 cents per copy. In the case of a lost or damaged method book, student will be responsible for the full amount of the replacement book. See Librarians for any questions regarding music.

## METHOD BOOK

Students will purchase their own method book at the beginning of the school year at the Rental Night event. The required method book is the following:

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA- *Essential Elements 2000* book 1 by Allen  
CONCERT ORCHESTRA- *Essential Elements 2000* book 2 by Allen  
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA- *Essential Techniques* by Allen

# INSTRUMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

## MUSIC STORE RENTAL

While there are a few school instruments for rent, it is highly recommended that students invest in their own instrument by renting-to-own at a local music store. (see the 'recommended vendor' section under the 'supply list' category)

## SCHOOL RENTAL

Violinists, violists, cellists, and bassists may rent school instruments for the classroom and/or home practice purposes. The rental fee is \$60.00 for the school year and are rented on a first-come-first-served basis. Those students must also submit a signed copy of the Brevard County Public Schools Instrument Rental Form.

## MAINTENANCE

Mustang Orchestra Students are required to keep their instrument in excellent playing condition at all times. Instruments are to be stored in their cases at their assigned space while not in use. Students who are renting instruments from Merritt Island High School are financially responsible for any damage to that instrument.

## STORAGE POLICY

All instruments are to be packed and properly secured in their assigned locker or space when not in use. Students should only use this assigned area. Much confusion can arise when searching for an instrument that is not in its proper place.

Lockers and instrument storage spaces are issued with the intent that students keep their instruments and music in them. Any other personal items (i.e., books, music players, cameras, clothing, shoes, etc.) may be stored at the student's own risk. Those issued lockers will be supplied with combination locks for securing their locker contents. However, students are always responsible for their personal property, not the school.

# UNIFORMS

## FORMAL

Ladies and gentlemen of the Statesmen Orchestra Program will wear the subsequent uniform for formal concerts:

- 1) Statesmen Orchestra Polo shirt- shirt designed specifically for JMS Orchestras.
- 2) Black dress pants- must be ankle-length; NO JEANS, LEGGINGS, WORK-OUT GEAR, ETC.
- 3) Black dress socks- knee-length; NO ATHLETIC SOCKS.
- 4) Black dress shoes- close-toed and all black including soles; NO SNEAKERS OR SANDALS.
- 5) No Jewelry or cologne/perfume

## INFORMAL

Ladies and gentlemen of the Statesmen Orchestra Program will wear the following uniform for informal concerts:

- 1) Statesmen Orchestra Polo shirt- shirt designed specifically for JMS Orchestras.
- 2) Jeans- school dress code applies.
- 3) Shoes- school dress code applies.
- 4) No Jewelry or Cologne/Perfume

## SUPPLY LIST

### Required Supplies

- 1) Instrument, Bow, Case, Rosin
- 2) Shoulder-rest/rock-stop
- 3) clean rag
- 4) 1/2" 3-ring binder w/ 5 dividers
- 5) Pencil
- 6) Method Book
- 7) Uniform

### Highly-Recommended Supplies

- 1) Tuner
- 2) Metronome
- 3) Music Stand
- 4) Mute
- 5) Recommended Solo & Etude Books
- 6) Highlighter
- 7) Extra set of strings

**RENTAL NIGHT IS THURSDAY, AUGUST 25<sup>th</sup> FROM 6:30-8:00 PM IN THE JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER. ALL REQUIRED SUPPLIES ARE DUE BY MONDAY AUGUST 29, 2016.**

### Recommended Vendors

- 1) *Atlantic Strings*- 321.725.4161; [www.atlanticstrings.com](http://www.atlanticstrings.com)  
(based in Melbourne, FL) Instruments, bows, string accessories, repairs, music
- 2) *Muni Strings*- 407.951.6256; [www.munistrings.com](http://www.munistrings.com)  
(based in Orlando, FL) Instruments, bows, string accessories, & repairs
- 3) *Lucks Music*- [www.lucksmusic.com](http://www.lucksmusic.com) (based in Michigan)  
Chamber & orchestral music
- 4) *J.W. Pepper Music*- [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com)  
Solo, chamber, & orchestral music
- 5) *Shar Music*- [www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com) (based in Michigan)  
Instruments, bows, cases, string accessories, solo & chamber music
- 6) *Southwest Strings*- [www.swstrings.com](http://www.swstrings.com) (based in Arizona)  
Instruments, bows, cases, string accessories

### A NOTE ABOUT REQUIRED SUPPLIES & FEES

There are several required fees and supplies that students will be responsible for throughout the course of the school year. All outstanding fees must be paid prior to an event or receipt of a supply. If a student has a financial situation, the director needs to be notified by the student's parent/guardian.

