

# **Fairfield Freshman Fairfield High School**



## **Orchestra Handbook 23-24**

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome!! One of my favorite things about teaching is the yearly sense of renewal. The clear opportunity to improve and meet new challenges never dulls for me and it is a wonderful source of new energy. As director of the Fairfield High School Orchestras, I find great excitement surrounding us! I hope you will find the following to be encouraging and uplifting. IMAGINE!

All great artists first imagine their work in their minds. They then direct their skill, talent and passion to give life to that imagination. We have the same process at work as musicians. My greatest hope is to encourage and/or challenge you to achieve your best. With this thought in mind I encourage you to set both personal and community goals this year. Imagine yourself conquering that tough etude or taking an audition you never thought you could. Also, see yourself impacting your community. Consider performing music at a nursing home, volunteering for the Red Cross. Sound big to you? Not if you “IMAGINE.”

The talent that each of you possess is truly amazing and collectively our potential is unlimited. The high musical standard each of you holds yourselves to is special and I hope that I am an encouragement each time we meet. It is my great honor to make music with you. “IMAGINE” what we can achieve together!!

See you in rehearsal,

Mr. Ledbetter



“One supreme fact which I have discovered is that  
***IMAGINATION CREATES REALITY***”

~ Wagner

## Member Requirements

The conductor's goal is to make each rehearsal a meaningful experience for all involved. While performances often provide the most memorable highlights of the year, our rehearsals reveal most about the character of our ensembles – our musical maturity, dedication and our respect for one another while working together intensively.

Extraordinary responsibility is placed on each musician for preparation of individual parts. Musicians are expected to diligently prepare for rehearsal and to arrive ready to contribute their best talent to the ensemble.

It is very important that both members and parents be familiar with and understands the following policies. Failure to observe these policies may result in seat reassignment, denial of concert participation or dismissal from the orchestra.

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1. **Rehearsal Etiquette:** The most important thing you will do in rehearsal is play your instrument. Second to that, your job is to listen. When you are not playing, you should listen to the comments the conductor is making to you (and marking your music accordingly). If you make requested changes to your part without the conductor asking, much rehearsal time can be saved.
  2. **Practice vs. Rehearsal:** Practice is the time spent at home by each individual player, perfecting notes, pitch, rhythms, dynamics, and phrasing. Rehearsal is a time when all the musicians play together to improve balance, precision, intonation, style, and interpretation. If you have not practiced, rehearsal time must be spent teaching what should have been accomplished at home. This can be very frustrating to those who have practiced.
  3. **Private Study:** All members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instruments. Your director will be happy to provide recommendations for private lesson teachers in the area.
  4. **Equipment:** Each musician is responsible for maintaining his/her instrument in top performing condition. Rosin, mutes, shoulder rests etc.. should be brought to each rehearsal. Every musician is expected to come to rehearsal *with a #2 pencil and eraser*. There will be many musical suggestions and modifications to the music through the course of every rehearsal. Please mark them into your parts.

## Evaluation

The student's evaluation will be based on three criteria: daily participation, demonstration of musical skills and attendance at all scheduled concerts.

### Class Participation points (200):

Students receive Participation Points for the following:

1. Setting-up quickly at the beginning of the class.
2. Working during a rehearsal.
3. Cooperating with the conductor and classmates
4. Having an instrument for each class.

### Demonstration of musical skills (300)

Three hundred points will be awarded for Demonstrating Musical Skills each quarter. This includes, but is not limited to: The ability to perform specific pieces of music, scales, rhythmic and technical studies. Demonstration of these skills will be facilitated by written and playing exams.

### Attendance at scheduled concerts (500)

Since we are a performing ensemble, it only makes sense that your grade is highly dependent on Concert Participation. Worth 500 points alone, failure to attend will seriously impact your grade in this course.

### Points earned per quarter:

40 days per grading period/ times 5 points per day =	200 points per quarter
Demonstrating Musical Skills =	300 points per quarter
Attendance at all scheduled performances =	500 points per quarter
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>1000 points per quarter</u></b>

### Grading Scale

A= 1000-900 pts.

B= 899-800 pts.

C= 799-700 pts.

D= 699-600 pts.

F= 599- 0 pts.

