

This is a pdf version of the printed handbook distributed to all orchestra students in August of 2022. Some formatting and information has been changed to facilitate online distribution.

# **Autrey Mill**

## **Middle School**

### **2022-2023**

### **Orchestra**

### **Handbook**



Dear Orchestra Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year in the Autrey Mill Middle School Music Program. My name is Tim Anderson and after 17.5 fantastic years (and 1.5 awkward years) I am very pleased to again be back with the orchestra. We had a fantastic “back to normal” school year last year that included an amazing array of live in person performances. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades both earned straight superior ratings at LGPE and our 8<sup>th</sup> grade won the division champion award at the Southern Star music festival! The year ended with an AMMS first when all 200+ orchestra members performed a piece together! I’m looking forward to continuing the “return to normal” as we move on to even bigger and better things this year!

This handbook is a starting point for all you'll need to know for the year in the orchestra. Our objectives and goals are listed here, as well as our expectations of students in terms of classroom behavior, rehearsal guidelines, attendance, equipment requirements, concert attire, and grading procedures.

If you have any questions regarding any of this, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time by email at:

andersont1@fultonschools.org

Thank you for your time and effort in reading this and in supporting the students in our fine music department. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year and hope to meet and hear from many of you soon.

### **Calendar:**

Please note that these dates are current as of early August. A few things are always added through the course of the year and of course conflicts do arise, but this is a good starting point for your calendars.

**August 19-** FCYO Application Deadline

**August 23-** FCYO Auditions, 5:00-7PM- Centennial HS

**September 2-** All State Applications Deadline!

**September 27-** JCHS Orchestra Fall Concert, 7PM

**October 15-** All-State District Auditions-RTMS

**October 20-** 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Orchestra Concert, 6:30PM

**October 28-** KSU Orchestra Festival- 8<sup>th</sup> only- all day!

**November 9-** FCYO Concert @ Centennial HS, 7PM

**November 10 -** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Fall Concert, 6:30PM

**November 11-12-** AMMS Musical Performance@JCHS

**November 29-** JCHS Orchestra Winter Concert, 7PM

**December 7-** Band/Orch Winter Concert (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) 6:30PM

**December 13-** JCHS Midwest Preview Concert@JCHS7PM

**January 6-** Music Department Picture Day

**January 14-** Final All-State Auditions

**February 4-**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Cluster Clinic Day

**February 9-** AMMS Pre-LGPE Concert (all grades), 6:30PM

**February 14-16-** LGPE- details tba, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> only

**March 2-4-** All State @ Athens

**March 16-** Chamber/Jazz Night- 6:30

**March 25-** Southern Star Festival- 8<sup>th</sup> Only- all day!

**March 29-** FCYO Concert , 7PM- Centennial HS

**April 27-** JCHS Orchestra Concert 7PM

**May 16-** In school pops concerts? all grades

**May 16-** Final Orchestra Concert- 6:30

## **How it all Works**

Instrumental music classes meet every day for 47 minutes. Each grade level will have its own performing orchestra. These individual groups will have many opportunities to perform at a variety of functions throughout the school year.

In addition to our daily work on our instruments (tone production, articulation, bowing proficiency, scales, and rhythms to name a few aspects) we also have a few additional educational opportunities for students. The first of these is the “Artist of the Day” program. Two days a week a musical selection (it could be anything!) will be presented in class. Students will be asked to listen critically for a few minutes and then analyze what they heard. Students who can correctly identify the artist (or make a good educated guess and back it up) could earn extra credit.

Another weekly program is the “Student Warm-up”. For this opportunity students rotate to the podium to conduct a warm-up with the orchestra. A good warm-up helps prepare both the physical and mental aspects of performing. Students will be coached through this leadership opportunity and will present 2-3 times a year depending on their grade level and the size of their class.

Help sessions are offered Tuesday through Friday for students who would like some extra help or would just like to put in a little practice time before school. Interested students need to be in the Cafeteria by 8:05 when Mr. Anderson will come do a pick-up call. Students arriving after 8:05 will not be allowed to come down and will have to wait until the 8:30 bell.

Extra credit will be available to make up for missed quizzes, poor performance on tests, or to supplement lacking daily grades. Assignments are noted periodically throughout the year or by request from Mr. Anderson.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and concerts unless there is an emergency, or your absence has been previously cleared with Mr. Anderson. Students with unexcused absences will be given one week to complete the alternate assignment on the web site.

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## **Equipment/Attire**

It is recommended that all middle school orchestra students acquire their own instruments. We do have a limited number of instruments available for use here at school where there is a significant financial need. All instruments should be kept in good playing condition (which WILL require purchasing a few spare strings since they do wear out and break occasionally) and at all times should be marked with a name tag and slot number on the case. Large instruments (cello, bass) are provided for daily use during the school year to aid with transportation. They may be taken home overnight with a one-time usage

fee. Cello/Bass players are encouraged to rent an instrument for home use. There are many locations from which to rent or buy instruments and I would be happy to advise you on them and assist in selection if you choose to buy.

