

WILLAMETTE VALLEY JUNIOR HONORS SYMPHONY HANDBOOK — 2023-24 SEASON

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CYSA MISSION

The Corvallis Youth Symphony Association (CYSA) is a non-profit dedicated to: providing young people with opportunities for exceptional musical experiences, enhancing school music programs, and developing an awareness and appreciation of great music in the community and for our students.

CYSA is committed to being a welcoming and safe community for young musicians and their families of all cultures, races, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and circumstances.

CYSA CONCERT CALENDAR

Willamette Valley Junior Honors Symphony (JHS)

Winter Concert	Sunday, December 10 2:30 PM	LaSells Stewart Center
Mid-Season Concert	Saturday, February 10 4:00 PM	Crescent Valley High School
Spring Concert	Sunday, April 28 2:30 PM	LaSells Stewart Center

Corvallis Youth Symphony (CYS)

Winter Concert	Sunday, December 10 4:00 PM	LaSells Stewart Center
Cabaret Concert and Dance	Saturday, March 2 7:30 PM - Concert 9:00 PM - Dance	Ashbrook Independent School
Spring Concert	Sunday, April 28 4:00 PM	LaSells Stewart Center

Elementary Strings (ES)

Winter Concert	Saturday, January 6 2:00 PM	Corvallis High School
Spring Concert	Saturday, June 1 2:00 PM	Crescent Valley High School

JHS REHEARSAL SCHEDULE 2023-2024

All rehearsals/retreats take place at Crescent Valley High School unless otherwise noted.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION AND TIME</u>
10/01 (Sun)	JHS Parent Meeting	Zoom 7:00-7:30 PM
10/03	First Rehearsal	CVHS 6:30-8:00 PM
10/10	Rehearsal	"
10/17	Rehearsal	"
10/24	Rehearsal	"
10/31	Rehearsal	"
11/07	Rehearsal	"
11/14	Rehearsal	"
11/18 (Sat)	JHS Fall Retreat	CVHS 9:00-2:15 PM
11/21	No Rehearsal	Thanksgiving Week
11/28	Rehearsal	CVHS 6:30-8:00 PM
12/05	Rehearsal	CVHS 7:15 – 8:30 PM
12/10 (Sun)	Dress Rehearsal	LaSells 1:15-2:15 PM
12/10 (Sun)	JHS Winter Concert	LaSells 2:30 PM

**No JHS Rehearsal from December 11 – January 1 for Winter Break.
JHS rehearsals will resume on January 2, 2024.**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION AND TIME</u>
01/02 (Tues)	New Parent Meeting	CV 6:45-7:15 PM
01/02	Rehearsal	CVHS 6:30-8:00 PM
01/09	Rehearsal	"
01/16	Rehearsal	"
01/23	Rehearsal	"
01/30	Rehearsal	"
02/06	Rehearsal	"
02/10 (Sat)	Dress Rehearsal	CVHS 2:30-3:30 PM
02/10 (Sat)	Mid-Season Concert	CVHS 4:00 PM
02/13	No Rehearsal	Enjoy the evening off!
02/20	Rehearsal	CVHS 6:30-8:00 PM
02/27	Rehearsal	"
03/05	Rehearsal	"
03/09 (Sat)	Spring Retreat	CVHS 9:00-2:15 PM
03/12	Rehearsal	CVHS 6:30-8:00 PM
03/19	Rehearsal	"
03/26	No Rehearsal	Spring Break
04/02	Rehearsal	CVHS 6:30-8:00 PM
04/09	Rehearsal	"
04/16	Rehearsal	"
04/23	Rehearsal	"
04/28 (Sun)	Dress Rehearsal	LaSells 1:15-2:15 PM
04/28 (Sun)	JHS Spring Concert	LaSells 2:30 PM

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Membership is by audition only. All new and returning members must audition at the beginning of each season.
2. Each member must belong to her/his school district band or orchestra if one is available (see Participation Policy).
3. Musicians must be 6th–10th grade to participate in JHS. Transition to CYS generally occurs in the 9th or 10th grade.
4. Parents of all musicians are expected to contribute volunteer time.
5. Each member must agree to abide by the Policies laid out in this Handbook.
6. Each family must sign the CYSA Release of Liability and the Handbook Agreement in order to participate in JHS.

TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS

The full season will be broken into a Fall (October-December) and Spring (January-April) Sessions. Students may participate for the full year or one session only. The non-refundable tuition for JHS is \$550 for the year, \$225 for Fall term, and \$325 for Spring term. ***Please participate for both sessions if you are able to!***

JHS tuition includes the cost of 4 concert tickets each for the Winter, Mid-Season, and Spring concerts, as well as a JHS t-shirt.

JHS has half tuition scholarships available for families with demonstrated financial need. Application forms are available from the CYSA office upon request (cysassoc@peak.org).

VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

Each JHS family is expected to volunteer for the good of the orchestra. Positions range from concert usher to helping put away chairs after each rehearsal, and everything in between. Signups for volunteer positions will take place at the parent meeting, or by emailing the JHS Volunteer Coordinator to sign up for a position.

