

Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School



**Band, Chorus, and Orchestra
2024-2025
Handbook**

J-DMS Band/Chorus/Orchestra Handbook

Performances

CONCERT ATTIRE

- **Band/Chorus/Orchestra students**

Please choose one of the following options:

OPTION #1	OPTION #2
White button-down dress shirt, tucked in	White long or short-sleeved blouse
Long black dress pants (no leggings)	Long black dress pants (no leggings)
Black socks	Black socks or stockings
Black dress shoes (no flip-flops, Crocs, or boots)	Black dress shoes (no flip-flops, Crocs, or boots)
Long, dark tie (OPTIONAL)	

- **Fiddles on Fire**
 - “Jam with the Rams” t-shirt, jeans

- **Good Time Singers**
 - TBD

- **CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

1. All audience members are expected to support all the performing groups of the evening. Concerts generally do not last longer than one hour and a half.
2. Students will remain with their ensemble for the duration of the concert.
3. To enhance the enjoyment of the concert, all audience members are requested to remain in their seats for the duration of the concert. If you must enter or exit during the performance, please do so only during applause.
4. All audience members are requested to refrain from engaging in conversation during performances, and should turn off all cell phones and pagers.
5. All audience members are also requested to refrain from taking pictures while an ensemble is performing, as this can be very distracting to the performers.
6. All audience members should refrain from bringing food and drink into the auditorium.
7. While on stage, students are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Students should not talk, wave, chew gum, or otherwise distract the performers or audience in any way.

- **CONCERT ATTENDANCE**

1. Participation is an integral part of an effective instrumental and choral program. Therefore, **all students are expected to be at all performances**. Any student absent from a performance for any reason will be expected to complete an alternate assignment. Unexcused absences will negatively impact the student's grade. Please refer to the district policy regarding school attendance for information on excused and unexcused absences. If transportation is a problem, please contact a music teacher or administrator prior to the day of the concert.
2. Students are expected to arrive on time for pre-concert warm-ups and tuning.
3. Students are expected to stay until the completion of the entire performance, and will be dismissed after all ensembles have performed.

- **CONCERT PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Students must be members in good standing in order to participate in performances. This includes regular lesson and rehearsal attendance, proper rehearsal/concert behavior, grade level proficiency, and appropriate concert attire.

Concert Information for the 2024-2025 School Year

<u>September/October 2024</u> <u>November 2024</u> F&S 2-3 Junior High Area All-State Rehearsals/Concert <u>December 2024</u> M 2 Grade 7-8 Band 7:00 pm J-DHS W 4 Grade 6 Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm J-DHS F&S 13-14 Junior High All-County Auditions Location TBA T 10 Grade 5 Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm J-DHS W 11 Grade 7-8 Orchestra/ Grade 7-8 Chorus Concert 7:00 pm J-DHS M 16 CONCERT SNOW DAY MAKE-UP- J-DHS <u>January 2025</u> F&S 24-25 Junior High All-County Festival Location TBA F 31 Grades 5-6 Musical Friday 7:00 PM J-DMS <u>February 2025</u> S 1 Grades 5-6 Musical Saturday 10:00 am and 2:00 pm J-DMS T 11 Fiddles on Fire Concert 6:00 pm J-DMS Jazz Ensemble Concert 7:00 pm J-DMS W 12 CONCERT SNOW DAY MAKE-UP Fiddles on Fire 6:00 pm J-DMS Jazz Ensemble 7:00 pm J-DMS	<u>March 2025</u> F&S 7-8 Grades 7-8 Musical Friday 7:00 pm J-DHS Saturday 1:00 pm J-DHS T 11 Grades 5-6 Choral Festival 7:00 pm J-DMS (Dress rehearsal 5:45 pm) W 12 5-6 Choral Festival CONCERT SNOW DAY MAKE-UP T 18 Grades 5-8 Orchestra Festival Dress Rehearsal 5:00 - 8:00 pm J-DHS W 19 Grades 5-8 Orchestra Festival 7:00 pm J-DHS Th 20 Grade 5 Band Concert 7:00 pm J-DMS T 25 CONCERT SNOW DAY MAKE-UP J-DHS <u>April 2025</u> T 8 Grades 7-12 Choral Festival Dress Rehearsal 7:00pm J-DHS W 9 Grades 7-12 Choral Festival 7:00 pm J-DHS F&S 25-26 NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival East Syracuse Minoa HS TBA NYSSMA Majors - Grade 6 Band <u>May 2025</u> F&S 2-3 Elementary All-County Festival Nottingham HS W 7 NYSSMA Solo Festival Baldwinsville CSD <u>June 2025</u> T 3 Grades 7-8 Band & Jazz Ensemble Concert 7:00 pm J-DHS W 4 Grade 6 Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm J-DHS T 10 Grades 7-8 Orchestra/Simply Strings Concert Grades 7-8 Chorus/Good Time Singers Concert 7:00 pm J-DHS
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Grading Criteria

- Band/Orchestra:
 - lesson attendance
 - performance attendance
 - grade level proficiency
 - practice (outside of school)
 - rehearsal/lesson/performance etiquette
 - effort and behavior in lessons and rehearsals
- Chorus:
 - rehearsal/performance etiquette
 - performance attendance
 - grade level proficiency
 - written work
 - class participation
 - effort

School Instrument Policy

A limited number of school instruments are available for student use.

