



# PERMIAN ORCHESTRA

# Student Handbook 2024-2025



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# WELCOME



## Todd Berridge

Head Orchestra Director

Welcome, students and parents, to the Permian High School Orchestra Program!

Our orchestra is a tight-knit family that thrives on the participation of both students and parents. We invite you to contribute your time and effort to help build a strong, high-quality program we can all be proud of. The administration, faculty, and staff at Permian High School take pride in offering a comprehensive and diverse instrumental music program.

This handbook outlines answers to frequently asked questions and provides essential guidelines. Please bookmark it for easy reference.

**AGAIN, WELCOME TO THE MIGHTY MOJO ORCHESTRA!**



# Philosophy & MOJO ORCHESTRAS

## PHILOSOPHY

Music offers enough intrinsic values to demand its teaching. Additional skills that may be gained from a musical experience are teamwork, group belonging and self-confidence. All students have an aptitude for music, and some students have a higher aptitude for music than any other subject. Therefore, ALL students are equally important to a musical ensemble. It is the goal of the Orchestra Department at PHS to facilitate the individual needs of students in order to promote personal and ensemble achievement.

Students will develop the following skills and concepts:

- A high level of performance encompassing rhythm, intonation, dynamics, tone, and technique.
- Knowledge of a wide variety of orchestral and chamber literature.
- Functional knowledge of music history, theory, and terminology.

## ORCHESTRAS

### **Freshmen Orchestra (Sub Non-Varsity Strings)**

The Permian High School Freshmen Orchestra meets each day. All Freshmen Orchestra students are required to perform at each concert and encouraged to audition for All Region. All members are encouraged to take private lessons. The Freshmen Orchestra will meet 2nd period.

### **Philharmonic Orchestra (Non-Varsity Strings)**

The Permian High School Philharmonic Orchestra meets each day. All Philharmonic Orchestra students are required to perform at each concert and encouraged to audition for All Region. The Philharmonic Orchestra performs music from a variety of musical periods and styles. All members are encouraged to take private lessons. The Philharmonic Orchestra will meet 1st period.

### **Satin Strings (Auxiliary Ensemble & Varsity Strings)**

The Satin Strings is an audition-only "strolling" ensemble that meets every day. The Satin Strings are world famous! The Satin Strings performs at public and private functions during the lunch hour or after school. Membership in the Satin Strings is very competitive, so there is a yearly audition for membership in the ensemble. The members of Satin Strings are also automatically in the Symphony Orchestra. Satin Strings will meet 5th period.

### **Symphony Orchestra (Varsity Full Orchestra)**

The Permian High School Symphony Orchestra is an audition only ensemble and meets each day. This award-winning ensemble has won the prestigious TMEA Honor Orchestra twice (1980 & 1984) under Charles Nail. The Symphony was invited to perform at the world-renowned Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois in 1985. Students in the Symphony Orchestra will need to place orchestra as a high priority and be willing to commit extra time and effort. Members of the Symphony Orchestra are highly encouraged to audition for the All-Region Orchestra and All-State and are strongly recommended to take private lessons on their instrument. All Symphony Orchestra students are required to perform at each concert. Symphony will meet 6th period.

# Rehearsals, Orchestra Facilities & MUSIC

## REHEARSALS

- Be prepared AT ALL TIMES.
- Practice outside of rehearsal time. This is necessary for the overall success of this program.
- Be on time. Students are expected to be in their seats with their instruments, music and pencil each day by the time the tardy bell rings!
- Bring your instrument, orchestra folder, music, pencil and all required equipment.
- No talking or disruptions.
- Represent yourself and your school with pride.
- PARTICIPATE FULLY.

The orchestras rehearse daily during their scheduled class period. Occasionally, extra rehearsals are held before and after school hours. These extra rehearsals will be required for upcoming performance events and auditions. Sufficient advance notice will be given.

## REHEARSAL FACILITIES

- Food, drinks, gum and candy are not allowed in the orchestra room, practice rooms, storage rooms or orchestra library at any time.
- Lunch is not allowed in the orchestra room, hallway, or practice rooms.
- Instrument lockers are to be kept clean at all times. Only music and instruments are allowed.
- Keep the rehearsal areas clean. If you see trash, PICK IT UP.
- Chairs and stands will be properly stored when not in use.
- Practice rooms are for MUSIC practice only.
- Only authorized students are allowed in the storage rooms, director's offices and the music library.
- Non-orchestra members are not allowed in the Orchestra Room UNLESS they have the consent of the directors.

