



# J.P. Taravella Band & Orchestra



Mr. Michael Friedman, Director  
*michael.friedman@browardschools.com*

Mr. Christopher Ecklund, Assoc. Director  
*christopher.ecklund@browardschools.com*

---

## 2017 – 2018 Band & Orchestra Handbook

*“Good, Better, Best.”*

*Mr. Michael Friedman, Director*  
*Mr. Christopher Ecklund, Associate Director*  
*Mr. Eric Proctor, Percussion Instructor*  
*Mr. Alex Siegelman, Percussion Instructor*  
*Ms. Ingrid Larragoity, Music Instructor*  
*Ms. Kristen Lewis, Visual Caption Head*  
*Mr. Carlos Ojeda, Visual Instructor*  
*Mr. Evan Orłowski, Visual Instructor*  
*Ms. Ely Jiminez, Color Guard Instructor*  
*Mr. Tramane Weatherspoon, Color Guard Instructor*  
*Ms. Priscilla Stollosy, Color Guard Instructor*



# J.P. Taravella Band & Orchestra



Mr. Michael Friedman, Director  
*michael.friedman@browardschools.com*

Mr. Christopher Ecklund, Assoc. Director  
*christopher.ecklund@browardschools.com*

---

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 2017-18 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 this year will include all home football games, the FBA District 15 Marching Band Performance Assessment, the Lehigh High School, Jupiter High School, and Palmetto Ridge High School Invitational Marching Band Competitions, and potentially the FMBC State Marching Band Competition.

The Band & Orchestra Program will consist of three Concert Band ensembles, a String Orchestra, two Jazz Ensembles, Color Guard & Winter Guard, and Percussion Ensemble. 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. 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 of all parties involved. **Students and Parents MUST read this handbook carefully, then sign and return the agreement form found on the last page of the handbook.** All Band & Orchestra members and their parents will be expected to understand and abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. To have a great program, we must all maintain a strong commitment to making our “good” better and our “better” best.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Michael Friedman, Director*

*Mr. Christopher Ecklund, Associate Director*

## Table of Contents

Introduction – Page 4	About the Marching Band Rehearsal Schedule – Page 13
Program Offerings – Page 4	P.E. Exemption Credit – Page 14
Fees and Program Costs – Page 5	Performance Procedures – Page 14
Fundraising and Volunteering – Page 6	Band Student Leadership – Page 15
Student Accounts – Page 8	Band Student Leadership Responsibilities – Page 15
Trip Costs and Other Fees – Page 8	Orchestra Student Leadership – Page 16
Importance of Discipline – Page 8	Orchestra Student Leadership Responsibilities – Page 16
Importance of Positive Attitude – Page 8	Band & Orchestra Parent Organization – Page 17
Importance of Respect – Page 9	Private Lessons – Page 18
Importance of Loyalty – Page 9	Director’s Office – Page 18
Eligibility Policy – Page 9	Suggested Four-Year Plan – Page 18
Official Calendar – Page 9	Awards & Honors – Page 19
Web Site – Page 9	Honor Bands, Festivals, and other Activities – Page 19
Placement & Challenges – Page 9	Trips – Page 20
Goals of the Program – Page 10	Our Continuing Challenge – Page 20
Attendance Policy – Page 10	Grading Policy – Page 21
Instrument Rental and Equipment Responsibilities – Page 11	Participation Contract – Page 22
Classroom Procedures – Page 11	
Rehearsal Procedures – Page 12	

## 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, first place trophies, special performances, letters of commendation, a Grammy Signature School Award, and the praise and thanks of the entire community.

The Marching Trojans have earned Superior ratings each year since the school first opened in 1981, and have won numerous marching contests both in and out of the State 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, 2005, and 2012. The Jazz Ensemble has consistently earned Superior ratings at State Festival, and both Chamber Orchestra and String 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 directors of the J.P. Taravella Band and Orchestra Program are Mr. Michael Friedman, who is entering his 32<sup>nd</sup> year of teaching, and Mr. Christopher Ecklund, who is entering his 17<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. Previous directors have included Mr. Cheldon Williams (2006-2016), Ms. Julia Baumanis (2011-2014), Mr. Neil Jenkins (1989-2010), Mr. Brian Wesolowski (2004-2006), Mr. 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.

Marching Band: Membership in this group is open to all students. 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 Marching Band also performs at competitions and the required FBA Marching Music

Performance Assessment. The JPT Marching Band has a long and successful history of awards, trophies, and championship wins that 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. 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. Required after school rehearsals for this group will be on “A” days. Wind Orchestra also performs at all FBA Assessment events and performs several required concerts and extra-curricular performances throughout the school year.

