

TJ Orchestra FAQs

Why should I sign up for TJ Orchestra?

Orchestra class provides balance in your day, relieves stress, builds skill, and fulfills the fine arts requirement, all while exposing you to some of the greatest music ever written. FYI, colleges are more impressed by dedication to one activity rather than dabbling in several.

How many orchestras do we have a TJ?

Two. Philharmonia plays grade 5/6 music, and Symphonic plays grade 6/6+ music. Both are advanced ensembles and both are comprised of all grade levels.

What if I don't make it in to either orchestra?

Everyone is placed into one of the two orchestras. There's no such thing as not making it.

Do we rehearse after school or on weekends?

No, we get our work done during the class period and several 8th periods as concerts approach.

Can I join orchestra as a 10th, 11th, or 12th grader if I didn't join as a freshman?

Yes! You're welcome to join us anytime, but the sooner the better, and for as long as possible! 😊

How many concerts per year?

Four - Fall, Winter, Assessment, and Spring. Symphonic Orchestra also plays for the Viennese Ball and Graduation.

Is there a practice requirement and do you collect practice logs?

We do not use practice logs and there is no set practice requirement as we get most of the work done in class. Students who need additional help should put in additional time at home. Ms. Bailey is always available to help.

How often are playing tests?

Students are assessed through observation in class rather than with playing tests. For Philharmonia, there are seating "opportunities" rather than tests. These are not graded, but determine seating for each concert. They are done one-on-one in a practice room and students know exactly what to play in advance. Symphonic seating is rotational.

Is Orchestra offered as a semester class?

No. We can't have everchanging membership or our progress and product will suffer.

Do cellists and bassists need to bring their own instruments to school?

No. We have school cellos and basses that can be used each day. Most students choose to bring their own instruments from home for concerts.

What kinds of activities does the orchestra do?

Other than giving spectacular concerts, some of the other orchestra activities include hosting the annual Viennese Ball, Fall Pumpkin Pie Sale, and taking a spring trip every year. Past destinations have included Orlando, Chicago, Atlanta, NYC, Myrtle Beach, Boston, and Nashville.

How can I fit orchestra into my schedule?

Don't worry! There are many creative ways to fit orchestra into your schedule. Please talk to Ms. Bailey! She will help you by working with older students who have found a way to be in orchestra all four years!

Is the placement audition scary?

Absolutely not! It's just a chance for Ms. Bailey to meet you and hear you play a little bit. It is brief and informal.

If you haven't done so already, please fill out this google form

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RyHh0NHKoDO3HYipwXeZzbDVFjwnjVCSdcMFE9CGMS8/edit>