

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.

I am so excited to be able to expand our program and now offer a beginner/intermediate level Modern Orchestra. This will be a great opportunity for students who have never played to learn an instrument, or for students who haven't played in a while and need a refresher on their instrument and/or skills. Students will be expected to practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week. I am so excited to get started with you all.

Please read the following information carefully and mark your calendars with all the performance dates.

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 5:30pm. Students are to be on stage at 4:30 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 April 30th 5-7pm in the Community Room. (THIS PERFORMANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL MS AND HS ENSEMBLES)**

4. **High School Graduation date, time, and location is TBD Please plan to arrive at 2 hours early to the event to help unload and setup instruments as well as come back to the school after the event and unload instruments back into the classroom. (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 5:00. 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 the week of the concert 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 that Wednesday.

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, we offer 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. 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 let me know if you have any questions about this program or selecting an instrument.

For those students who already have an instrument and supplies, great! You’re all set. If you need to get an instrument and supplies, please see the list below.

I’ve linked specific items (list below) available on Amazon in an effort to make it easy, however, things go out of stock so please feel free to purchase comparable models if necessary. Also, all materials are available at Music & Arts in Asheville and/or Guitar Center in Asheville.

All sheet music and in class material will be provided by Mrs. Wilson in class.

Flute-

Flute Care Kit

[**Monster Flute Care and Cleaning Kit | Polishing Cloth, Fingering Chart, Two Handkerchiefs. Everything You Need to Take Care of Your Flute**](#)

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

Music Stand- FOR AT HOME USE ONLY

There is not a set brand or style of music stand I require for at home use, it just must be something students can easily use for proper at home practice.

Clarinet-

Reeds- (I have linked my two preferred brands, students need to have a box in their case for use as needed)

[Vandoren CR1025 Bb Clarinet Traditional Reeds Strength 2.5; Box of 10](#)

[Rico Bb Clarinet Reeds, Strength 2.5, 10-pack](#)

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

Clarinet Care Kit

[Monster Clarinet Care and Cleaning Kit | Wood or Composite, Cork Grease, and More! Everything You Need to Take Care of Your Clarinet](#)

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Alto Sax-

Reeds- (I have linked my two preferred brands, students need to have a box in their case for use as needed)

[D'Addario Rico Alto Sax Reeds, Strength 2.5, 10-pack](#)

[Vandoren SR2125 Alto Sax Traditional Reeds Strength 2.5; Box of 10](#)

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

Alto Sax Care Kit

[Monster Saxophone Care and Cleaning Kit | Swabs, Cork Grease, and More! Everything You Need to Take Care of and Clean Your Saxophone!](#)

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Trumpet-

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

Trumpet Care Kit

[Monster Trumpet/Cornet Care and Cleaning Kit | Valve Oil, Slide Grease, and More! Everything You Need to Take Care of and Clean Your Trumpet!](#)

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Trombone-

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

Trombone Care Kit

[Monster Trombone Care and Cleaning Kit | Slide Cream, Slide Grease, Mouthpiece Brush. Everything You Need to Take Care of and Clean Your Trombone](#)

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Baritone

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

Baritone care kit-

[Baritone Care Kit](#)

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French Horn

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

French Horn care kit-

[Monster French Horn Care and Cleaning Kit | Rotor Valve Oil w/Easy-To-Use Needle Applicator Tip, Slide Grease, and Cleaning Brushes. Everything You Need to Take Care of Your French Horn](#)

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Percussion- (please note that all percussion players are required to play snare drum, bells/xylophone, drum set, hand percussion, bass drum, and small percussion)

Practice Pads/sticks for Percussion-

[AAGUT Practice Pad with Drum Sticks Set, 12 Inch Marching Band Bass Snare Drums Pads Grey with 4 Hickory Classic 5A Drumsticks and Carry Bag](#)

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Piano (students playing this instrument need to have a keyboard or piano at home for practice)

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Guitar (bass or acoustic, or electric)

Strap-

Students should purchase a strap that suits the specific style of guitar they have and fits comfortably. I have no specific brand preference.

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

Amp- (electric guitar) https://www.amazon.com/Fender-Frontman-Electric-Guitar-Amplifier/dp/B001L8PIFW/ref=sr_1_5?crid=SRFIV8FSWEOR&keywords=electric+guitar+amp&qid=1691172779&srefix=electric+guitar+amp%2Caps%2C131&sr=8-5

Amp- (electric bass) https://www.amazon.com/Fender-Rumble-Bass-Combo-Amplifier/dp/B00HWINK1E/ref=sr_1_6?crid=33OUHXOT6PHLT&keywords=electric%2Bbass%2Bamp&qid=1691172809&srefix=electric%2Bbass%2Bamp%2Caps%2C110&sr=8-6&th=1

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Ukulele-

Tuner- <https://a.co/d/3bGtu12>

Strap- Please select a strap to your preferences. I don't care what it look likes as long as you're comfortable with it.

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Violin-

Shoulder rest- (choose the size based on your personal instruments size)

[Fiddlerman Wood Violin Shoulder Rest for 4/4 and 3/4 with Collapsible and Height Adjustable Feet](#)

Violin/Viola Rosin-

[D'Addario Natural Rosin, Light](#)

Violin Strings- (choose the size based on your personal instruments size, always select medium tension)

[D'Addario Prelude Violin String Set, 4/4 Scale Medium Tension – Solid Steel Core, Warm Tone, Economical and Durable – Educator's Choice for Student Strings – Sealed Pouch to Prevent Corrosion, 1 Set](#)

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Viola-

Shoulder rest- (choose the size based on your personal instruments size)

[Classic Viola Shoulder Rest for 15"-17" Viola \(Full Size\) with Adjustable Height | Collapsible | Real Maple Wood | Excellent Support Grip - By MIVI Music](#)

Violin/Viola Rosin-

[D'Addario Natural Rosin, Light](#)

Viola Strings- (choose the size based on your personal instruments size, always select medium tension)

[D'Addario Prelude Viola String Set, Short Scale, Medium Tension](#)

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Cello-

Cello Rock Stop w/ strap-

[Q QINGGE Cello Antiskid Device Anti-Slip Mat Pad Stop Holder cello stopper with strap Adjustable Cello rock stop for cello and upright bass Non-Slip Mat Pads Cello Endpin Anchor 1PCS black](#)

Cello Rosin-

[Sherman's VP-01C Bow Rosin - Cello - Dark](#)

Cello Strings- (choose the size based on your personal instruments size, always select medium tension)

[D'Addario Prelude Cello String Set, 4/4 Scale, Medium Tension](#)

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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