Sheet music and a method book will be furnished to each student. Any student missing parts should first check the lost and found by the door and then check with Mr. Anderson. Any parts lost or damaged will be paid for by the student at a flat replacement rate just as a text book or any other school material would be.

The orchestra has two different sets of concert dress for different performing opportunities. For informal performances, students will wear jeans and a white orchestra polo shirt. For formal performances the same shirt with the orchestra logo and a pair of black pants will be required.

## **Classroom Guidelines/Teacher Philosophy**

There is just one big word here: **Respect!**

Respect yourself, Respect your teacher, Respect your fellow students, Respect your instrument... The list could go on.

The attitude of a true musician should be one of striving for continuous progress. There is always something that can be improved upon, no matter how good you are at what you are doing. Having the self-respect and self-discipline to do this is a great challenge, one that we should all strive to meet. 90% is not enough in the Orchestra. We need 100% all the time!

The general guidelines for classroom behavior outlined in your agenda book all apply to the band and orchestra and chorus classrooms as well and will be strictly enforced. It is also worth noting that music is one of the few subjects that requires everyone's total cooperation for each student to achieve. If four math students perform well and a fifth one fails, it has little effect on the successful ones. If four music students are performing well and a fifth student is missing every note, it could be potentially disastrous. Cooperation is vitally important if those who excel are to help those who have some difficulty.

Seating will be random for the first few weeks and will later be decided by audition and quiz results.

## **Rehearsal Guidelines**

1. The instant the director steps on the podium (usually 3-4 minutes after the tardy bell) and addresses the orchestra, the rehearsal has started. If you're not there or not ready in any of the following ways, you are considered late and will be graded and marked accordingly. Attendance will be taken daily.

2. Every orchestra member is expected to bring themselves, their instrument and accessories, their music, a PENCIL, their agenda book, their iPad and a good attitude to every rehearsal.
3. As stated in the School Rules, no gum, candy, or drinks will be allowed in the rehearsal room, even during before/after school rehearsals, unless specifically permitted by the director. Water is always fine and in fact is encouraged.
4. The time before rehearsals begin is for tuning and warming up, not discussing what went on with InstaSnapaFaceNiteCraftTok yesterday.
5. It is a good idea to clean off your instrument regularly and as dust, rosin, and condensation can all be very destructive. PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT! Get a cleaning cloth!
6. Students are not to use any instrument but their own without permission from the director and the owner of the instrument being borrowed.
7. The use of a school instrument is a privilege and should be treated as such. Students will be held directly responsible for any defacement or damage not associated with normal wear and tear.
8. We can get a lot done in a short time if you watch, listen, learn, and enjoy the time we have together.

## **Objectives and Goals**

The mission of the Fulton County Public Schools is to educate students to be responsible, productive citizens.

At AMMS the goal is to:

Prepare Today's Students for Tomorrow's Challenges

In the music program we do this in the following ways:

1. We serve the school and the community in both leading and supporting roles.
2. We inherently promote social, educational, and recreational growth.
3. We acquire a thorough background in music.
4. We develop an appreciation and sensitivity for music in any style or medium.
5. We experience the satisfaction of quality performances.
6. We nurture both a sense of group responsibility and individual leadership.
7. We continue the development of the mental, physical, and emotional expansion unique to music.

**Things You Will Need:**

Small 3 Ring Binder  
Instrument in working order (rental info available)  
Cleaning Cloth (soft cotton)  
Rosin (instrument specific)  
Shoulder Pad for Violin/Viola  
Rock-stop for Cello/Bass  
Folding Music Stand for home use

*Essential Elements Book:* (provided by AMMS)

6th Grade- EE Book 1

7th Grade- EE Book 2 *and* old Book 1 for review

8th Grade- Green ET Book 3

*and* old EE Book 2 for review

**Strongly Recommended:**

Violin- Spare E and A

Viola- Spare A and D

Cello- Spare A

Bass- not required (but I'd be impressed)

Orchestra Web Site:

[www.ammsorchestra.com](http://www.ammsorchestra.com)

AMMS Web Site:

<https://www.fultonschools.org/autreymillms>

What do I do with this?

Students and Parents, please sign and date this page, fill out the back of this page, cut it out of the handbook, and return it to Mr. Anderson no later than September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students, this handbook is to be kept in your music folder at all times. It is considered a piece of your required daily equipment, just like your music, your instrument, or your pencil. Its presence may be checked for routinely.

I have read and agree to all the rules and guidelines outlined in this handbook.

Student Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Parent Names: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

How You Can Help and Bonus Information:

Any successful music program is a combination of many positive influences including the director, the students, the support of the county and school system, and most importantly the parents. I wanted to take this opportunity to get to know more about you so I can serve you and your students better in the months to come.

Please include any of the following information you would care to share with Mr.

Anderson. Additionally, please include [andersont1@fultonschools.org](mailto:andersont1@fultonschools.org) on your list of acceptable senders if you have a junk email filter on your account.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Please list any instruments you have ever played. Underline any that you play regularly!

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any instruments you have ever played. Underline any that you still play regularly!

Do you have any fun, unique, or useful skills that might be beneficial to the orchestra? We'd love your help, please list them below!