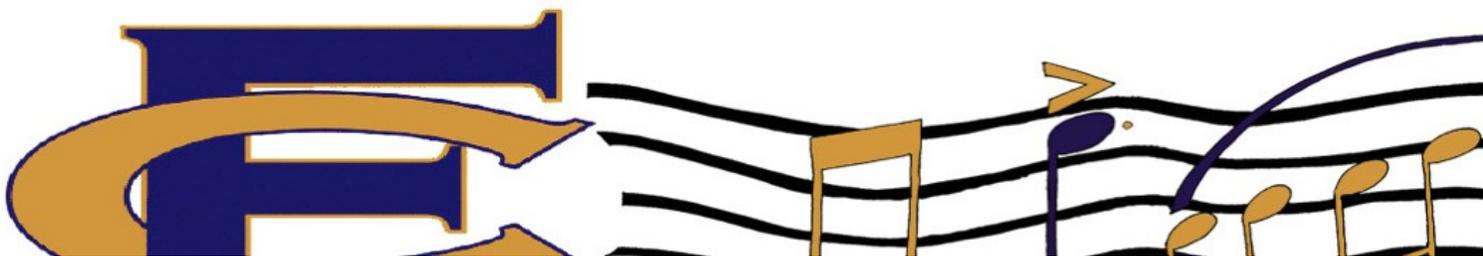
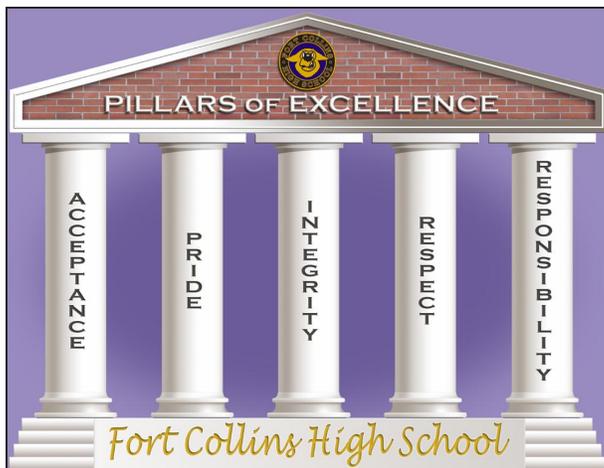


# FORT COLLINS HIGH SCHOOL

## ORCHESTRAS HANDBOOK FCHSOrchestras.weebly.com

Facebook.com/FCHSOrchestras  
2019-2020



Welcome to the Fort Collins High School Orchestra program!

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

I am excited to have you involved in our orchestra program at Fort Collins High School.

This is my seventh year as Director of Orchestras at Fort Collins High School, and I could not be more excited about having the opportunity to make music with you each day! I believe that music is a transcendent experience, and that if everyone gives 100% then we will all have the best experience possible. I believe in hard work balanced with lots of fun. Musical excellence is always our goal, and we should have fun getting there!

All Concert Orchestra students audition in March for 2019-2020. In the fall, we will be working on those playing skills that will help you to put together a good audition. Work hard and expect great things from yourself.

Most Freshman students are involved in the Sinfonietta. I really look forward to getting to know you and I hope you find our orchestra program at FCHS to be fun and challenging.

All freshman through senior students are encouraged to involve themselves in Tri-M. This is a music honors society designed to give music students an opportunity to be leaders in our school and community. If you are not already involved then see if you fulfill the requirements and be a part of it. We should have an exciting service opportunity this year.

Many years ago, FCHS adopted the orchestra's motto, which is, "Where Excellence is Expected." This attitude starts with the directors. If you want to be a good musician then please know that I am willing to help you achieve your goals as well as to discuss and help you with any concerns you may have. The first step is for you to talk to me. You may also call, or write me and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Once again, congratulations and let's make this year a fantastic one!

