

J.P. Taravella

High School

Good

Better

Best

2011-2012

Band & Orchestra

Handbook

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Dear J.P. Taravella High School Band & Orchestra Members and Parents,

Welcome to another year with the award-winning J.P. Taravella High School Band & Orchestra Family. The 2010-11 school year will give us the opportunity to continue the tradition of excellence that has become synonymous with the Taravella Band & Orchestra name, and will provide us with many opportunities for learning and growth, both musical and non-musical.

The fall season features the excellence of our one-of-a-kind Marching Band. The JPT Marching Band maintains a high degree of success, and has received many honors, including consecutive Superior Ratings at the FBA District Marching Assessment, dating back to the day the school opened in 1981, and marching in the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, DC. Performances will include all home and two away football games, the Flanagan HS Falcon Sound Marching Competition, the FMBC State Marching Band Competition, and the FBA District 15 Marching Band Assessment, where we will be striving for another Superior rating.

The Band & Orchestra Program will consist of four Concert Band ensembles, a String Orchestra, a Jazz Ensemble, Color Guard & Winter Guard, and Winter Percussion. In addition to these ensembles, members of the JPT Band & Orchestra Program distinguish themselves through individual participation in Region, All-County, All-State Honor Band and Orchestra, and several University sponsored honor bands, as well as all FBA & FOA Music Performance Assessments. The JPT Winter Guard program offers a showcase for the talents of the color guard members during the Winter and Spring months as well as the Winter Percussion. These groups will travel to and compete in many local, regional, and possible national events.

Hard-working students, dedicated directors, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the JPT Band & Orchestra Program to offer an unparalleled array of musical opportunities. Our students are expected to set and reach high goals for themselves and the program. Rewards of meeting those goals are immeasurable in the development of our students as well-rounded adults. Members of the JPT Band & Orchestra will grow musically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically during their time in this program.

This handbook is intended for use by students, parents, administrators, staff, and directors as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the JPT Band & Orchestra program. We have tried to cover every aspect of what we do and the expectations. Students and Parents **MUST** read this handbook carefully, then sign and return the agreement form found in the back of the handbook. Band & Orchestra members will be expected to understand and abide by all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. To have a great program, we must all maintain a strong **commitment to being Superior.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Cheldon Williams, Director

Ms. Julia Baumanis, Director

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Introduction

This Handbook serves as a guide for Parents and Students about the operation and procedures of the JPT Band & Orchestra Programs. As a member of this organization, you will be responsible for maintaining an outstanding reputation that has taken many years to develop and of which the members and the School Community are proud. This can only be accomplished through **self-discipline, responsibility, respect, spirit, pride**, and most of all **trust**. You are encouraged to take the extra time needed to practice and to use your time wisely so that Band & Orchestra will be **fun** for you and your fellow classmates. **SUPERIOR** is a key word in describing the JPT Band & Orchestra. If every member gives their highest degree of **help, cooperation, and respect**, and has a positive **attitude, SUPERIOR** will remain the key word. The JPT Band & Orchestra program is a very special group within the school community. It is one of the most active organizations in the school, and as such, requires special talent and character. Members of the Band & Orchestra must realize their commitment to the organization and be team players by attending all rehearsals and performances. You will be expected to adjust your schedule so that the **TEAM** can participate fully.

J.P. Taravella Band & Orchestra has had a short but illustrious existence. It has grown from a small group of dedicated students to a respected and internationally known program, providing music education to well over 200 students every year, including the school community at large. The JPT Band & Orchestra program has been recognized for its incredible musicianship with Superior ratings, 1st place trophies, special performances, letters of commendation, a **Grammy Signature School Award**, and the praise and thanks of an entire community.

The **Marching Trojans** have earned Superior ratings each year since the school opened in 1981, and have won numerous marching contests both in and out of Florida. The **Wind Orchestra** has earned Superior ratings at State Festival each year since 1993, and was selected to perform at the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival in 2004, the Florida Music Educators Conference in 2006, and the 2008 College Band Directors National Association and National Band Association Southern Conference in Columbus, Georgia. The **Wind Symphony** has consistently qualified for State Festival and earned Straight Superiors at State Festival in 2003 and 2005, a first in the history of Broward County. The **Jazz Ensemble** has consistently earned Superior ratings at State Festival, and the **Orchestra** has consistently earned Superior ratings at the District level. The **Winter Guard** has won numerous SFWGA competitions and placed at WGI Regionals, and was in the top 15 at WGI Nationals for many years. In 2005 & 2006, they returned to the WGI Nationals and earned a spot in the Semi-Finals in the Scholastic A division. In 2007, the Winter Guard was the WGI Gold medalist for the Scholastic A division. The JPT Band and Orchestra Program has traveled overseas for tours of the Europe, including Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and France in 1997, a French concert tour in 1998, an Italian-German concert tour in 2000, and the London New Year's Day Parade in 2005. In December of 2007, members traveled abroad to Rome, Italy, to participate in a first time celebration of American Bands in Rome. These opportunities have provided our students with a more balanced world view and an opportunity to experience other cultures and societies, as well as share music with new audiences.

The director is Mr. Cheldon Williams, who is entering his 8th year of teaching (6th at JPT). Mr. Williams was an intern from FSU at JPT in the Fall of 2004. Previous directors have included Neil Jenkins (1989-2010), Brian Wesolowski (2004-2006), Nikk Pilato (2000-2004), Mr. Mark Humphreys (1993-2000), Mr. Larry Shane (1991-1992), Mr. Dennis Dunayer (1990-1991), Mr. Kevin Phillips (1985-1990), Mr. Tom Chaffin (1984-1989) and Mr. Bill McGhee (1981-1984).

Program Offerings

The Band & Orchestra Department is one of the strongest and most active organizations on the campus of J.P. Taravella High School. It is widely acknowledged as one of the finest Band & Orchestra programs in Florida, with Band, Orchestra, and Jazz ensembles consistently earning Superior ratings at District and State Music Performance Assessments, and the Color Guard/Winter Guard earning national recognition. Individual honors are a yearly occurrence with members participating in All-State ensembles and State University-sponsored Honor Bands. The Music Department has grown to become a comprehensive and demanding curriculum that consistently brings quality music education into the lives of the school community through the following performance ensembles.

Competition Marching Band: Membership in this group is open to all students and is **mandatory** for all member of the Wind Orchestra. Marching Band is only active in the fall with weekly varsity football games and several local parades. Rehearsals are held usually twice weekly after school during the evening hours. The Competition Marching Band also performs at competitions and the required FBA Marching Band Music Performance Assessment. The JPT Marching Band has a long and successful history of awards, trophies, and championships and meets the requirement to qualify for the concert bands for the highest award possible at the State Band Assessment.