Communication will be kept discreet and payment arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis.

## TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Beginning in 2013-2014, the orchestra started to integrate personal electronic devices into our daily class use (i.e.- laptops, smart phones, cell Phones, and tablets). Students will be able to use their personal devices in class to tune their instruments, practice with a metronome, make audio recordings, and/or participate in classroom activities. As per school board policy, the use of these devices is a privilege that can be taken away. Below is a current list of apps that may be helpful to students broken down by operating system. This list reflects information that is current as of August 2014. Preference is given to free apps, but some paid apps may be recommended (never required). Each app may have its own requirements regarding operating system or tools needed. Please email Ms. Butler if you have any questions.

## A. STAND ALONE TUNER/METRONOME DEVICES

- Korg TM-50
- Shar Digital Metronome and Tuner
- Korg PC-1 Tuner (Violin/Viola/Cello) or Korg AW2 (Bass)

## B. APPLE OS DEVICES (iTouch, iPhone, iPad, iPad Mini)

### Tuning and Metronome Apps

- insTuner Lite (Free App)- Chromatic Tuner for student tuning use.
- Pro Metronome (Free App)- A great free metronome.
- Tempo (\$1.99)- Great metronome app for student use. It gives you a great amount of control over rhythms, time signatures, and tempos.
- Tonal Energy Tuner/Metronome (\$4.99)- This is a great tuning app! It has been known to go on sale for \$.99, so keep an eye on your app store.

### Skill Improvement Apps

- Classical 1 (Free App)- Enjoy 120 of the World's greatest classical masterpieces performed by the best orchestras and ensembles around the world! Familiarize yourself with Classical Standards constantly heard in life events, movies, TV shows... Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, Chopin, Tchaikovsky. Discover and learn more with YouTube live performances and Wikipedia composer info for each masterpiece.
- SyncScore (Free App)- Provides a wide variety of classical music with synchronized scores. Browse a library of hand-picked tracks, composed by composers like Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and more. SyncScore is the ultimate hub for various SyncScore apps that contain full tracks of the album. Scroll automatically as the music proceeds.
- SPCO (Free APP)- Explore the incredible variety of classical chamber orchestra music, with a growing library of more than 250 free and complete works performed by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, one of the world's leading professional chamber orchestras. You can also learn more about the orchestra's virtuoso musicians and find upcoming concerts.
- Tenuto-(\$3.99)- This app comes from the creator of [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net). Students will be able to access numerous theory and aural training exercises. These exercises can be as simple or as complicated as you wish.

## C. ANDROID OPERATING SYSTEM (Samsung, HTC, DROID, LG, etc)

### Tuning and Metronome Apps

- Mobile Metronome- (Free App)- Many options for meter, tempo, and rhythms. An excellent tool.
- N-Track Tuner- (Free App)- The best free tuning app that I have found on the android play store. It is especially useful if you are a bass player.
- Tempo (\$0.99)- An excellent metronome for student use.

## D. WEBSITES & OTHER MEDIA

- [www.myislandorchestras.org](http://www.myislandorchestras.org)- This is our home website which will act as the informational hub for all of the orchestra programs on Merritt Island.
- [www.essentialelementsinteractive.com](http://www.essentialelementsinteractive.com)- A supplemental website for our classroom method book series *Essential Elements*. This will be the main resource for recording playing assessments.
- [www.sightreadingfactory.com](http://www.sightreadingfactory.com)- A fabulous website for working on sight-reading rhythmic and melodic exercises from easy to advanced levels.

There is an ever expanding number of free and paid apps that benefit students both in and out of class. If you or your student find one to add to the list, please let me know.

## AWARDS COOKOUT & REQUIREMENTS

- **AWARDS COOKOUT OVERVIEW:** The Statesmen and Mustang Orchestra Programs hold a joint annual awards cookout in May at Jetty Park in Port Canaveral. The purpose of the event is to reflect upon the year's accomplishments, to honor those who have realized special achievements, to recognize graduating seniors for their years of service, and to acknowledge each student for his/her individual contribution to the program. Varsity letters and medals are presented at the awards cookout, as well. We strive to make this event special for everyone, and the format changes slightly from year to year.
- **AWARD REQUIREMENTS:** Orchestra students have the opportunity to earn orchestra pins for every year of orchestra service. The criteria for earning pins are listed below.
  1. Student must be enrolled in both semesters of an orchestra class during the current school year.
  2. Student must attend ALL scheduled rehearsals and performances unless the absence is excused. One unexcused rehearsal absence will be permitted during the school year without any penalty.
  3. Student must earn no less than a "B" average in orchestra for the school year.
  4. Student must earn no less than a satisfactory conduct grade for the school year.