*\*An unexcused absence from a scheduled concert will result in the loss of 500 points*

## Concert Dress

### FRESHMAN/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA:

Concert dress is designated for each performance on the master calendar in this handbook. Concert dress will be either Formal or Informal. No additions or alternations may be made to the official concert dress. Informal Concert Dress will be announced on a per concert basis as applicable. *Note: Any member who is not in compliance with the dress code, as determined by the conductor, he or she will not be permitted to participate in said performance and will not be afforded the opportunity to make up the performance credit.*

#### **Women**

- \* Black long formal gown (southeastern)
- \* Black dress shoe

#### **Men**

- \* Tuxedo jacket & pants (FHS rental - \$40)
- \* White Tuxedo shirt (student provides)
- \* Black bow tie/cummerbund (student provides)
- \* Black socks & shoes (student provides)

### Fees: Class Fee /School Instrument Use/Binders

All students involved in orchestra will be assessed a \$25 class fee per calendar year which is payable to the school bookkeeper. Checks are to be written to FFS or FHS. It is the student's responsibility to keep their instrument locked in their assigned locker at all times outside of class. Cello and Bass players may use a school owned instrument in class each day (school use only) after they have paid the annual fee of \$100. Each student in orchestra will need a **one inch, three ring black binder for class every day.**

### Performance Attendance

Attendance is required for all performances. A student **MAY** be excused (pending director approval) from a performance for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (note is required from a doctor and/or parent).
2. Scheduling conflicts with a school sponsored event (must have **prior approval** from the orchestra director and at least two-week notice should be afforded).

## EXCUSED ABSENCE

An assignment(s) to make-up a performance credit MAY be offered if the student provides the appropriate documentation and the director has determined that the absence qualifies as an EXCUSED ABSENCE. The make-up assignment(s) is subject to the discretion of the conductor and should be completed within one week of the excused absence.

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

No assignment(s) will be offered for a student with an unexcused absence from a concert performance.

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### **Contact:**

**Mr. James Ledbetter:** [ledbetter\\_ja@fairfieldcityschools.com](mailto:ledbetter_ja@fairfieldcityschools.com)

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# FFS/FHS ORCHESTRA CALENDAR 2023-2024 SEMESTER ONE (revised 10/1)

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>*@Football Game – SSB</b>	<b>Fri, September 1</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>STADIUM</b>
<b>*Calendar Day</b>	<b>Sat, September 9</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>FHS CAFE</b>
<b>^FB Concessions/Orch night</b>	<b>Fri, September 15</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>STADIUM</b>
<b>Homecoming Parade Float</b>	<b>Fri, September 29</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>SACRED HEART</b>
<b>Chamber Club</b>	<b>Monday, October 2 (organizing meeting)</b>	<b>2:30-4pm</b>	<b>FHS</b>
<b>^SWRO – Rehearsal</b>	<b>Sun, November 5</b>	<b>5:30</b>	<b>PAC</b>
<b>^SWRO – Festival</b>	<b>Sat/Sun November 18/19</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>PAC</b>
<b>*CSO Field Trip</b>	<b>Wed, November 8</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>MUSIC HALL</b>
<b>*#Messiah Concert/Sym</b>	<b>Tues, December 12</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>PAC</b>
<b>*#Winter Concert/w special guest Ted Yoder</b>	<b>Thurs, December 14</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>PAC</b>
<b>*Holiday Fieldtrip/Sym</b>	<b>Fri, December 15</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>
<b>*Recruiting Concert/Sym</b>	<b>Tues, December 19</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>ARENA</b>

**\*REQUIRED**

**#FORMAL**

**^SELECT**

**@SPECIAL**

All dates are subject to change. Additional rehearsals may be required

# FFS/FHS ORCHESTRA CALENDAR 2023-2024 SEMESTER TWO

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
^Solo & Ensemble	Sat, January 27	TBA	TBA
*#State Contest Preview	Thurs, February 22	7:00pm	PAC
*#State Orchestra Contest	Fri/Sat, March 1/2	TBA	TBA
^Spring Musical	April 25-28	TBA	PAC
*#FCSD Arts Fair	Sun, May 5	TBA	FHS
^Fine Arts Signing Day	Tues, May 7	3:00pm	FHS
Orchestra Awards Night	Fri, May 10	7:00pm	FRESHMAN
*#Spring Concert	Wed, May 15	7:00pm	PAC
*#Graduation Ceremony	Sat, May 25	TBA	CINTAS

**\*REQUIRED**

**^SELECT**

**#FORMAL**

**@SPECIAL**

All dates are subject to change. Additional rehearsals may be required