Wind Orchestra: Membership in this group is by audition or director recommendation, and participation in the marching band is a pre-requisite. Attitude, maturity, ability, and selflessness are key ingredients for participation in this ensemble. Private lessons are highly encouraged. Members of the JPT Wind Orchestra are required to participate in District and State (if qualified) Solo & Ensemble Assessment, and are highly encouraged to audition for All-State and All-County Honor Ensembles. This group consistently performs literature of the highest quality, which requires the utmost in concentration and musical dedication. It also performs at all FBA Assessment events and performs several required concerts and outside of school performances throughout the school year.

Wind Symphony: Membership in this group is by audition or director recommendation, and participation in the marching band is a pre-requisite. Attitude, maturity, ability, and selflessness are key ingredients for participation in this ensemble. Private lessons are highly encouraged. Members of the JPT Wind Symphony are required to participate in District and State (if qualified) Solo & Ensemble Assessment, and are highly encouraged to audition for All-State and All-County Honor Ensembles. The group consistently performs literature of the highest quality, which requires the utmost in concentration and musical dedication. It also performs at all FBA Assessment events and performs several required concerts throughout the school year.

Symphonic Band: Membership in this group is by audition or director recommendation, and participation in the marching band is optional for some. This group encourages and develops individual practice skills and large ensemble rehearsal techniques. The ensemble generally plays Grade 2-4 literature from the FBA List. The Symphonic Band performs at all FBA Assessment events and performs several required concerts throughout the school year.

Concert Band: Membership in this group is by audition or director recommendation, and participation in the marching band is optional for some. This group encourages and develops individual practice skills and large ensemble rehearsal techniques. The ensemble generally plays Grade 2-4 literature from the FBA List. The Symphonic Band performs at all FBA Assessment events and performs several required concerts throughout the school year.

String Orchestra: Membership in this group is open to all string players. This ensemble provides the opportunity to develop individual practice skills and large ensemble rehearsal techniques. It also provides an opportunity for students to learn a variety of quality and well knows orchestral literature. This ensemble performs at all FOA Assessments.

Jazz Ensemble: Membership in this group is by audition only. This unique performance opportunity explores the world of jazz, emphasizing solo playing and improvisation techniques. Outside practice is required to keep pace with the demanding and fast-paced literature. Required performances include FBA Assessment events and numerous playing opportunities throughout the county and state.

Color Guard/Winter Guard: Membership in this group is by audition. This ensemble is a visual and dance group that performs with the Marching Band as well as participating in the South Florida Winter Guard Association and Winter Guard International competitions from late Winter through early Spring and District/State FBA Solo & Ensemble Assessments. Members are instructed by professional staff in the skills of dance, flag, sabre, and rifle technique. The color guard class meets daily with twice weekly (and sometimes more) rehearsals in the evening hours during the Marching Band and Winter Guard seasons. A fee is required for participation with these groups.

Winter Percussion: Membership in this group is by audition. This ensemble competes at SFWGA competitions and WGI Regional and National Events. There is a fee for membership in this ensemble.

The Fair Share

The Broward County School System provides basic financial support for the music programs in the county, but the **majority** of the responsibility for meeting the needs of the program rest on the shoulders of its members and parents. The JPT Band & Orchestra program has always believed that all students should have the opportunity to participate...music is for everyone. At the same time, we have to balance the financial burden of running a program as successful and enriching as this. In order to balance these two conflicting ideals, we have set a Fair Share for the school year as follows. Each Band and Color Guard student will begin the year by contributing a **\$500 FAIR SHARE** to offset yearly operating expenses of the program. Each Orchestra student will contribute a **\$200 FAIR SHARE**. Those band students in Non-Competitive Band will contribute **\$275 FAIR SHARE**. Color Guard and Winter Percussion members will face an additional financial burden to help meet the increased expenses of that activity.

The Fair Share is only a **fraction** of the costs incurred by each individual member of the Band & Orchestra Program. The balance of finances are painstakingly raised by the Band & Orchestra Patrons and students. The Fair Share helps cover, but is not limited to, uniform & tux rentals, cleanings, the blue polo shirt, the marching band shirt, the orchestra shirt, transportation throughout the year, clinicians, miscellaneous equipment, music, assessment fees for District and State participation, District Solo & Ensemble entry fees, music commissions, and many other operating costs not covered by the school. The Fair Share covers the entire year, not just one semester. **No one** will be denied participation because of financial hardship, but everyone is asked to help. Some overnight trips, which may be optional and voluntary, are **not** included in the fair share donation. These trips are the financial responsibility of each student. Money can be earned through fundraising and placed into the individual student's account to be used for trips or Fair Share (see below)

We have a very active, supportive booster organization. We expect and need all parents to give at least 24 hours of service each semester; while many give much more. Please note, however, that volunteering does not relieve parents or students of the fair share responsibilities. Students and parents who have financial difficulties will need to speak to the directors or the Patron Treasurer; fund raisers and payment plans will be available to ensure that **ALL STUDENTS** who wish to participate in the JPT Band & Orchestra program will be given the opportunity to do so.

Estimated Expenses

Fair Share (Band- Competitive Marching).....	\$500.00
Fair Share (Band-Non-Competitive).....	\$275.00
Fair Share (Orchestra).....	\$200.00
Band Shoes (black).....	\$25.00-30.00 (may be purchased at All-County Music)
Extra Band T-Shirt.....	\$15.00 (if necessary)
Extra Blue Polo.....	\$23.00
Instrument Rental	\$20.00 (per year) or \$10 per semester (if necessary)
Black Band Gloves.....	\$5.00 if purchased through JPT, less if purchased at All-County Music.

Student Accounts

Accounts are provided to members of the Program in order to facilitate the payment of trip fees, honor ensemble fees, banquet tickets, and even the fair share. Certain fundraising activities such as car washes, cheesecake sales, the golf tournament, football program ads, and others distribute a percentage of the profits into student accounts. For example, if a student participates in a car wash, he or she will receive a percentage of the profits into his or her account. Students who do not participate in these fundraising events do not reap the benefits of the Student Account system. The Directors reserve the right to debit a student account for any monies owed by that student. All remaining money at the end of the school year will automatically roll over into the next school year. If the student drops out or graduates from the Program, the money **remains** in the Program, or he/she may request a transfer to another family member who may be continuing in the Program. Funds cannot be transferred to non-family members. Please remember that money collected in the name of the Program belongs to the Program if you don't use it.

The Importance of Discipline

Current and previous members have spent many hours building the quality and reputation of this Program to the point that it is a highly respected organization throughout Florida. Pride is built on **superior performance**, **self discipline**, genuine **respect** for other people, **hard work**, and **high standards** of personal conduct and performance. We have worked hard to earn our reputation. When you became a part of this organization, you did so knowing that it has a sound reputation of being a "class" operation. It now becomes your responsibility to not only maintain these standards, but to help **raise them** a notch higher. This Program has become what it is because the people in it don't settle for anything less.

