

Hello Bolts,

I am so excited to welcome you all back to school and to a great year in music classes. Please note, all concert dates, materials, need to know info, is all in this letter. I apologize for the length of this letter but I hope it will leave you with all the knowledge you'll need for your year in Modern Orchestra.

So, What is Modern Orchestra? Well, here at Franklin, we have so many different musicians who play a wide range of instruments, so to find a way to accommodate all these awesome musicians and make music equitable for all, we have created an ensemble unlike a traditional band or orchestra, an all-encompassing ensemble called "modern orchestra." This allows all instruments to come together and create music in a whole new way.

As this is the Intermediate/Advanced level class, this class will be held to a higher expectation. Students will set an example for others in the music program and will uphold this high standard in and out of the classroom. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 45 mins per day, 5 days a week. Part of what will make this class a little different than years past, is all the students in this ensemble are at a higher level of skill and technique so, will be building upon those skills and learning higher level music theory, will be able to explore more genres, and will be able to begin learning improvisational and composition skills.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

(All performances are required and mandatory)

- 1. Our Winter Concert is Friday December 12th at 6pm. Students are to be on stage at 5:00 pm in their attire, ready to warm up and rehearse. (THIS PERFORMANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL MS AND HS ENSEMBLES)**
- 2. Our Spring Concert date is not official yet, but it will either be Wednesday May 13th or Thursday May 14th at 6pm. Students are to be on stage at 5:00 pm in their attire, ready to warm up and rehearse (THIS PERFORMANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL MS AND HS ENSEMBLES)**

3. **Night of the Arts date and time is TBD (Will be in the later part of the spring (April or May))**
4. **High School Graduation date and time TBD. At AB Tech Conference Center 16 Fernihurst Dr, Asheville, NC 28801. (THIS PERFORMANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL MODERN ORCHESTRA STUDENTS OF ALL LEVELS)**

ATTIRE:

Attire for all students is all black. Outfits can range from anything to a skirt and blouse, or a dress, to pants and a shirt or blouse, with **BLACK SHOES**. Please make sure that skirt/dress length is to at least the knee, if shorter, please wear black leggings as well. All attire must follow the schools dress code.

DURING THE CONCERT:

Since our concerts will feature multiple groups, all students from all groups are required to stay for the entirety of the concert. This is to ensure each group gets a full audience and the different ensembles can support each other. Most concerts range from 40mins- a little over an hour.

SEATING

Audience may begin finding seating at 5:30. There is handicap accessible drop off in the front and back of the school for those who are in need of this capability. If you or any family members have accessibility needs, please let me know by Wednesday 12/10 so we can make accommodations. There will be a reserved area for those with accessibility needs. There will be enough space for 2 people per family reservation in this area and will only have enough space for the people who reach out and reserve a spot by 12/10.

RECORDINGS

Finally, the concert will be recorded and available to students to share with family and friends as they choose after the concert. I will send a copy of the concert to students via GoogleDrive within 24 hours of the concert. Feel free to record and take pictures (without flash) during any and all performances unless specified.

EXTRA PRACTICE:

Private lessons are a great and extremely beneficial tool when beginning a new instrument. If you are in need of private instructions there are a few options.

First, at the start of each school year, I have a free after school group-lesson program called “THE FSI MUSIC ACADEMY” which is run entirely by students who have been at their craft for a while and are great mentors. This allows students in the high school to be granted volunteer hours and helps build relationships and connections across the grade levels and ensembles. If you are interested in being a part of this program, please let me know so I can arrange instructors for each students instrument.

The other option is lessons at a studio or with a private instructor. There are tons of studios in the Asheville area that cater to beginning instrumentalist. If you’re interested in private one on one instructions, please reach out to me with what instrument you will be playing and I will be learning and I can direct you to the best options.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Instruments: All students must have an instrument that can be brought to and from school for in school and at home practice. As this is the advanced class, it is assumed that you have the instrument you will be playing already, however, if you’re in need of an instrument, Music in Arts in Asheville offers instrument rentals as well as private lessons (which are highly recommended) at their location. Please see the attached [link](#) for more information about instrument rentals and lessons if needed. Please reach out if you have any questions about this program or instruments in general.

While I know this is a ton of information, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. I look forward to meeting all of you and cannot wait to have a great year with you.

Musically,

Sandi Wilson

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Director of Instrumental and Vocal Ensembles

Musical Director/Choreographer

Franklin School of Innovation