

FULTON COUNTY FIDDLERS

HANDBOOK & GUIDELINES

The Fulton County Fiddlers are an entertainment organization of students from the high school orchestra programs of Fulton County Schools. We provide students enhanced performance opportunities that are not normally a part of the daily orchestra program. This organization presents the students and Fulton County Music Department in a manner which reflects the highest regard for professionalism. The students will gain improved individual musicianship skills and leadership qualities valuable to them and their own school orchestra program.

Included are performance venues for civic organizations, school functions, meetings of local, state and national government, state, regional, national events as well events throughout the community. Because of the nature of these performances, students are often afforded the opportunity to meet well respected leaders and government officials both locally and worldwide.

EXPECTATIONS OF FC FIDDLERS MEMBERS

1. Is an enrolled member in good standing of their respective school's music program.
2. Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00p.m. at Chattahoochee HS Orchestra Room. **Attendance at all rehearsals is required of every member.** If illness or unforeseen circumstances occur that prevent your attendance at a rehearsal, email Mrs. Gomez at lorigomez1234@gmail.com or text her at 770.362.9811 to report the absence.
3. You will need to stay ahead on all homework so that it doesn't pile up on you. This takes planning ahead. If your class load is so heavy that you must miss rehearsals, then this is not the group for you.
4. A minimum instrumentation must be maintained throughout the year for Fulton County Fiddlers to exist. If FC Fiddlers members over-commit themselves and do not make a solid commitment, then the group will be disbanded and will cease to exist. We cannot have a group that commits to public performances and then have individuals back out because they failed to plan. This would not represent Fulton County Music Department in a favorable light.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

1. Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm in the Chattahoochee High School Orchestra Room.
2. Rehearsals begin on time. Please plan on arriving by 5:45pm so you have time to unpack your instrument, rosin your bow, get music ready, and be tuned before 6:00pm. We must be strict about starting on time!

3. Members are also responsible for **practicing** and **memorizing** the music outside of the rehearsal time. FC Fiddlers have only two hours per week to rehearse, so we must make good use of rehearsal time.
4. The Fulton County Fiddlers are a group effort – one member missing rehearsal weakens the entire group.

PERFORMANCE RSVP PROCEDURES

1. Members are expected to check the FC Fiddlers Calendar every week for updates. The schedule will be updated with tentative performances as they are added.
2. Members will be notified when new performance opportunities arise, and **must RSVP on the website for each new performance opportunity within 24 hours of being notified.** Performance opportunities are only finalized after it is determined there are enough musicians able to perform. Therefore, it is imperative that all members RSVP within the 24 hour deadline. If enough members are not able to perform, the director will decline the invitation and remove the performance opportunity.
3. Once a member has confirmed their availability for a performance, they are committed to that performance even if some other opportunity arises they would rather do.
4. Students are expected to participate in all trips, including out-of-town trips. (See below for information regarding fundraisers for out-of-town trips.)

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

1. **Annual Membership Dues: \$150.** This fee includes: a Fulton County Fiddler uniform shirt, music, binder, and guest clinicians to work with the members during the season.
2. **Second child, same family: \$50**
3. **Third Child is free. This is a maximum of \$200 per family.**
4. **Out-of-town Trips:** Out-of-town trips often require additional costs for members to attend, and fundraisers will be provided for any out-of-town trips that cost a significant amount. If any family has the wherewithal and preference to do so, however, the student may pay for their trip in full without using the fundraisers.

Please make all checks payable to "Fulton County Fiddlers".

UNIFORM

1. **Fulton County Fiddlers shirt**
2. **Khakis, blue jeans, or black pants** (*to be determined by the director for each performance*)
3. **Appropriate shoes** -- *No tennis shoes, flip flops, crocs, sandals, or open-toe shoes should be worn to performances. Black or brown shoes or boots are preferable.*
4. **Other** -- *Hats and accessories are optional, and must have the director's final approval before used in a performance.*

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to all local events is the responsibility of each member/parents. Carpooling is encouraged.

PERFORMANCES

1. Members are expected to play all performances **from memory**.
2. While most performing is done on stage, a portion of our performing is right out in the audience. Members are expected to practice good personal hygiene at performances.
3. The Fulton County Fiddlers members are responsible for helping set up and break down equipment for each performance.
4. When at a performance venue, members should stay only in the areas in which they are assigned. It is not polite or professional to go wandering through someone's facility uninvited. Act in a manner befitting the group. Members are upholding a reputation and are a role model for younger students.
5. If a member is put into a situation in which they are not sure what to do, ask the following questions: *If my parents, the FC Fiddlers director, or my school music director were watching me right now, would I do what I'm about to do? Are there positive or negative consequences for the action I am about to take?*

CONTINUE TO MEMBER INFORMATION FORM