This Program is more than a series of performances developed through an ongoing rehearsal schedule. It may appear we are simply completing one event and immediately starting to prepare for the next. Although we do maintain a busy schedule, there is higher learning taking place that will benefit our students: **DISCIPLINE**. Participation in the Program is so much more than performance preparation; it reinforces the importance of self-discipline as the fundamental of healthy self-esteem, group pride, personal satisfaction, and aesthetic joy. Being in Band or Orchestra teaches students how to master the circumstances of life by putting ambition and skill into action. Our members clearly experience the value of **DISCIPLINE** driven by inspiration, enticed by desire, tempered by reason, and guided by intelligence. Music is grooming them for a successful life.

The Importance of Attitude

Students who have a positive mental **ATTITUDE**, regardless of individual skills, will always have a place in the JPT High School Band & Orchestra. Regardless of your ability, your attitude must be positive and you must do your personal best to allow the group to succeed. Those who have pride in themselves will usually project a positive mental attitude. Characteristics of a positive mental attitude include a generally cheerful outlook towards rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful. The total member is someone who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization. Students with poor, self-defeating attitudes will not be tolerated in this program. Those who insist on projecting a **NEGATIVE ATTITUDE** will be asked to leave the Program, regardless of talent or ability.

The Importance of Respect

We emphasize the importance of respect. Students realize that respect makes the Program a better place. This includes **RESPECT** for each other, **RESPECT** for oneself, and **RESPECT** for the staff and the school in general. We also believe that the real source of power is **RESPECT**, not fear. If one's power is based on fear, then the power gradually destroys itself. We have tried to instill a sense of self-power in all our students. By this we mean that we know all students are capable of directing themselves to follow the rules. It is much better for them to develop insight, independence, initiative, and a sense of moral purpose than it is for us to hold our power over them.

The Importance of Loyalty

As a member of this Program, you will make lifelong friends. You will belong to a team that will sacrifice its individuality for a common purpose. All of the hard work you are going to put in this year will be complimented by the hard work of your fellow members. The feeling of "team," however, is only achieved through **LOYALTY**. **LOYALTY** to your friends, **LOYALTY** to yourself, and **LOYALTY** to the Program. It is that very **LOYALTY** that will lead to continued success and a Program you will be proud of long after you graduate. Getting along with each other in our complex society is an obligation and a responsibility. Antisocial behavior only breeds the same from others. Excessive talking, rumor-mongering, bad manners, rudeness, and apathy are all forms of antisocial behavior. Both in and out of uniform, treat others the way you would like to be treated. If you are **LOYAL** to your Program and your friends, they will be **LOYAL** to you in return, through both good and bad times.

Eligibility Policy

State Law and the Broward County School Board require that each student participating in a competition or Festival/Evaluation must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher the previous grading period or at the time of participation in order to participate in that Music Performance Assessment or Competition. SB 92 revises provisions relating to the grade point average required for 9th & 10th grade student participation in interscholastic extracurricular student activities and requiring a contract to be executed upon a student's falling below the required cumulative GPA.

Official Calendar

The official calendar will be maintained on the Band & Orchestra Website. Please check this site for additions and changes, and put all dates in your planner for easy referral. Grading is partially based on attendance at events listed in this official calendar, so be sure you check it often. If you don't have Internet Access, ask us for a printed copy.

Web Site

The official web site of the JPT Band & Orchestra is www.jptmusic.org. We have worked hard to make this a comprehensive site that includes the latest news, the Program's History, Accomplishments, an Alumni section, an Email Directory, a Calendar of upcoming events, Pictures, Audio, and more. Please visit the web site and register your email with us so we can get news out to you as soon as possible.

Placement & Challenges

Placement of students into one of the concert ensembles is at the "discretion" of the Directors, which is based on knowledge of the playing ability, instrumentation needs of the ensemble, and attitude of the student. Auditions are offered for the Wind Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and the Wind Symphony to be used as a guide for admission to that particular class, or placement in other classes. The goal is to develop well-balanced ensembles that will function independently at the highest level of excellence. Because many of the part assignments within each ensemble have been and continue to be at the discretion of the participants, challenges have not played an important role in the Taravella Band & Orchestra Program. Part assignments can and will be adjusted by the Director throughout the year to insure the best musical presentation possible.

Goals Of The Program

The goals of the JPT Band & Orchestra Program are based on the concept that music is an essential part of life, integral in the development of the whole person, and vital for the advancement of civilization. The quality of life is improved by physical, emotional, social, and cognitive growth experiences through meaningful, sequential study in music.

Guiding Principles that will help develop these Goals:

- Learning through music is a lifelong process; successful learners are lifelong learners.
- All students are entitled to music literacy, which enhances their ability to learn.
- Learning in music promotes the investigation of old and new ideas, critical thinking and aesthetic awareness.
- Music education reinforces all other curricula by connecting concepts and processes to everyday life.
- The study of music fosters acceptance and understanding of cultural diversity.
- Excellence in music grows from shared commitment by teachers, parents, and the community.

In agreement with Florida's State Standards, the JPT band & orchestra student will:

- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music (skills and techniques).
- Read and notate music (skills and techniques).
- Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments (creation and communication).
- Compose and arrange music within specific guidelines (creation and communication).
- Understand music in relation to history and culture (cultural and historical connections).
- Listen to, analyze and describe music (aesthetic and critical analysis).
- Evaluate music and music performance (aesthetic and critical analysis).
- Understand the relationship between music, the arts, and disciplines outside the arts (applications to life).

Attendance Policy

Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances is 100% **REQUIRED** and **NECESSARY** in order for the program to be successful. All scheduled rehearsals and those announced with at least **two weeks'** notice are mandatory and graded components of the requirements for class grades. Only by prearranged plans may a rehearsal or performance be missed (this includes all sectional, full ensemble, and special rehearsals - see Rehearsal & Performance section). Other absences will be reviewed and dealt with according to circumstances surrounding that absence. All rehearsals and performances held after normal school hours are considered an extension of the school day and are treated as part of the class requirements. After school rehearsals and performances for Band, Orchestra, and Color Guard are co-curricular as per the Broward County School Board and the DOE approved Florida School Music Association. They are **NOT** extra-curricular, and cannot be considered as such to avoid its responsibilities. Please note that it is impossible to really "make up" a performance or rehearsal if missed. Other members will carry an extra burden when people are absent. Make-up work is provided only to help "protect your grade", but no performance or rehearsal absence can truly be made up in terms of what it does to affect the **CHEMISTRY** of the **TEAM**. Just because you "Know Your Part" does not justify any reason to miss a rehearsal or performance.