Mr. Hermanson's Contact Info:

School Phone Number 488-8239

School Email Address [jhermans@psdschools.org](mailto:jhermans@psdschools.org)

Sincerely,

John G. Hermanson

Director of Orchestras

Fort Collins High School

"Where Excellence is Expected"

# Music Department Expectations

- x Attendance is a vital part of every musical ensemble. All excused absences/tardies can be made up through extra work given by the director. Unexcused absences/tardies will affect your grade greatly because participation points, as well as any other graded work, for that day can be made up but for only 50% of the original value. Make sure that you do not skip class and that all legitimate absences/tardies are excused through the school attendance office. Symphony students are expected to be in their seats with their instrument ready to play by the time the bell rings. All other orchestras have 2 minutes after the bell.
- x Please check your attendance on the internet regularly. Mistakes are easier to fix if they are found quickly.
- x All musicians are to perform in all of their ensemble's concerts. Excused absences from concerts may be granted for personal illness, family emergency, or prearranged important occasions. **A job, a rock concert, and picking up an exchange student at the airport are not acceptable reasons for missing a concert.** Performing is a vital part of the curriculum and it should be considered as such. If any student feels that he/she needs to be excused from a performance, then there should be advance notice, (at least two weeks) given to the director.
- x Come to class prepared. Make sure you have your music, a pencil, and your instrument. Display a helpful and eager attitude and always do your best.
- x No food or drink other than water, is allowed in the music rooms, practice rooms, or the stage.

## Concert Etiquette

- x Absolutely, positively, NO GUM CHEWING on stage!!!
- x Call time is normally 30 minutes prior to each concert. There are exceptions where Mr. Hermanson will ask students to report 60 minutes prior to the concert.

# Concert Dress for Orchestras

Part of the fun of performing in an orchestra, whether you admit it or not, is to dress up. These are the requirements for concert dress.

## Symphony Orchestra Concert Dress

### Ladies

- x Ladies are to wear a standard, music department dress. Also make sure that you wear **black** shoes.

### Gentlemen

- x Gentlemen are to wear music department issued **black** tuxedos with black dress pants that have the satin stripe. Bow ties, socks and shoes are to be black as well. Black tennis shoes, white socks, and black jeans are **not acceptable**. It is also expected that gentlemen wear the music department issued white dress shirt.

## Concert Orchestra Concert Dress

### Ladies

- x Ladies are to wear a standard, music department dress. Information on sizing and ordering these dresses will be available soon after school starts. Also make sure that you wear **black** shoes and **nude** stockings.

### Gentlemen

- x Gentlemen are to wear the standard music department black dress pants with the satin stripe, the standard music department white button-down shirt, the standard music department purple tie, and the standard music department vest. Appropriate black dress shoes are to be worn. Flip Flops and tennis shoes are not acceptable.

## Sinfonietta Concert Dress

### Ladies

- x Ladies are to wear a standard, music department dress. Information on sizing and ordering these dresses will be available soon after school starts. Also make sure that you wear **black** shoes and **nude** stockings.

### Gentlemen

- x Gentlemen are to wear the standard music department black dress pants, the standard music department white button-down shirt, the standard music department gold tie, and the standard music department vest. Appropriate black dress shoes are to be worn. Flip Flops and tennis shoes are not acceptable.

**NOTE:** Not to comply with the concert dress code will lead to loss of points for the performance and may lead to dismissal from the performance.

# Grading Policy for Orchestras

The final grade for each semester will be determined through four categories, 1) Performance, 2) Participation, 3) Assessments and 4) Assignments. The following categories are weighted as follows, 1) Performances are 35% of the final grade, 2) Participation is 30% of the final grade, 3) Assessments are 25% of the final grade and 4) Assignments are 10% of the final grade.

## x **PERFORMING, 35% of the Final Grade**

The number of scheduled performances varies. Check the included calendar.

All musicians are to perform in all of their ensemble's concerts. Excused absences from concerts may be granted for personal illness, family emergency, or prearranged important occasions. Jobs are not an acceptable reasons for missing a concert.

Performing is a vital part of the curriculum and it should be considered as such. If any student feels that he/she needs to be excused from a performance, then there should be advance notice, (at least two weeks) given to the director.