Wind Symphony: Membership in this group is by audition or director recommendation. 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. Required after school rehearsals for this group will be on “B” days. Wind Symphony also performs at all FBA Assessment events and performs several required concerts throughout the school year.

Symphonic Band and Concert Band: Membership in this group is by audition or director recommendation. 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 and Concert Band performs at all FBA Assessment events and performs several required concerts throughout the school year.

Chamber Orchestra/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 known orchestral literature. This ensemble performs at all FOA Assessments.

Jazz Ensemble: Membership in this group is by audition or director recommendation. Enrollment in a Concert Band course is required to enroll in Jazz Ensemble. 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 often) rehearsals in the evening hours during the Marching Band and Winter Guard seasons. A fee is required for participation in these groups.

### **Fees and Program Costs**

The Broward County School System provides minimal 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 band program does not receive a yearly budget from the county. The JPT Band, Orchestra, and Color Guard Program has always believed that all students should have the opportunity to participate. At the same time, each student and parent must assist in meeting the financial burden of running a successful and enriching program. In order to reach these two conflicting ideals, we have set a band fee for the school year. Each Marching Band and Color Guard student will begin the year by contributing a \$275 fee to cover a portion of their participation in marching band. On October 1, an additional contribution of \$275 will help to offset yearly operating expenses of the entire program. Each Orchestra student will contribute a \$275 fee for the year. Those band students only in a Concert Band and Jazz Band but **not** in Marching Band will contribute one \$275 fee to help cover the yearly expenses for those programs. Color Guard members will have an additional financial obligation in the spring if they choose to participate in the Winter Guard program. Those fees will vary according to the year.

What are Band Fees and Program costs? Why are they needed?

The band fee only covers a fraction of the cost of running the Band Program. The balance of the finances is raised by the Band Patrons and Students through fund raising campaigns. Band fees are the "out of pocket" funds provided by the family of each participating band student each year. The total cost of participation in the band program for each student is much greater, and that amount is determined each year based upon the band's operating budget. Budgeted items include instruments, music, repairs, travel, equipment, truck rental, MPA entry fees, uniform purchases and maintenance, guard equipment, marching equipment, charter bus transportation, student awards, District Solo & Ensemble entry fees, music commissions, clinicians, and many other operating expenses not covered by the school.

What if I have a financial hardship?

NO ONE will be denied participation because of financial hardship, however everyone is required to help raise funds. Students with financial hardships may apply for financial aid from the band booster organization. Qualification for financial aid will be determined by consideration of the following factors: Financial Hardship due to parent being unemployed or disabled (documentation required), proof of free or reduced lunch qualification, or any other documented evidence of financial hardship. Students will be awarded scholarship/financial aid based on documented financial need, academic record, talent on an instrument, and or needs of the program. Final decisions will be made by the band parent board. Applications are due no later than October 1. Please see Mr. Friedman for an application.

How can I pay my fees?

- CHECKS: Make check payable J. P. Taravella Band. Put student name and purpose of the check in the memo section of the check. Checks should be submitted in the Band Room safe.
- CASH: Place payment in a sealed envelope. On the outside of the envelope write the amount, student name, and purpose of payment. Cash should be submitted in the Band Room safe.
- CREDIT CARD: Payments may be made via "Charms" if you would like to pay by credit card. <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/plogin.asp>
- FUNDRAISING: The Band, Orchestra, and Color Guard Booster Organization offer many fundraising opportunities throughout the year to help students pay their fees (please see below for more information).

### **Fundraising and Volunteering**

JPT offers several fundraising opportunities to help families raise the money needed to meet their financial obligations. **Profits** from every fundraiser will be applied to the student's individual account based on an agreed upon formula. For instance, if a student raises \$100, this profit will be divided with a portion going to the general band fund and a portion to the student's individual account. This percentage will vary per fund raiser and determined by the board. Profits from fundraising will be placed in student accounts **after all other band fees have been satisfied**. All students and parents can access their accounts by logging into "Charms\*." Families with two or more children active in the Marching Band program will receive one (1) \$50.00 discount per family. Here is a list of some, but not all of the fundraising opportunities that are offered:

BB&T (year-round): JPT earns most of their funds from these events. 14 volunteers are needed for each event in which JPT participates. Each volunteer is given a minimum of \$25 per event (more if the stand surpasses expectations). Each family can have more than one person working in order to earn more towards the student's fair share. We try to schedule these events around Marching Band Performances.