Punctuality is also an important issue for the Taravella Band & Orchestra. While it may seem harmless to show up to events 2 or 3 minutes late, in the real world, people may be fired for being even one minute late. Work on punctuality now, and you will never have to worry about it in the future. We suggest always planning to arrive 5 minutes earlier than necessary to ensure that you will not be late. Remember our motto: **Early is On Time, On Time is Late, Late is Unthinkable!** If we are leaving the school for a performance and you are late by even one minute, you may affect everyone else on the **TEAM** in a negative way. **PUNCTUALITY** is a key word in this program. Always be early! Unexcused absences during marching season may result in loss of your marching spot (placed on alternate status). We also are not tolerant of the ever-popular "three-hour illness." We understand that rehearsals, no matter which group, are not always easy, and that there will be times when these rehearsals conflict with homework, preparation for a test, social and personal time. However, we do not call rehearsals "just to pass the time of day." Striving for perfection is the enduring legacy of the JPT Band & Orchestra Program. You must make every effort to be there with no excuses.

SPECIAL NOTE: If you are going to miss a rehearsal, marching or concert, band, color guard, or orchestra, excused or unexcused, or going to be late, you **MUST** call the Music Office (754-322-2359) and let us know. There is a practical reason for this: You are a part of our family, and we like to know that you are safe at all times. If you are not with us at rehearsal, we want to know where you are (and so do your parents). Especially in this day and age, it is important for us to know that you are safe and sound. Additionally, if you are going to be absent from a rehearsal or performance, we need a note from your parents with a clear outline of the reasons why you must miss that rehearsal/performance, as well as a phone number where they can be contacted. This note must be in our hands no later than one week prior to the absence, or the absence will automatically count as unexcused.

Please note that Doctor and/or Dentist appointments are **NOT EXCUSED**. We rehearse on a limited basis, and that rehearsal time is very valuable to us as a **TEAM**. Please demonstrate your loyalty and understanding of this policy to the program by arranging your appointments AROUND rehearsals. Everyone will appreciate it.

Unexcused Absences

- Doctor/Dentist Appointment
- Homework/Studying for a Test
- Driving Exam
- Couldn't get a ride (call us, we can always help you find a ride)
- Work (post your band schedule at work so that they do not schedule you. Employers are not allowed to interfere with school).
- Club Meetings
- Detentions

Excused Absences

- Sick from school (not just staying home due to test or missed assignments – **still need to call – we don't know why you are absent from school**)
- Death in the family
- Serious Injury
- Wedding/Family Event
- Religious Holiday.
- Receiving a Nobel Prize for Music
- Receiving an Oscar for Best Soundtrack
- Other emergencies on a case-by-case basis.
- Tardiness will result in grade penalty.

Classroom Procedures

Some very specific behavior is expected of all students of the JPT Band, Color Guard, & Orchestra Program. Failure to follow these procedures will result in disciplinary actions, including **detentions**, **referrals**, or even **expulsion** from the Program. We do not tolerate disrespect. Follow the rules, and your time here will be enjoyable.

- Students will be inside the Rehearsal Room **before** the tardy bell sounds (band, orchestra, color guard). At two minutes after the bell, students are expected to be in their seat with instrument, music, and necessary materials. There will always be **silence** in the Rehearsal Room when someone steps onto the podium. Failure to be in your seat could result in detentions for tardiness.
- When entering the Rehearsal Room, dispose of all food and beverages. Cases should be left in the instrument storage room in their assigned area or in your locker, **not** around the Rehearsal Room, as they are unnecessary obstructions in the rehearsal area. Backpacks must be put in the vault or by the door. At the end of rehearsals make sure you put all of your equipment away. Instruments should be put back into your locker in the instrument storage room until it is time to take them home for practice. Locks that are found unlocked will be **confiscated**...your locker is to remain locked at all times. Locks may be re-rented for a \$1 fee after confiscation. Lost locks will be charged a \$5 "lost lock" fee. Books left overnight in the Rehearsal Room will be confiscated and sent back to the book room.
- Warm-up is a crucial time in each rehearsal. This is when we focus on the fundamentals so that we may improve both as a group and as individuals. **Do not** make obnoxious sounds or try to play the highest notes possible. Use this time to set your mind up for the musical experience to follow. Warm up musically and you will be musical. Warm up in the incorrect manner, and you will make noise instead of music.
- Brass players should have all necessary mutes and valve oil ready. Reed players should have **at least** one spare reed at their seat during rehearsal. Ideally, you should have four to five "good" reeds that you rotate from day to day. Your reeds will last longer and you will get better play from them if you do not use the same reed all the time.
- String players should have extra strings, rosin, pencils, and any other string-specific materials needed, including rock stops and mutes. Rosin, rock stops, and mutes are the responsibility of each string player. The school will provide some rosin and extra strings in emergency cases.
- Percussionists must each have their own stick bag with a pair of concert snare drum sticks, mallets, and timpani sticks during band class. Make sure you have all of the required equipment needed to perform on your assigned instrument. Percussion equipment is to be put away at the conclusion of rehearsal unless another band class is to follow that uses the same equipment. All mallets should be put away at all times to avoid equipment problems. Percussionists are not allowed to "hang out" inside the vault during rehearsal, nor to sleep or sit down. This is what being a percussionist is all about: focused intensity at all times.
- Talking during rehearsals should be kept to a minimum. Any necessary talking should be about the music we are studying and should never be a distraction to the conductor or other students. When the conductor is on the podium there is **no talking**, when the conductor steps off the podium you may talk quietly **if** at all necessary. When an adult walks into the room, you will cease all talking.
- Always pick up any trash left by other inconsiderate people. The Rehearsal Room is our home away from home...let's all keep it clean. If you see garbage, pick it up and throw it away. Keep the vault clean and free of debris, lest it become a haven for pests. Do we need to remind you that your instruments are stored in there? Are you sure you want rodents or insects hanging around the vault? **KEEP IT CLEAR OF DEBRIS!!!**
- School-owned instruments and equipment become the responsibility of the student to whom they are assigned. Any damage other than normal wear will need to be repaired at the student's expense. Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it in for repairs. Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument. Members are responsible for all equipment, including music, which is issued to them. Replacement fees will be charged for lost music, folders, or other equipment.