Attendance is a very important part of every musical ensemble. Make sure that you do not skip class and that all legitimate absences and tardies are excused through the school attendance office.

If an absence from a performance is excused then a student can make up all points that were missed through extra work. If the absence is unexcused a student may still do extra work but may only receive 50% of their earned grade.

## x **PARTICIPATION, 30% of the Final Grade**

Points, (5 for non block days and 10 for block days) will be earned daily for being on time and fully prepared. Points will be deducted if the student is tardy, unprepared for class, or does not participate. Every absence results in 0 points for the day. If the absence is excused then a student can make up all points that were missed through extra work. If the absence is unexcused a student may still do extra work but may only receive 50% of their earned grade. Please check your attendance on the internet regularly. Mistakes are easier to fix if they are found quickly.

## x **ASSESSMENTS, 25% of the Final Grade**

Assessments are in the form of pass-offs. These are playing exams that can be retaken if the student is not satisfied with their original grade. Pass-off grades are based on a rubric provided for you on the following page. If a pass-off receives a failing grade then the student will begin a practice card that will remain in effect until the student retakes the pass-off and brings the grade up to a passing grade.

## x **Assignments, 10% of the Final Grade**

Assignments are in the form of music theory worksheets, history presentations, reflective writing, listening projects etc.

**NOTE:** Every quarter/semester is different from another in terms of the number of performances, pass-offs, assignments, etc. It is the student's responsibility throughout the semester to keep up with their grades. A great way to do this is to check their progress and attendance through Synergy.

# PASS-OFF RUBRIC

Students are expected to individually “pass-off” their music for the director. Pass-offs are musical excerpts taken from the literature or the musical exercises being learned. Students will work on these in class but they are also expected to spend time on them at home in their personal practice. Each pass-off will be for a grade and that grade will be determined from the following rubric.

<b>FCHS Orchestra Pass Off Rubric</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>Outstanding in nearly every detail</b>	<b>Some Minor Flaws</b>	<b>Frequent Minor Flaws/Some Major Flaws</b>	<b>Frequent Major Flaws</b>
<b>Pitch Accuracy</b>	Pitches are consistently accurate. There is no sliding.	Most pitches are accurate. Pitch errors are small and there is no sliding.	Inaccurate pitches are played. Sliding is present.	Wrong pitches are played. Sliding is present. A finger is in the wrong place for the key signature.
<b>Rhythmic Accuracy</b>	The rhythms are consistently accurate.	Most rhythms are accurate. Errors are not major.	Inaccurate rhythms are played often.	Wrong rhythms are played consistently.
<b>Tone Quality</b>	Tone is constant, steady, and smooth. The tone is the same in all parts of the bow.	Tone is constant, steady, and smooth. The tone varies slightly in different parts of the bow.	Tone is not constant, steady, or smooth. The tone varies widely in different parts of the bow.	The tone is uncontrolled. The tone varies widely in different parts of the bow at different times, or the whole bow is not utilized.
<b>Technical Fluency</b>	Performance indicates regular and sustained practice outside of class with great attention to the area of focus.	Performance indicates regular practice outside of class with some attention to the area of focus.	Performance indicates some practice outside of class, but with little attention to the area of focus.	Performance indicates very little practice outside of class.
<b>Tempo Control</b>	There is an audible metronome. The tempo is consistent and unwavering.	There is an audible metronome. The tempo is consistent with some minor fluctuations.	There is not an audible metronome and the tempo is not constant. OR there is an audible metronome and the tempo fluctuates greatly.	There is not an audible metronome. The tempo fluctuates greatly.
<b>Style Markings</b>	All style markings (staccato, marcato, tenuto, slurs) are obviously played	Most style markings were obviously played.	Style markings are present but not obviously played, or many style markings were missed.	Little or no attention is given to style markings.
<b>Dynamics</b>	Dynamic levels are obvious consistent, and accurate.	Most dynamic markings are obvious and accurate.	Dynamic levels are inconsistent.	Little or no attention is given to dynamics.
<b>The Bow</b>	All bowings are observed and the bow is used correctly (part of the bow, dynamic contrast from the bow, etc.)	Most bowings are observed and the bow is used correctly.	Some bowings are observed and/or the bow use is inconsistent.	Little or no attention is given to bowings and/or the student uses only part of the bow.
<b>Shifting</b>	Shifts are consistently performed at the correct time and are accurate. There is no sliding.	Shifts are often performed at the correct time and are often accurate. There is no sliding.	Shifts are sometimes performed at the correct time and are sometimes accurate. There is some sliding.	Shifts are rarely performed at the correct time and are rarely accurate. There is sliding.