Gift-wrappings (Holiday season): The Coral Square Mall allows JPT Band Patrons to have a booth inside the mall each year to offer gift-wrapping during the Holiday season. This requires many people hours and we would really appreciate it if each family would participate in at least one 4 hour shift. A percentage of the profits are split among the participants. Closer to the event, sign-up sheets will be available for both parents and students.

Car Washes (year-round): These profits are split among the participants.

Banners Program (year-round): A family can have \$50 applied to their student account by having a local business advertise a 3' x 5' vinyl banner with exposure on Riverside Drive on the school's perimeter for \$400 a year. Renewal is \$200 per year.

David Spector, Realtor Associate (year-round): If you or someone you know is looking to buy, sell or rent property, contact David Spector, band parent and realtor at Weichert Realtors. David has generously offered to donate a portion of his commission on closed deals, as long as the JPT Music program and student's name is mentioned. The sale of a mid-priced home (\$250K-300K), could mean a donation to your student's account in the amount of \$700-\$1000!

Other fund raisers such as coupon books, Snap-Rai\$e, candy/popcorn sales, etc. will be offered. In addition, each Marching Band/Color Guard are encouraged to help the program by volunteering as chaperone for trips, football games, FBA MPA, Prism concert, Guard Home Show, and competitions.

\*Note: BB&T, FBA MPA, Solo and Ensemble, Spring Concert, Prism Concert, Gift wrap booth, and city events are a major portion of the operating budget for the program. These funds help make it possible to keep our fair share fees very low, in comparison to other local programs. In order to continue providing a quality program at such a low cost, we need everyone's help with these events!

Available Volunteer Opportunities:

Football Games: TBD

Parents are asked to volunteer for at least two Football games.

FBA MPA: TBD

Each year JPT hosts FBA MPA competition. In order to be successful, all parents and volunteers are strongly encouraged to work, since the students will have to perform at some point. All student leaders in the band program are required to work this event. There are many sub-committees with FBA MPA. Please contact the Chair person or any Band Patron Board member for more information.

Guard Home Show: TBD

Each year JPT hosts the Color Guard Home Show competition. In order to be successful, parents and volunteers are required to work. Students in the band program are expected to work this event. There are many sub-committees with the Guard Home Show. Please contact the Chair person or any Band Patron Board member for more information.

Winter Concert

The winter concert is the second band concert of the school year. In addition to the concert we host a silent and live auction as well as snacks. All students are required to perform in this concert. Families are strongly encouraged to donate or obtain sponsored items to donate to the auction. Please contact the winter concert chair person or any Band Patron Board Member for additional information.

PRISM Concert

The PRISM concert is the final band concert of the school year. In addition to the concert we host a silent and live auction as well as a dinner. All students are required to perform in this concert. Families are strongly encouraged to donate or obtain sponsored items to donate to the auction. Please contact the PRISM Chair person or any Band Patron Board Member for additional information.

"B" Uniform for Concerts/Fundraising Events Uniform:

Students must wear the Band Polo shirt tucked into Khaki pants and their Dinkles or Guard shoes. Parents must wear the Band Polo shirt tucked into Khaki pants and sneakers or closed shoes.

## **Student Accounts**

Accounts are provided to members of the Program in order to facilitate the payment of trip fees, honor ensemble fees, banquet tickets, band fees, and program costs. Certain fundraising activities such as car washes, BB&T, 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 funds collected in the name of the Program belong to the Program if you don't use it. Student account balances may be accessed through Charms.

## **Trip Costs and Other Fees**

Any trips other than local competitions will be at an **additional** cost to the student. Trips are not normally included in the band fee. Trip costs and itineraries vary from year to year. "Special Event" trips (i.e. Rome Trip) are usually announced up to 2 years in advance. Students may fundraise for these types of trips after all required band obligations have been met for the year.

In addition, per FLDOE Course Descriptions for Instrumental Music Courses, all Band and Orchestra students are required to purchase or rent an instrument to enroll in Band and Orchestra Courses. The Broward County Schools Instrument Rental Fee is \$20.00 per school year (\$10.00 for summer rental), for each instrument rented. A completed Instrument Rental Contract is also required. (Please see Instrument Rental and Equipment Responsibilities Section for further information.) In addition, Color Guard members may also be required to purchase or rent equipment such as sabers, flags, etc.