Rehearsal Procedures

We all look forward to the performance, but the SUPERIOR RATING or 1st PLACE is achieved **during** the rehearsal. Rehearsals are mandatory for producing any fine organization; they are not called “for the fun of it,” but rather to perfect aspects of our Program, be they marching or concert, Band, Orchestra or Color Guard. All members will follow these basic procedures during all types of rehearsals:

- **EARLY IS ON TIME, ON TIME IS LATE, LATE IS UNTHINKABLE!** You are expected to be on time to each rehearsal. Tardiness will result in you not receiving full credit for that rehearsal, even if you are only a few minutes tardy. Excused tardies are certainly allowed, provided you have called ahead and are not excessively tardy.
- Students may become an alternate in Marching Band, may not be allowed to perform, or in extreme cases may be removed from the Program if their participation, attitude, attendance, or behavior is not in the best interest of the Program. If you are an alternate, you are still expected to attend all rehearsals and performances of the Marching Band (Excessive tardiness for marching band may result in the loss of your spot).
- You must wear appropriate apparel for marching band rehearsals. Jeans are discouraged and flip-flops are **NOT ALLOWED**. We suggest dark colored shorts, a light-colored t-shirt, and sturdy sneakers that support your ankles.
- No unauthorized playing of instruments outside the Rehearsal Room or going to and from the Practice Field. There are other classes and clubs at JPT, and we must be considerate of others. Limit all playing to the Rehearsal Room or the Practice Field.
- Everyone who is participating in the Marching Band is expected to have a “dot book.” This is a small notebook in which you will store all information regarding your marching positions. This dot book must be kept up to date, and brought to **EVERY** rehearsal. The dot book is an invaluable tool in helping clean our marching drill, especially since we do not rehearse as much as other programs.
- Your instrument, equipment, and other necessary equipment (such as pencils, drill charts, dot books, etc) are required at all rehearsals unless otherwise instructed.
- A request to be excused from any Rehearsal must be made **at least one week in advance**, in writing (email acceptable) **or by phone**, from the parent. Special cases will be considered in emergencies. Work, non-emergency medical appointments, other clubs and activities, and too much homework are **NOT** valid excuses for missing this required grading component of the class (please see the **Grading Procedures** section). Help keep rehearsals to a minimum by following the calendar and avoiding conflicts. One person missing hurts the entire organization and the performance level of the ensemble. Plan ahead and post your schedule at work. We suggest that you enter all rehearsal and performance dates in your school planner and check it often so as not to have any conflicts.
- Gum, food or drinks are **never** allowed in the Rehearsal Room or on the practice field during rehearsals. The only exception is water, provided it does not disrupt rehearsal. It is your responsibility to make sure that others follow this rule as well. Keep the Rehearsal Room clean and free of pests!
- If you are going to miss a rehearsal or performance, for **ANY** reason, you must call the Directors’ Office (754-322-2359) and let us know. This applies **even** if the absence is unexcused. We want to know you are safe. If you were absent from school, we still expect a phone call if a rehearsal or performance will be missed.
- All Broward County and J.P. Taravella High School policies and rules are in effect during each and every rehearsal of the J.P. Taravella Band & Orchestra. Failure to follow the rules could result in school disciplinary action, including detentions, referrals, suspension, and even expulsion.

A Note about JPT's Marching Band Rehearsal Schedule

By far, the most difficult time of the year for many of our students is marching season, which usually runs from the beginning of school until the first of November. In other words, marching season runs a little more than the first quarter of school (10-11 weeks total). However, because of its very nature, it seems to polarize many of our students: Some love it, some hate it, and the majority fit somewhere in the middle. Although marching rehearsals can be hard work, we also try to make them positive experiences and fast-paced so as to accomplish as much as possible in the shortest amount of time. J.P. Taravella's "limited rehearsal" policy was born out of a desire to balance the social and academic lives of our students against the necessity for learning and cleaning a challenging marching show. **THESE REHEARSALS CANNOT BE MISSED!**

While J.P. Taravella's Marching Band rehearses an average of 90-100 hours over the course of one marching season, most programs in the county rehearse much more. In the past, a school in Broward County that JPT is competitive with rehearsed a total of 195 hours, including a total of 88 hours before the first day of school! Another school rehearsed a total of 167 hours, 101 of those hours coming before the first day of school. The Bands of America Grand Champion in 2002, Lassiter High School from Georgia, rehearsed a total of 250 hours over the course of the school year! When compared to these schools, it is obvious that we do not place unreasonable demands on our members. We have won 5 Vero Beach Grand Championships, 3 Cape Coral Pride of Florida Grand Championships, and have received Straight Superiors every year at the FBA Marching Band Assessment.

A Note about the P.E. Exemption Credit

The P.E. exemption credit passed by the Florida legislature in 2002 provided a half-credit of the required P.E. component for those Band members who participate in the JPT Marching Band (class of 02 – 09). Because of the change to HOPE, the PE/Marching Band exemption does not apply anymore.

A Little Story

Some students invariably ask "What is the big deal if I miss rehearsal. I am just one person...they can do without me." "I've never missed a rehearsal before." Or "I know my part." To students (and parents) that would ask such questions, we present the following story:

On Being a "Kxy Pxrson"

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcxpt for onx kxy. Thxrx arx forty-six kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx. Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that an xnsxmble is somxwhat likx my typxwritxr: Not all thx kxys arx working propxrlly. You may say, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson; it won't makx much of a diffxrxncx." But you sxx, thx xnsxmble, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of vxvry pxrson.

So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xffort is not nxxdx, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and rxalizx this: You arx a kxy pxrson, and you arx nxxdx vxry much.

Marching Band Performance Procedures

(Some of these also apply to other non marching band performance situations)

Performances are the culmination of many long hours of rehearsal. They are the reward, the release, the moment it all comes together; The TEST or EXAM. Performance opportunities at JPT are wide and varied, and include football games, marching contests, marching assessments, parades, concerts, festivals, solo & ensemble performances, pep rallies, and many more. Some very specific behavior is expected out of you at performances. All members will follow these basic procedures during both marching and/or concert performances:

- Football Games are **PERFORMANCES!** You must act appropriately at all times. Although football games are not your typical music performance, a lot is expected of the JPT Band because of previous high standards. You will not degrade the hard work of countless members that came before you by acting in an immature manner. When in the stands, you must act as you would in the classroom...or better!
- All members are **REQUIRED** to travel together to and from all Performances. If your parent wishes to take you home after a performance we have traveled to by bus, they will need to furnish the directors with a signed note to that effect, and they must find one of the directors before they leave to verify the pickup.
- Smoking or the use of tobacco products while in uniform or as a representative of the Program is not allowed.
- Automatic Suspension from school & removal from the Program will result from the use of Alcohol or Drugs.
- All School and County Student Conduct Policies will be in effect during all functions.
- Public display of affection while with the Program should be discrete and reserved.
- When traveling with or representing the JPT Band & Orchestra, remain at all times a proud, mature example of advanced musicianship. Careless actions can ruin travel opportunities for years to come.
- Band shirts are required under Band uniforms for every performance.
- Assigned buses will be boarded orderly when instructed to do so.
- Before unloading from buses, you must be in full uniform.
- After unloading, line up in block formation quietly, without playing of instruments or talking.
- While entering the stadium, the Band will remain in line, quiet, marching to cadence or tap. Move to assigned seats, remain standing facing forward in files, at attention, until instructed to sit.
- Remain in your assigned sections unless given permission to move about.
- Do not play unless directed to do so. Have a good time, but please follow the rules. This is not personal practice time.
- Guest and relatives of Band members are not allowed in the Band Area unless they are chaperones.
- Stay in **FULL UNIFORM** at all times unless otherwise directed by Chaperones or Director. Cross-straps and buckles are to remain on and in place. Hats are to be removed while in the stands. Caps will be worn.
- Water will be provided before half time and during the 3rd quarter.
- You may not accept food or drink from outsiders (including parents) for any reason (except medical).
- All Band members must be accompanied when leaving the Band area for any reason (Required).
- Music folios and music lyres are required at all games. Music checks will be made.
- Be prepared to play at any time during the game. We are there to help support the team and the best way to accomplish that is to play appropriate music.
- After the game is completed and Alma Mater played, line up as directed to return to the bus area.
- When returning to school on buses, uniforms must remain on until dismissal at school.
- When re-entering the Rehearsal Room after a football game, there is to be **complete silence** and focus.
- Leave the Rehearsal Room neat and free from hangers and trash before leaving for the night.
- Uniforms/hats are to be hung and placed in the proper storage areas before leaving.
- Always remember to take items home (shoes, socks, caps).
- Do not leave band shoes in the Rehearsal Room. They will become the property of the Band Department.
- Normal conversations in low voices are permitted on the buses. No singing, loud talking and screaming. All Broward County Bus rules will be enforced by the driver and Chaperones.
- Chaperones are agents of the school and are due all consideration and respect from each member. Anyone being disrespectful to chaperones in any manner will be referred to the appropriate Administrator.