## 2019-2020 FCHS ORCHESTRAS DEPARTMENT CALENDAR



<b>AUGUST</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Concert Attire Fittings and Exchange (7 <sup>th</sup> -freshmen, 8 <sup>th</sup> -sophomores, 9 <sup>th</sup> -juniors 10 <sup>th</sup> -seniors) (A)
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Music Department Contracts Due (A)
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Back-to-School Night, 6:00 PM (A)
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	30 <sup>th</sup>	Attire \$\$ Due (A)
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Tri-M Applications Due ( <b>All who are interested in being a part of Tri-M</b> )
	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Western States Honor Orchestra Audition Recording ( <b>Players wishing to Audition</b> )
<b>OCTOBER</b>	16 <sup>th</sup>	Tri-M Induction Ceremony, 7:00 PM ( <b>Tri-M Members</b> )
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Orchestra Concert with Boltz, 7:30 PM, 6:30 PM Call (A)
	5 <sup>th</sup>	MFA Rehearsal, Noon – 4:00 PM (S)
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Recording for All-State Orchestra Auditions ( <b>Players wishing to Audition</b> )
	7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	Western States Honor Orchestra ( <b>Those who auditioned and were accepted</b> )
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Purple & Gold Dinner (Tri-M members are expected to attend), 5:00-8:00 PM
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mattress Fundraiser (A)
	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Les Miserables</i> , 7:00 PM ( <b>Pit Orchestra. All are welcome to participate</b> )
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Band & Orchestra Concert, Symphonic Band & Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 PM (S)
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Band/Orchestra Concert, Concert/Int. Bands, Concert/Sinfonietta Orch, 7:30 PM (CO SI)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	RMHS Orchestra Festival, As scheduled during the school day, RMHS (CO SI)	
<b>DECEMBER</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	MFA Rehearsal, 5:00-8:00 PM (S)
	4 <sup>th</sup>	“Hallelujah Chorus” Rehearsal, 8:00-9:00 AM (S CO)
<b>JANUARY</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Gift Concert, 5:00 PM AND 7:30 PM (S CO)
	6 <sup>th</sup>	MFA Rehearsal, Noon-4:00 PM (S)
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	CMEA Convention
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Middle School Audition Prep Day!
	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	All-State Orchestra, CSU ( <b>Those who auditioned and were accepted</b> )
<b>MARCH</b>	11 <sup>th</sup>	Chamber Festival 1, Concert/Sinfonietta Orch 3:00-6:00 PM (CO SI C)
	17 <sup>th</sup>	MFA Rehearsal, Noon-4:00 PM (S)
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Pre Contest Concert, 7:30 PM (S)
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	ASTA Orchestra Festival, all day (S)
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Orchestra Chamber Festival, 5:30-8:30 PM (CO SI C)
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Pre Music for All Concert with Leshar MS, 7:30 PM (S)
	11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Music for All Festival, Indianapolis, IN (S)
<b>APRIL</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	2019-2020 Orchestra Auditions, during class (CO SI)
	23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	2019-2020 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Auditions
	25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	2019-2020 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Auditions
<b>MAY</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Graduation Special Music Auditions, 4:10-4:40 PM ( <b>Seniors wishing to audition</b> )
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Graduation Music Rehearsal, 7:00-8:00 AM (CO S)
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Recital, 7:00 PM ( <b>Seniors wishing to participate</b> )
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Scholarship Breakfast, String Quartet & A Cappella, 8:00 AM (C)
	18 <sup>th</sup>	End of the Year Concert, 7:30 PM (CO SI)
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Honors Concert, 7:30 PM (S)
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Graduation Practice, Moby Gym, Noon-2:00 PM (CO S and volunteer SI)
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Graduation, Moby Gym, 5:30 PM (CO S and volunteer SI)