CYSA MUSIC FOLDER POLICY

Musicians are responsible for their JHS music folder, and for returning their folder after the final concert of the season. A \$20 replacement fee will be assessed for loss or damage to your music folder (includes tearing, stickers, marks in pencil or ink, or water damage).

CONCERT DRESS EXPECTATIONS

Long (¾ sleeves or longer) white dress shirt. Long (past knee length) black skirt or black slacks. Black dress shoes with black stockings or dress socks and minimal jewelry.

Professional dress only. No sleeveless, bare backs, strapless or spaghetti straps. No bare midriff. No flip-flops or casual sandals. No leggings or jeans.

JHS PARTICIPATION POLICY

While certain subjects in the school system are part of the core curriculum, music is generally viewed to be an elective program. As a result of this, the continuing health of the school music program during times of financial stress depends solely on its popularity within the schools. The single, clear sign of this popularity is the student count. Music programs exist because students chose music. Often this choice is difficult.

The stated objectives of CYSA are "to support and enhance the school music program, providing talented musicians with an exceptional music experience." To help achieve these objectives, CYSA adopted a rigorous Participation Policy. **Membership in JHS requires membership in the student's school or district band or orchestra class.** Homeschoolers and students attending schools that don't provide band or orchestra classes are **strongly encouraged** to participate in a nearby school or community ensemble. Adoption of a more lenient policy would be to provide an alternate to the school music program, not a supplement. Such an approach would be competition to school music and a threat to the regional community of music teachers. CYSA will never do anything to harm school programs knowingly.

Under extreme circumstances, a review committee, in consultation with the affected band or orchestra teacher, may waive this requirement. Possible exceptions could be a scheduling conflict with a class required for graduation. Choosing not to be in a school music program because of conflict with other electives, choosing not to attend classes at available times, or choosing not to travel even though reasonable transportation options are available are not considered extreme situations.

JHS BEHAVIOR POLICY

The rehearsal room is a place for learning. All students have a right to learn and the conductor has a right to teach and direct the rehearsal. If students behave inappropriately, other students cannot learn and the teacher cannot teach. Students are expected to respect others' rights and behave in a manner that (1) avoids disruption of the educational process, (2) protects everyone's health, safety, and the right to learn, and (3) safeguards property from loss or damage.

There are many ways to disrupt a rehearsal: cell phone use during rehearsal; talking during rehearsal; playing while the conductor is giving instructions; touching others or their instruments; and forgetting your music/pencil are few examples.

All students are responsible for following the behavior expectations in order to have a peaceful, happy, and productive orchestra experience. **Students that choose not to follow these expectations may be asked to leave the rehearsal or resign their position in JHS.**

Cell phones are not permitted during rehearsal and must stay in students' cases *outside of the rehearsal room.*

CYSA ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

CYSA is committed to providing an environment free of harassment. Students, staff, and volunteers are expected to be respectful of one another in all regards. If ever concerns arise, please communicate your concerns to a senior staff member (Executive Director, Conductor, or Orchestra Manager) and/or board member.

JHS ATTENDANCE POLICY

JHS is recognized for the excellence of its musical performances. High quality demands a commitment of faithful attendance and industrious concentration at each rehearsal. Anything less is not considered acceptable for a group of this caliber. Any absence adversely affects the quality of the performance and the reputation of the group.

JHS students are often committed to various other activities. Problems can arise when commitments conflict. Students who might have conflicts (e.g., sports and school activities) need to carefully study their calendars to determine the seriousness of the conflicts. When conflicts require a student to miss a concert, a dress rehearsal, or several rehearsals (more than 3), the student should not participate in JHS for that season. When conflicts are less severe, the student should consult with the Conductor as soon as possible to determine what arrangements can be made.

PRE-APPROVED ABSENCES

If a student knows in advance that (s)he will need to be excused from a future rehearsal, or will be late to a future rehearsal, (s)he **must get pre-approval**. The student is to send an email to the Conductor **and** the Orchestra Manager documenting the date and reason for the absence or late arrival.

LAST MINUTE ABSENCES

If an emergency arises or a student is ill and unable to attend, the student should contact the Orchestra Manager as soon as possible by email or phone (503)869-4446. If the Orchestra Manager cannot be reached, the student should call the CYSA Office Phone at (541)766-4903 and leave a message.

Homework is not an acceptable excused absence!

ATTENDANCE MONITORING

JHS rehearses on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Crescent Valley HS orchestra room (B2). **Students are expected to be:**

- **In their seats and ready to tune by 6:20 pm**
- **Picked up promptly at 8:00 pm**

As soon as possible after rehearsal begins, the Orchestra Manager will contact all absentees who have not been excused. After each rehearsal, the Orchestra Manager will report to the Conductor which students were absent or tardy and whether they were excused.

When absences are not excused, the Conductor will discuss them with the student. **Two or more unexcused absences may be grounds to prevent participation in a concert.** Two unexcused tardies will be considered one unexcused absence.

It is IMPERATIVE that this policy be followed. It is not fair to the Conductor or other musicians to have a musician missing or distracting the orchestra when they come in late. JHS is a team activity.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

JHS follows the Corvallis School District's inclement weather policy. If school is cancelled for the 509J school district on a rehearsal day, JHS will **NOT** rehearse.