1. Students using school instruments are responsible for repairs for damages incurred by the student.
2. Students using school instruments are expected to regularly attend lessons, rehearsals, and performances.
3. Students are expected to practice regularly, and demonstrate consistent progress.
4. If a student fails to meet the above criteria or is observed abusing a school owned instrument, the instrument will no longer be provided for use.

Equipment

1. Student owned instruments should be in working order. It is recommended that all instruments be professionally checked for problems once a year.
2. Parents will be notified if there is a problem with an instrument.
- 3. Before purchasing a band instrument, please contact Mr. Greene or Mrs. Razmjou**
- 4. Before purchasing an orchestral instrument, please contact Mrs. Panzetta or Ms. Kimble**

Beginner Student Policy

- Band/Orchestra:

Students will be allowed to participate at the discretion of the teacher.

Band/Orchestra Seating

Students will be seated where they best help the ensemble. Effective seating may require an audition. In some cases, behavior will also affect seating.

Band/Orchestra Lesson Policy

Each student is required to attend a weekly lesson. Lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis during the school day. At times, students will miss class for lessons. Students are responsible for making up missed class work.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Participation Requirements

- **Good Time Singers (GTS)**

Good Time Singers is a select show choir for seventh and eighth grade chorus members, which rehearses on Monday evenings. In order to participate, students must pass an audition, be able to attend all rehearsals and performances, and wear appropriate concert attire. Students must also be chorus members in good standing.

- **Fifth and Sixth Grade Musical**

The musical at the middle school is open to all fifth and sixth grade chorus members in good standing. All rehearsals for the musicals take place outside of the regular school day. In order to participate, students must first audition, and then be able to attend all rehearsals and performances.

- **Seventh and Eighth Grade Musical**

The musical at the middle school is open to all seventh and eighth grade chorus members in good standing. All rehearsals for the musicals take place outside of the regular school day. In order to participate, students must first audition, and then be able to attend all rehearsals and performances.

- **Pit Band for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Musical**

Instrumental students have the opportunity to audition for the pit band. Students must first pass an audition, and then must be able to attend all rehearsals and performances, which take place outside of the school day.

- **Fiddles on Fire (FOF)**

Fiddles on Fire is a before school group open to any fifth through eighth grade student who is currently enrolled in the instrumental string program at J-DMS. The ensemble performs music ranging from traditional to fiddle to current hits. Once a student has decided to participate, rehearsal attendance is required. This ensemble is designed for the player who loves to play and wants an additional opportunity to perform various styles of music.

- **Jazz Ensemble**

Jazz ensemble is a before school group open to any seventh and eighth grade student who is currently enrolled in the instrumental program at JDMS. The ensemble performs music ranging from traditional jazz to current hits or sound track music. Once a student has decided to participate, rehearsal attendance is required. This ensemble is designed for the advancing player who is interested in contemporary musical styles and basic improvisation. Due to performance constraints, we limit the number of drummers and keyboardists to two. Any student interested in Drum Set, Bass, Piano, and Guitar MUST audition BEFORE attending rehearsals.

- **Simply Strings (SS)**

Simply Strings is a before school group open to any fifth through eighth grade student who is currently playing a level 2 or above solo. Students must audition and be accepted into the group based on their audition and creating a balanced ensemble. This ensemble performs primarily classical music. Once a student has decided to participate, rehearsal attendance is required. This ensemble is designed for the player who loves to play and wants an additional opportunity to perform.

Other Performance Opportunities

Students may be interested in other performance opportunities. The following is a list of some of the many activities available in our school and community:

NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival
All-County Festivals
Syracuse Children's Theater
Syracuse Youth Chorus
Syracuse Orchestra Youth Orchestras

- **Summer Opportunities**

Local private lessons
Town of Manlius Summer Show
Eastern Hills Music Camp
Crane Youth Music Camp – SUNY Potsdam
Bristol Hills Music Camp
Signature Music Camp
Eastman School of Music – Soaring Summer Strings
Le Moyne College Summer Arts Institute
Ithaca College Summer Music Academy
Red House Summer Arts Camps

Community Resources

The following is a list of many of the arts organizations in our community. We encourage students to attend a variety of performances and programs throughout the year.

Syracuse Orchestra
Jazzfest
Bluesfest
Setnor School of Music Concert Series
Malmgren Concert Series
Friends of Chamber Music
Civic Morning Musicals
Chenango Music Festival
Syracuse Vocal Ensemble
Society for New Music
Famous Artists
Syracuse Stage

Syracuse Youth Chorus
Red House
Le Moyne College Performing Arts Center
Folkus Project