Band Leadership

The JPT Band Program has maintained a long tradition of responsible and mature student leadership that lend assistance to the Directors and help the band members achieve high degrees of success. To be a student leader is one of the greatest honors achievable in the band program. In order to be considered for a band staff position, the student must meet the following conditions:

- Maintain a B average or higher in Band.
- Must be enrolled in the JPT Band program for at least one year.
- Must have no unexcused absences from Band activities.
- Must maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher.
- Must demonstrate dedication to the Band program and its goals.
- Must have the recommendation of the Band Director.
- Must meet specific requirements for band staff positions.
- Must have good school attendance.
- Must fill out appropriate forms and be interviewed for positions.
- Must participate in all special band functions (pep bands, etc.)

Band Leadership and Basic Areas of Responsibility

Drum Major(s)- To be eligible for Drum Major, the applicant must be an incoming Junior or Senior, a member of the Marching Band each year that they have been enrolled at JPT, and be in good standing with the Director(s). If you can not accept the reality that you may not be chosen, then you should not try out for this position. Your intentions must be for the good of the band, not for yourself.

Band Captain- Oversees all officers and reports directly to the Band Directors. While on the field, the Band Captain works with the Drum Major(s) by being an **exemplary** marcher and musician. After marching season, the Band Captain assists the Band Directors with planning, recruiting, and the general well-being of the program.

Band Secretary- Responsible for a variety of tasks involving the use of the band's computers, typing documents, maintaining the band/orchestra data base, and running important errands. As this position will have access to sensitive documents, the applicant must be of the highest caliber, must demonstrate appropriate computer skills, should have transportation, and must above all else be a trustworthy individual.

Section Leader(s)- Responsible musically and otherwise for his or her section.

Librarian (1-4) - Responsible for the issue and maintenance of music and the music library.

Attendance Officer- Keeps attendance records for all rehearsals and performances for the entire year

Property Manager (1-3) - Helps maintain the band instrument inventory, issues equipment sees that equipment is loaded for all performances for the entire year.

Historian (1-2) - Keeps written records of band activities for the entire year, takes pictures and/or videos of special events, and is in charge of the Band Yearbook.

Band Council- The Band Council is made up of the section leaders, the band captain, the drum majors, and the secretary. Together with the Directors, the Council will help decide the operation of the program, and help in implementing any new ideas.

Orchestra Leadership

The JPT Orchestra Program has maintained a long tradition of responsible and mature student leadership that lend assistance to the Directors and help the members achieve high degrees of success. To be a student leader is one of the greatest honors achievable in the Program. In order to be considered for a staff position, the student must meet the following conditions:

- Maintain a B average or higher in Orchestra.
- Must be enrolled in the JPT Orchestra program for at least one year.
- Must have no unexcused absences from Orchestra activities.
- Must maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher.
- Must demonstrate dedication to the Orchestra Program and its goals.
- Must have the recommendation of the Director.
- Must meet specific requirements for staff positions.
- Must have good school attendance.
- Must fill out appropriate forms and be interviewed for positions.
- Must participate in all special orchestra functions.

Orchestra Leadership

President- Helps coordinate fund-raising, special events, and is the Director's right hand in most matters. Will be expected to run meetings of the Orchestra Council. Individual should be of above average intelligence, and must think quickly under pressure. Candidate must have a good GPA and must be in good standing with the JPT Orchestra, with no unexcused absences or tardies to any rehearsals or performances.

Vice-President- Many of the same qualities as above are desired. The Vice-President must be ready to serve as President at any time. If the President must be dismissed for any reason, it is the job of the Vice-President to take on the duties of the President as well as his or her own. The Vice-President works closely with the President and the Activity Coordinators to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Secretary- Responsible for a variety of tasks involving the use of the computers, typing documents, and running important errands. From time to time may be asked to collect monies and act as a treasurer. Must keep the minutes of all meetings. As this position will have access to sensitive documents, the applicant must be of the highest caliber, must demonstrate appropriate computer skills, should have transportation, and must above all else be a trustworthy individual.

Representatives –One representative is chosen from each class (freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior) to bring to the Orchestra Council the point of view of their class. For this reason, Class Representatives must meet from time to time with their class and discuss the workings of the Orchestra, as well as bring ideas and proposals from each class.

Activity Coordinators (1-2) Responsible for activities such as entertainment, mentoring, and fund-raising; including but not limited to, picnics, car washes, play-a-thons, coordination of rides to and from mentoring sites (Sawgrass, Ramblewood, etc), the Orchestra Banquet, t-shirt designs, and other activities designed to strengthen the unity of the Orchestra, as well as its financial and recruiting base.

Principals- Principals are in charge of each section of the Orchestra (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass). Each principal is responsible for holding sectionals, keeping attendance of his or her section, bowings, and all other music problems. The Principal is an auditioned position within each ensemble.

Librarians (1-2) - Responsible for assisting the Director in the selection and distribution of music and the music folders, the maintenance of the Orchestra Library, and in the duplication of needed music for distribution. Must be available after school at least once per week.

Historian (1-2) - Keeps written records of Orchestra activities for the entire year, takes pictures and/or videos of special events, and is in charge of the Orchestra Yearbook and slide show at the banquet, if possible.

Property Managers (1) - Help maintain the instrument, locker, and accessories inventory; assists the Director in issuing equipment, and helps to collect all equipment at the end of the year.

Band & Orchestra Parents Organization

Take a look at any successful high school Band or Orchestra program and you'll find that there's a vibrant parents' organization supporting it. The JPT Band & Orchestra Program is no exception. Our excellent students are complimented by very hard-working parents. If you're the parent of a new member, please join us!!