14

## FUNDRAISERS

Students will be asked to take part in the orchestra program's no less than two yearly fundraisers (one per semester). Each student must raise at least \$50.00 for the orchestra program during the course of the school year. Monies raised will go towards the purchase of new music, instruments, instrument repairs, orchestra supplies, classroom equipment, and trips.

## OFF-CAMPUS EVENT POLICY

As part of the Jefferson Middle School Statesmen Orchestra Program, musicians will be required to perform off-campus and outside of the school day. These performances are school-sanctioned events and all school policies apply. The concert schedule for the 2016-2017 school year can be found on page 15 as well as our website [www.myislandorchestras.org](http://www.myislandorchestras.org).

## MIOPA (Merritt Island Orchestras' Parent Association)

Parent volunteers are a vital part of the success of an orchestra program. This is where MIOPA or Merritt Island Orchestras' Parent Association comes into play. All parents who are interested in becoming a part of this vital organization should mark 'yes' on the Statesmen Students Information & Contract Form.

## STATESMEN ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### BEGINNING ORCHESTRA- MJ Orchestra 1

Beginning Orchestra is intended for students with little to no experience on string instruments. This class is open to all JMS students. Students perform in multiple concerts throughout the year and are required to conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. Upon completion of the class, students will be able to read music and play either violin, viola, cello, or upright bass at an intermediate level, and are prepared to move on in the learning of their instrument at more advanced levels.

## **INTERMEDIATE (CONCERT) ORCHESTRA- MJ Orchestra 2**

Intermediate (Concert) Orchestra is intended for those students that have either successfully completed JMS Beginning Orchestra, or have successfully completed two years at the elementary level (See JMS Orchestra Department Elementary String Student Achievement Benchmarks) on the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass. Students perform in multiple concerts and contests throughout the year and are required to perform as well as conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. Concert Orchestra is the training ground for the advanced ensemble, Chamber Orchestra. Students must demonstrate a high level of commitment and enthusiasm, plus complete the required pre-requisites in order to advance to the Chamber Orchestra.

**PRE-REQUISITE:** Earned an A or B in JMS Beginning Orchestra or successfully completed two years at the elementary level. (See JMS Orchestra Department Elementary String Student Achievement Benchmarks)

## **ADVANCED (CHAMBER) ORCHESTRA- MJ Orchestra 2/3**

Chamber Orchestra is an honors level orchestra course and is the premier performing orchestra at JMS. Students perform in multiple concerts, contests, and other events throughout the year and are required to perform as well as conduct themselves with a high level of maturity. All students have several years of playing experience before entering into this class.

**PRE-REQUISITE:** Earned an A or B in JMS Intermediate (Concert) Orchestra or through an audition with the orchestra director. Students must demonstrate a high level of professionalism and musical maturity and have no unexcused absences for required events in previous orchestra classes.

## **Statesmen Orchestras' Concert Schedule & Important Dates 2016-2017**

### **FALL SEMESTER 2016**

- Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>- Student Information & Handbook Contract DUE
- Thursday, August 18-Friday, August 26- Coupon Book Fundraiser
- Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>- RENTAL NIGHT; Jefferson MS Media Center 6:30-8:00 PM
- Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>- ALL REQUIRED SUPPLIES DUE
- Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>- Statesmen & Mustang Orchestras' Fall Concert; MIHS Auditorium 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>- All-County Auditions, Kennedy MS
- Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>- MI Orchestras' Winter Concert; MIHS Auditorium 6:30 PM

### **SPRING SEMESTER 2017**

- Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Recruitment Concert; MIHS Auditorium 10:00 AM
- MARCH 1st-4th- ORCHESTRA MPA; Titusville HS Exact Date & Time TBD
- Saturday, April 22nd- District MS Solo/Ensemble MPA; Melbourne HS Time TBD
- Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>- Statesmen & Mustang Orchestras' Spring Concert; MIHS Auditorium 6:30 PM

**NOTE-** This schedule is a general guideline for the school year. Rehearsal and performance dates may be added, but students and parents will always be given significant notification. An up-to-date calendar can always be found on our website [www.myislandorchestras.org](http://www.myislandorchestras.org).