

VFMS Music Department 2017 - 2018 Ensemble Guide

All Ensembles Begin The Week Of 9/4/17 - Sectionals Begin Week of 9/11/17

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

7:15AM 7/8 Orchestra (CG) 7/8 Concert Band (CG) Beg. Band (Oct-Jan) (CG) 5/6 Jazz Band (CG)

Before School

Students in morning ensembles should be dropped off by parents to avoid being late. (RJ) Valley Forge Singers 7/8 Chorus (RJ)

Daytime Rotating Instrumental Sectionals (5-8) (CG & CB)

8:00 AM To 11:30 AM 5/6 Strings 7/8 Stings 5th Grade Band Sectionals 6th Grade Band Sectionals 7/8 Band Sectionals Beginner Sectionals

11:20 AM VF Singers (7th) Tenor\Baritone VF Singers (7th) Altos & Sopranos Chorus (7th) Altos & Sopranos 7/8 Chorus (7th) Tenor\Baritone 7/8 Chorus (7th) Accomp \ Solos

11:40 AM VF Singers (8th) Tenor\Baritone VF Singers (8th) Altos & Sopranos VF Singers (8th) Altos & Sopranos 7/8 Chorus (8th) Tenor\Baritone 7/8 Chorus (8th) Accomp \ Solos

12:05 PM Chorus Sectionals (6th) Boys Chorus Sectionals (6th) Girls Treble II Chorus Sectionals (6th) Girls Treble I **Activity Sectionals (RJ)**

12:25 PM Chorus Sectionals (5th) Boys Chorus Sectionals (5th) Girls Treble II Chorus Sectionals (5th) Girls Treble I

12:30 PM To 2:30 PM 5/6 Strings 7/8 Stings 5th Grade Band Sectionals 6th Grade Band Sectionals 7/8 Band Sectionals Beginner Sectionals

2:35 PM 5/6 Orchestra (CB) 7/8 Handbells (4:00PM) (JD) Shuttle busses 3:15 5th Concert Band (CB) 6th Chorus (RJ) Shuttle busses 3:15 6th Concert Band (CB) 5th Chorus (RJ) Shuttle busses 3:15 7/8 Jazz Ensemble (CG) 6th Handbells (CB) (4:00PM) **After School**

Winter Concerts

5/6 School Performance - 12/13/17 9:00AM
5/6 Winter Program - 12/14/17 7:00PM

7/8 School Performance - 12/06/17 9:00AM
7/8 Winter Program - 12/07/17 7:00PM

Spring Concerts

5/6 School Performance - 5/09/18 9:00AM
5/6 Spring Program - 5/10/18 7:00PM

7/8 School Performance - 5/23/18 9:00AM
7/8 Spring Program - 5/24/18 7:00PM

VFMS Concert Attire

- 1) VFMS Music Polo Shirt
- 2) Black Pants
- 3) Black Socks & Shoes

(RJ) - Rebecca Johnson
(CB) - Caryn Brocklebank **Key**
(CG) - Craig Gonci (JD) - Joyanna Daneilv

Jazz Band \ Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Band and Jazz Ensemble are auditioned extra curricular ensembles at VFMS. Jazz band is open to 5th and 6th grade who participate in concert band while Jazz Ensemble is open to 7th and 8th graders who participate in concert band. Signups for Jazz Band\Ensemble, audition dates and audtion music are available on www.vfmsmusic.com.

Jazz Ensemble instruments include the Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano, Guitar, Vibes, Electric Bass and Drum Set. Please see Mr. Gonci if you wish to audition for Jazz Ensemble on a instrument not listed.

Jazz Band instruments include Flute, Clarinet and French Horn in addition to the instruments listed above.

Beginning Band

Students wishing to begin a new instrument are encouraged to do so. Beginning band runs for 10 weeks and is desgined to get new players in an ensemble setting right away. This helps students refine essentail skills needed for ensemble playing. Please see any of the music teachers if you are interest in starting a band instrument. Students are also able to start a string instrument though we do not have a beginning orchestra.

Seating Auditions (7/8 Only)

Students invovled in 7/8 Concert Band and/or 7/8 Orchestra have the option to participate in concert seating auditions. If a student does not wish to audition for concert seating, they will be seated behind those students who do. Seating auditions are not required. Audition materials will be available during sectionals.

Contacts

Caryn Brocklebank
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Craig Gonci
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Rebecca Johnson
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5th/6th Grade Orchestra
5th Grade Band
6th Grade Band
6th Grade Handbells

5th General Music

7th/8th Grade Orchestra
7th/8th Grade Band
Jazz Band
Jazz Ensemble
Beginning Band

5th Grade Chorus
6th Grade Chorus
7th/8th Grade Chorus
Valley Forge Singers
Carillon

VFMS Instrumental Sectional Rotation

Each 30 minute sectional rotates through 10 different sectional times in order to ensure that students do not miss too much of any one subject. Sectionals are run on a five day schedule. One instrumental teacher instructs during the first 5 sectionals, the other instructs during the second 5 sectionals. All students in grade 5-8 will be instructed by both teachers. Below is an example of the first 3 of 10 weekly rotations for a 5/6 grader in 'Group D'.