The Purpose of the J.P. Taravella High School Band & Orchestra Patrons is to support, both physically and financially, the J.P. Taravella High School Band & Orchestra. To this end, the Patrons spend countless hours coordinating, volunteering, and encouraging both the students and the directors. The Patrons see how their impact not only makes a difference in their child's experiences, but soon find that they are a necessary part to how this program is able to function. Simply put, this program could not function without the love and dedication of the Band & Orchestra Patrons. The JPT Band & Orchestra Patrons organization is one of the most active organizations at J.P. Taravella High School. Every year, the parents work hard and sacrifice countless hours by volunteering, chaperoning at football games and other events, and by holding fundraising events. Please help provide a better experience for your children by getting actively involved. Many of these parents also hold full time jobs. Parents are an important part of the J.P. Taravella High School Band & Orchestra program, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of Parents, there would be no chance to reach the level of success that we aspire to. Parents have helped out in the past by building props, helping bring equipment to games, serving on committees, driving equipment trucks, building podiums and scaffolding, and even building shelves for the Program's many trophies. There are many things you can do:

- Attend monthly Booster meetings held in the Rehearsal Hall. These meetings will discuss what can be done to assist the members in their journey through our program, fund-raising opportunities, and the general day-to-day operation of the Band & Orchestra Patrons.

- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, everyone can find a niche that suits their expertise; chaperones, uniforms, transportation, equipment, sewing, meals, and publicity are a few of the many possibilities.

- Be supportive of the Program and your child's participation by:
 - a. Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 - b. Notifying Directors if your child is to be absent or late for performance or rehearsal.
 - c. Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 - d. Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by attending performances.
 - e. Discussing with Directors anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
 - f. Arranging for private lessons for your child, if at all possible.

Private Lessons

Private Lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instrument privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement toward practicing increases, they continue to improve and become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the Program. The Directors will assist you if you need help finding a private instructor. You can also find names of instructors on our web site. Private lessons are the key to excellence on your instrument, start as soon as possible!

Directors' Office

The Directors' Office at J.P. Taravella High School is the business office of the JPT Directors and Patrons. Students are not to be in the office without permission of the directors. All rehearsal times are published well in advance, parents should not need a phone call to verify that we have dismissed on time. If there are any questions regarding the Program, please don't hesitate to call our office (754) 322-2359 and leave a message on voice mail for either Director. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Suggested Four-Year Plan

The following outline is suggested for freshmen entering J.P. Taravella High School and wishing to take more than one music course (such as Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Music Theory, a second Band or Orchestra course in addition to the main Band or Orchestra course, etc). This outline can also be used by sophomores, juniors, and seniors when planning their schedule.

Freshman Year

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. English (required) | 5. Foreign Language (or Reading...see Notes below) |
| 2. Mathematics (required) | 6. Main Band/Orchestra class |
| 3. Science (required) | 7. HOPE (PE) |
| 4. Social Studies (required) | |

Sophomore Year

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. English (required) | 5. Foreign Language (or Reading...see Notes below) |
| 2. Mathematics (required) | 6. Main Band/Orchestra class |
| 3. Science (required) | 7. Jazz Ensemble/etc. or HOPE (PE) |
| 4. Social Studies (required) | |

Junior Year

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. English (required) | 5. Free Elective (or Foreign Language...see Notes below) |
| 2. Mathematics (required) | 6. Main Band/Orchestra class |
| 3. Science (required) | 7. Jazz Ensemble/etc. |
| 4. Social Studies (required) | |

Senior Year

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. English (required) | 5. Free Elective (or Foreign Language...see Notes below) |
| 2. Mathematics | 6. Main Band/Orchestra class |
| 3. Science | 7. Jazz Ensemble/etc. |
| 4. Social Studies | |

Important Notes

- Most state colleges require two years of a foreign language for admission. Some of the upper-level out-of-state universities (such as the Ivy League schools) require 3 years of foreign language. If you have already taken at least one year of a foreign language in middle school, there is more room for electives. If you took 2 years of foreign language in middle school and plan on attending a state university, you are not required to take foreign language in high school, and will have even more flexibility with electives, and it is recommended that you take Computers/Health as your other elective)
- If you need to take a Reading class due to a low score on the FCAT, you will need to wait until this requirement is fulfilled to take Foreign Language. This may seriously impair your ability to take a second music elective.
- You must take HOPE (or Personal Fitness) at some point during your high school career. This can be taken your junior or senior year in the plan outlines above. You must also take a P.E. course, but if you are a member of the Marching Band, you may be exempt from that course if you qualify (see Page 12).
- While most upper-level out-of-state universities would prefer that you take 4 years each of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, the only that you are required to take all four years for graduation is English. Math, science, and social studies need only three years to fulfill Florida's graduation requirements. However, be aware that only taking 3 years of these courses, while adding more elective space, may prevent you from qualifying for certain academic programs and scholarships.

Awards & Honors

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held in late Spring. Awards and recognitions will be made for the many outstanding achievements within the Band & Orchestra program. Awards provide a basis for maintaining the quality and high standards of our program. Most awards will be presented based on participation in **ALL** aspects of the Program, including attendance.

Some of the awards offered:

Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior Performer of the Year (Band)

Outstanding Jazz Band members Esprit de Corp (Color Guard)

Outstanding Orchestra members Outstanding Color Guard Member

Freshman Award: music lyre; stripe for marching Performer of the Year (Orchestra)

Sophomore Award: graduation numerals; stripe for marching Most Improved

Junior Award: JPT script; stripe for marching

Senior Award: Picture-Band Plaque; stripe for marching

Honor Bands, Festivals, and other Activities

All-State Band & Orchestra- Auditions held in September. All-State groups perform in early January. Student cost involved. Students who make All-State are the hardest working and most dedicated students in a program. Through much practice, they earn the right to be considered among the best high school players in the State of Florida.

Festival of Winds, Tri-State, South Florida Honors Band- Students apply through the Director, each band is filled by recommendation. Festival of Winds (Tampa, sponsored by USF) and the South Florida Honors Band (Coral Gables, sponsored by UM) usually allows all classes, while Tri-State (encompassing students from the states of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida and sponsored by FSU in Tallahassee) allows only Juniors and Seniors. Student cost involved.

FBA Marching Band Performance Assessment - Held in early November . This is the biggest event during marching season. Taravella has earned 24 Straight Superior ratings, dating back to the first year of the school.

All County Honors Ensembles- Students participate in Area Band by recommendation and All-County by audition. All-County groups include Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra. These honor groups are generally held in November & January. Orchestra is held in November.

District Solo & Ensemble Performance Assessment - All members are eligible, held in mid February. Student cost involved. Students must secure an accompanist, for more information, see the Directors.

District Concert Music Performance Assessment - Evaluation of bands & orchestras by judges in concert performance and sight-reading, typically held in mid-March. All Taravella Concert Ensembles will attend this Evaluation.