## **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 Positive 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 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 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: [www.jptmusic.org](http://www.jptmusic.org). 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](http://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 may be provided on a case by case basis, 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 will result in a severe penalty and loss of your marching spot (or 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 for 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. Below are some examples of Excused and Unexcused Absences:

**Excused Absences**  
**(Must notify Director in Advance)**

- Legitimately sick from school (Please provide Doctor’s note if possible)
- Death in family or other family emergency
- Serious personal injury
- Wedding or family event
- Religious Holiday

**Unexcused Absences**

- Doctor/Dentist appointment
- Homework/studying for a test
- Driving exam or makeup test for another class
- Transportation issue (Contact Director or Section Leader to help you find a ride)
- Job or Work (Notify your boss of the band calendar so they do not schedule you during performances or rehearsals. Employers are not allowed to interfere with school.)
- Club meeting or sports team game/event
- Detention
- Tardiness (Will result in grade deduction)

**Instrument Rental and Equipment Responsibilities**

School-owned instruments and other equipment become the responsibility of the student to whom they are assigned or rented to. Any damage other than normal wear will be repaired at the student’s expense. **Parents and students should read the Broward County Schools Music Instrument Rental Contract carefully and make themselves aware of their personal responsibility for repairs and damage.** 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 instrument, place it out of harm’s way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never 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.

**Classroom Procedures**

Very specific behavior is expected of all students of the JPT Band, Color Guard, & Orchestra Program. Failure to follow the procedures below will result in disciplinary actions, including detentions, referrals, or even expulsion from the Program. We do not tolerate disrespect. Follow these expectations, 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 enters the room, you will cease all talking.
- Please pick up any trash left by others. The Rehearsal Room is our home away from home...let’s all keep it clean. 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?)

### **Rehearsal Procedures**

We all look forward to the performance, but the SUPERIOR RATING or 1st PLACE award is achieved during the rehearsal. Rehearsals are mandatory for producing any high-quality performance. Rehearsals are not called “for the fun of it,” but rather to perfect aspects of our program. 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.

- 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, music, drill charts, dot books, etc.) are required at all rehearsals unless otherwise instructed.
- 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.

### **About the 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. Therefore, every minute of our limited rehearsal time is precious and extremely important.

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 Music Assessment.

## **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. Students still are required to take HOPE, which can be completed online (highly recommended) or at school.

## **Performance Procedures**

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. Very specific behavior is expected at all 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 displays 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 several years to come.
- Band shirts and/or specified uniforms are required for every performance.
- Assigned buses will be boarded in an orderly fashion 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. Shakos 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.
- 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 all personal 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 Student 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 an "A" average 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 3.0 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.)
- Must be in good financial standing with the Band & Orchestra Patrons Organization.

### **Band Student Leadership Responsibilities**

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 cannot 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(s): Responsible for the issue and maintenance of music and the music library.

Attendance Officer(s): Keeps attendance records for all rehearsals and performances for the entire year.

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

Historian(s): 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 Student 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 an "A" average 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 3.0 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.
- Must be in good financial standing with the Band & Orchestra Patrons Organization.

### **Orchestra Student Leadership Responsibilities**

President: Helps coordinate fundraising, 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 tardiness 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 Coordinator(s): 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.

Librarian(s): 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(s): 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 Manager(s): 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 is a vibrant parent 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 Program. 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:
  1. Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
  2. Notifying Directors if your child is to be absent or late for performance or rehearsal.
  3. Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
  4. Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by attending performances.
  5. Discussing with Directors anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
  6. 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, so 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)
2. Mathematics (required)
3. Science (required)
4. Social Studies (required)

#### Junior Year

1. English (required)
2. Mathematics (required)
3. Science (required)
4. Social Studies (required)

#### Sophomore Year

1. English (required)
2. Mathematics (required)
3. Science (required)
4. Social Studies (required)

#### Senior Year

1. English (required)
2. Mathematics
3. Science
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 FSA, 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 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 will be exempted from taking P.E.
- 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 course that you are required to take all four years for graduation is English. Math, science, and social studies need to only be taken three years to fulfill Florida's graduation requirements. However, be aware that by 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 mid-late October. This is the biggest event during marching season. Taravella has earned 36 years of 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 2016-2017 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 60-70% 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 and Rehearsals - 50%
- Assessments and Quizzes - 25%
- Individual Contribution (Class Participation) - 25%

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 rule applies to Band and Orchestra courses. 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 and 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 Millennium 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).

# J.P. Taravella Band, Orchestra, and Color Guard

## Participation Contract

This contract must be signed by both parent and student. By signing this form, you are stating that you have read and understand the policies set forth in this Handbook, and agree to abide by them. Please read and review each section of this handbook carefully so that you fully understand the expectations of the JPT Band, Color Guard & Orchestra Program.

### Parent

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address  
(Please PRINT clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

### Student

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form signed by August 28, 2017.**

Musically Yours,

*Mr. Michael Friedman, Band Director*

*Mr. Christopher Ecklund, Associate Band Director*