Key: S = Symphony

CO = Concert Orchestra

SI = Sinfonietta

A = All Orchestra Students

C = Chamber Students

# Letter Points and Awards

Orchestra letters are given only to those students who prove themselves to be hardworking and dedicated to their playing/performing. When a student wears an orchestra letter, he/she has achieved an incredible task.

Orchestra Letters are awarded by earning points in two categories. A total of 150 points is needed to earn a letter. After the initial letter is earned, a bar will be awarded for each additional 75 points. Total points over 800 = Lambkin for Life.

## Gold Points:

Students need to earn at least 60 gold points to earn an initial letter, and 40 gold points for each additional bar. Gold points can be earned in the following ways:

- Play all major scales (2 octave) from memory and demonstrate knowledge of each key signature. (20 Points)
- Taking weekly private lessons. A letter from your private teacher is required. (20 Points)
- Submit a recording for All-State Orchestra and/or UNC Western States Honor Orchestra. (20 Points)
- Participation in the chamber program for the full year. (20 Points)
- Performing at Solo/Ensemble with a superior rating. Either FCHS S & E or PSD S & E. (20 Points)
- Participation in the Borromeo Weekend if you are in FCHS Chamber (20 Points)

## Purple Points:

Purple points can be earned in the following ways:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Membership in orchestra                                    | 10 pts each semester      |
| • All State Orchestra (Being accepted AND participating)     | Automatic Letter          |
| • UNC Weekend for Strings (Being accepted AND participating) | 30 pts                    |
| • Summer Orchestra   | 10 pts                    |
| • Performing at the Colorado Music Educators Convention      | 20 pts                    |
| • Solo and Ensemble excellent rating                         | 15 pts                    |
| • Solo and Ensemble good rating                              | 10 pts                    |
| • Performing FCHS concerts                                   | 5 pts each concert        |
| • Performing in other public venues                          | 5 pts each concert        |
| • Extra-curricular orchestras (Civic orch, etc)              | 15 pts                    |
| • Concerts attended (with a program as proof)                | 2 pts each concert        |
| • Pep band   | 10 pts                    |
| • Marching band  | 10 pts                    |
| • Membership in the Pit Orchestra for the Spring Musical     | 20 pts                    |
| • Just Chamber Music   | 10 pts                    |
| • Tri-M  | 10 pts (+15 on the board) |

Students should keep good records on their tally sheet, which is on the back of this page. Points can be earned in a variety of ways. Students **MUST** earn 60 gold points to earn an initial letter. However, they are welcome to earn more, and it will count towards the 150 point total. Here are two paths to 150:

- All Major Scales (20) + Private Lesson (20) + Chamber (20) = 60 gold points. Student needs 90 purple points to earn the letter.
- All Major Scales (20) + Private Lesson (20) + Chamber (20) + Superior at S & E (20) = 80 gold points. Student needs 70 purple points to earn a letter.

There are instances where students can earn letter points by doing other musical activities (giving private lessons, mentoring a middle school student, helping at middle school concerts, composing music, etc.). Those activities will be awarded letter points on a case by case basis. Please speak with Mr. Hermanson so that we can mutually agree on how many points an activity is worth. To earn points, some form of proof is required.

Awards and letters will be given out at the honors concert each year. It would be my pleasure to hand a letter to every FCHS music student. Now go earn one 😊

# **Student Information and Commitment Form**

To receive credit for this handbook you need to fill out the contract attached to your syllabus. The contract can also be found at [FCHSORchestras.weebly.com](http://FCHSORchestras.weebly.com).