Monday Week 1

C. Gonci

1	8:00AM	Group A
2	8:30AM	Group B
3	9:00AM	Group C
4	9:30AM	<u>Group D</u>
5	10:00AM	Group E

C. Brocklebank

6	10:30AM	Group F
7	11:00AM	Group G
8	1:00PM	Group H
9	1:30PM	Group I
10	2:00PM	Group J

Monday Week 2

C. Gonci

1	8:00AM	Group J
2	8:30AM	Group A
3	9:00AM	Group B
4	9:30AM	Group C
5	10:00AM	<u>Group D</u>

C. Brocklebank

6	10:30AM	Group E
7	11:00AM	Group F
8	1:00PM	Group G
9	1:30PM	Group H
10	2:00PM	Group I

Monday Week 3

C. Gonci

1	8:00AM	Group I
2	8:30AM	Group J
3	9:00AM	Group A
4	9:30AM	Group B
5	10:00AM	Group C

C. Brocklebank

6	10:30AM	<u>Group D</u>
7	11:00AM	Group E
8	1:00PM	Group F
9	1:30PM	Group G
10	2:00PM	Group H

Depending on participation, students can be assigned to more than one group. An example would be if a student played both the violin and the flute, they would be assigned to two different sectionals. It would be up to the student and director to decide with sectional to attend.

Even though both instrumental teachers instruct all sectionals, each ensemble only has one director. Please direct ensemble questions to the ensemble director listed below.

Ensemble Directors

Craig Gonci - 7/8 Orchestra, 7/8 Band, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Band

Caryn Brocklebank - 5/6 Orchestra, 5th Grade Band, 6th Grade Band, 6th Grade Handbells

Communication

Email will be the main form of communication when sending out information. Most of this information will pertain to ensemble and sectional attendance, reminders, field trips and concerts. This information will also be posted on our website at www.vfmsmusic.com. If you are unsure of whether or not your email is up to date or registered with the music department, simply email one of the directors. Under 'Subject', please write, "Email Contact Update". In the body of the email please provide us with your name, your child's name, your child's grade, which ensembles they participate in and an email address where we can send information.

Concert Attire

In order for our students to look as good as they sound, the VFMS music department concert attire is as follows:

- 1) VFMS Music Department Polo Shirt**
- 2) Black pants**
- 3) Black shoes and socks**

The Music Department Polo shirt is available for \$25 and can be ordered through any music teacher. We typically make two orders per year. Every ensemble in grades 5-8 uses the same polo shirt for all concerts.

Shuttle Buses

Shuttle buses are available to students who participate in after school music ensembles. These buses leave from VFMS at 3:15 and drive students to their neighborhood elementary school. Students can then take the elementary school buses to their neighborhoods. Shuttle bus passes will be handed out during ensemble rehearsals.

Morning Rehearsals

Morning rehearsals are scheduled to begin at 7:15AM. We encourage students to be dropped off for these morning rehearsals in order to visit their lockers, notify homebase teachers about rehearsals and to be ready to play at 7:20AM. Students who take the bus will inevitably be late for rehearsals.

Method Books

Method books will vary depending on ensemble and grade level. Please check with the ensemble director for title and level

Notebooks

Students participating in an instrumental ensembles are required to have a 1/2" 3 Ring Binder with them at all rehearsals and sectionals.

Grading Expectations and Attendance

Performance

Outstanding 90-100

Plays assigned material correctly: notes, rhythms, musical markings, etc.

Performs with consistent and characteristic tone quality, throughout the range of the instrument.

Piece/exercise sounds well rehearsed or practiced by performer.

Performs without stopping.

Preparation

Come to class prepared with instrument, music, binder, pencil and materials.

Participation

Shows excellent class participation at all times.

Engages in and completes class assignments to the best of his or her ability.

Practice

Completes and returns practice logs. Shows regular practice.

Attendance

Regularly attends rehearsals and sectionals. Is in consistent contact with instructors regarding absences or conflicts.

Satisfactory 80-89

Plays most assigned material correctly: notes, rhythms, musical markings, etc.

Performs with characteristic tone quality, but not consistently throughout the range of the instrument.

Piece/exercise sounds somewhat rehearsed or practiced by performer.

Performs with hesitation.

Comes to class with some materials, but is not fully prepared.

Participate in class some of the time.

Starts class assignments, but does not stay on task and/or complete the assignments.

Completes and returns practice logs, but not consistently. Student does not show consistent practice habits.

Sporadically attends rehearsals and sectionals. Is in seldom contact with instructors regarding absences or conflicts.

Unsatisfactory <79

Plays assigned material incorrectly: notes, rhythms, musical markings, etc. or shows little or no progress.

Performs with developing tone quality. Needs regular practice for improvement.

Piece/exercise sounds unrehearsed or unpracticed by performer.

Unable to perform piece.

Comes to class unprepared. Brings no materials.

Does not participate in class.

Does not complete and/or work on class assignments.

Student does not complete and/or return practice logs. Does not display required practice.

Does not attend an adequate number of rehearsals or sectionals. Very little or no contact with instructors.