District Jazz Band Music Performance Assessment - Evaluation of jazz bands by judges in concert performance, typically held in mid February. Both Jazz Ensembles attend this Evaluation.

State Solo & Ensemble Performance Assessment - Must earn a Superior rating at the District level performing a Grade 5 or higher. Usually held in April. Student cost involved (accompanist, entry fee and travel)

State Jazz Band Music Performance Assessment – Jazz Ensemble must earn a Superior rating at the District level. Held in April.

State Band/Orchestra Music Performance Assessment –Must earn a Superior rating at the District level. Held in April or early May.

Trips

Each year, the Band & Orchestra may make an overnight trip, provided student participation is adequate for a successful performance. Trips are announced several months in advance, and monies paid toward a trip will be non-refundable after an announced date. Monies may come from the individual student's account, and may be raised through several fundraisers the Program provides.

The Music Program has, in the past, alternated trips of a domestic variety (within the continental United States) with international and/or overseas trips. Past trip locations include France, Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, London, Rome, Philadelphia, Washington D.C, Virginia, and Tennessee. The Band & Orchestra have also taken one-night trips to local venues, such as State Festival, Conventions, or even football games such as away games to Key West. When on trips, all School and Program rules apply. Members who disobey the rules and whose general conduct and attitude towards the trip and its participants is determined to be detrimental to the rest of the group will be sent home at their parents' expense, and face severe disciplinary actions upon their return to school. Remember, young adults do not roughhouse or damage property. As JPT Band & Orchestra members you reflect not only the values you learn at JPT, but those of your community as well. Members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment-ready to go!

Our Continuing Challenge

In the 2010-2011 school year the Patrons have again assumed a great responsibility in trying to minimize the individual cost of being in the band, color guard or orchestra program. They are asking individuals to each contribute less than one quarter of their actual cost to the program; the Patrons will then fund-raise the remainder to subsidize all of the students. This is a very generous offer by these very hard-working volunteers. Currently schools and music programs are receiving less monetary support than ever before. The Patrons currently fund approximately 95% of our yearly budget! The relatively small expenses JPT members incur are none-the-less important to maintaining a program of this quality. The Patron organizers who collect and process these accounts are all volunteering their time; their effort should not be further complicated by the assumption that fees can be paid late or that one student's fees are not important in such a large budget. On the contrary, the JPT Patrons frequently operate in the RED, waiting for the collection of negligent fees. Please respect the efforts of these devoted and selfless parents, especially if they have to send second notices for fees due. We heartily welcome your own voluntary efforts to further streamline this process and help acquire the funds necessary to properly educate your children.

No child will ever be denied a chance to participate in the Program due to lack of funds. We, as educators, must weigh in the balance the necessity of collecting monies in order to keep this successful program going against allowing all students to participate. WE WILL ALWAYS WORK WITH YOU if financial concerns arise. This may include staggered payments, fund-raising opportunities, and other options to help ensure that all students are given a chance to participate. However, we cannot do anything for your child unless we are made aware that a concern exists. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time, we are always willing to talk with parents of our wonderful students.

Grading Policy

Each grading quarter, your total contribution will be documented by a point system that will help determine your grade. Bonus points can be earned to offset **minor** deficiencies. The following activities are fundamental to your grade:

- Performances/Tests (40% of total grade)
- Rehearsals/Quizzes (30% of total grade)
- Class Rehearsals (15% of total grade)
- Smart Music (10% of total grade)
- Forms/Other (5% of total grade)

*Excused absences from school may result in 0 points for class participation for that day. In order not to create a deficit, make-up work is recommended if bonus points have not been earned.

Please understand that the Music Department strongly believes in **ACCOUNTABILITY** and we hold ourselves to the same high standard that our school's academic classes are held to. If you are absent from a performance or a rehearsal, provided the absence is excused, you may receive 0 to the maximum points allowed (depending on the reason) and you **MAY** be required to provide make up work for time missed. If Johnny Trumpet was sick and absent from school the day of the big English test, the English teacher would not give him a 100% upon his return and Johnny would have to make up the test. The same applies. If your absence is excused, then you will have two weeks to make it up. If it is unexcused, it may not be made up. Band/Orchestra is not "an easy A class," and you will not allow it to be treated as such. You are here to work hard and you will have fun and many rewards, but treating music and fine arts as if they are not important is the reason so many arts programs are in jeopardy. Activities suggested for make-up work include:

- Perform all 12 major & minor scales (ALL 36 variations for a missed performance).
- Perform your marching show music (all of it) for the Directors. (for missed rehearsals only)
- Perform **ALL** of the marching stands music for the Directors. (for missed performances only)
- Perform your ensemble's concert music for the Directors. (for missed rehearsals only)
- Perform a mentorship at Ramblewood, Sawgrass Springs or Mellinium MS (3 hours = 1 rehearsal, 6 hours = 1 performance, must have consent of the Middle School director, and they must also verify your presence.
- Practice Room (3 hours in practice room = 1 rehearsal, 6 hours = 1 performance). We do not expect you to do consecutive hours; hours may be cumulative, of course! **Hours must be documented by the directors.**
- Miscellaneous musical projects: **Director Approval is needed beforehand.**
- Write a 750-word (**1500 for a missed performance**) essay on one of the following subjects. If you use outside sources (like the Internet, books, magazines, etc.) you must cite the source. If you plagiarize, you will receive a zero and you will also receive a detention or a referral. We **WILL KNOW** if you plagiarize. Trust me. Don't make us give you a referral for plagiarism; it is the lowest form of academic thievery. If you copy-and-paste something from a website, you will be busted. Reports must be double-spaced and must be written in grammatically correct format with no grammatical errors. Choose from the following:

1. "How does music affect motor skills and intelligence in early childhood/adulthood?"
2. "Marching Bands in America: How did they start, and what is their history?"
3. "Is Classical music really "Classical?" Differences between Classical Music and Romantic/Baroque/etc.
4. "Drum and Bugle Corps vs. Marching Bands: What are the differences?"
5. "The Development and History of the Modern Symphony Orchestra"
6. A detailed report on **your** instrument, including when it was invented, history, etc.
7. A detailed report on the wind ensemble movement in America.
8. Music of other cultures (Middle East, Africa, Asia, South America, etc.)
9. A history of jazz in America.
10. Topic of your own choosing (must be cleared by Director first).

Participation Contract

This contract must be signed by both parent and student. By signing this form, you state that you have read and understood the policies outlined in this Handbook, and will abide by them. Please read each section carefully so that you fully understand what is expected of you by the Directors of the JPT Band, Color Guard & Orchestra Program.

Parent

Print Name _____ Signature _____

Email Address (please **PRINT** clearly): _____

Student

Print Name _____ Signature _____

Email Address (please **PRINT** clearly): _____

Date _____

Return this form signed by September 24. In addition, please take the time to download and fill out the Parent Volunteer page from the Web site and send it in with this page via your child.

Musically Yours,

Cheldon Williams