## MUSIC

- Music will be handed out at one time. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to pick it up outside of rehearsal time.
- Each student is allowed ONE FREE COPY. Each copy after that costs **\$.25**
- Only directors and student librarians are allowed to use the copier.
- All music needs to be at every rehearsal with its owner at all times. Do not leave your music at home and expect your stand partner to bring it. Assume they will be absent.
- Always write bowings, fingerings and so on in pencil, not in pen or with highlighters.
- Always write bowings, fingerings and so on in your music the second you get the information. DO NOT ASSUME you will remember.
- A black school folder will be issued for UIL C&SR ONLY. Replacement cost: **\$20**
- Missing or damaged originals must be replaced or you will pay a **\$5** fine.
- All music is to be kept in the original condition in which it was handed out.

# School Equipment & UNIFORMS

## EQUIPMENT

- All instruments are to be in good working condition. Proper maintenance is REQUIRED. You are responsible for all repairs. If an instrument needs repair during the school year, the student may use a school instrument, provided one is available, during class for a period of not more than 3 class days. If a longer time is needed, the directors must receive a note from the parent or repair person doing work on the student's instrument.
- Students will need to have their own BLACK school binder for music. These binders can be found at any office supply store, Target, Wal-Mart, etc.
- Students are expected to have mutes, shoulder pads (violins and violas), rock stops (cellos and basses), rosin, personal or rented locks, MUSIC and instrument at each rehearsal and performance (See REQUIRED MATERIALS).
- School instruments are available (see SCHOOL INSTRUMENT USAGE), but a home instrument is preferred.
- ALL students are expected to take their instruments home daily for home practice.

## UNIFORMS

The PHS Orchestra will have uniforms that will be used for various concerts and events. The formal concert uniforms will be issued to each individual student (EXCEPT Freshmen Boys) after the beginning of the year.

### ALL LADIES

- This uniform will be a long black dress for women ONLY. We will measure for these at the Orchestra Registration Day event on **SATURDAY, AUG 17 2024**.
- Black hose & black shoes are not provided and are the responsibility of the student.

### SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, & SENIOR BOYS

- This uniform is a black tuxedo coat, slacks and a black formal vest. These uniforms are issued for men ONLY. We will measure for these at the Orchestra Registration Day event on **SATURDAY, AUG 17 2024**.
- Black shoes, black ties and black dress shirt (Long Sleeved) are not provided and are the responsibility of the student.

### FRESHMEN BOYS

- Black dress slacks, black dress shirt (Long Sleeved), black dress shoes & socks. Black shoes, black ties and black dress shirt
- These items are not provided and are the responsibility of the student.

School-issued uniforms are to be kept clean and pressed. There will be a uniform check before every concert/event. An unkempt, wrinkled uniform will keep you from performing.

You are allowed to alter the uniform to fit you. If the uniform is damaged or lost, the student will pay to replace the missing or damaged uniform.

### Replacement Costs:

- **BOYS: \$106** (\$56 Jackets, \$25 Pants, \$25 Vests)
- **GIRLS: \$70** (Dress)

# Lettering, Grading & ELIGIBILITY

## LETTERING

All students in the Permian HS Orchestras have the opportunity to earn a letter award. To earn this letter, each student must be a member of the orchestra and achieve a certain number of points. For a letter, a student must accumulate ten points in one school year. Points DO NOT carry over and are awarded for the following:

- **4 pts** - All-Region Orchestra
- **3 pts** - All-Area Orchestra
- **2 pts** - All-State Orchestra
- **3 pts** - 1st Div on a Class 1 Solo or Ensemble (No more than 6 points can be earned)
- **2 pts** - 1st Div on a Solo or Ensemble at State S&E (No more than 4 points can be earned)

## GRADING

Six weeks grades are figured as follows:

- **Major Grades - 60%** (Concerts, Solo & Ensemble, All-Region, UIL C&SR Contest, etc...)
- **Minor Grades - 35%** (Chair tests, student participation, attitude, posture & playing position, knowledge of the music and the presence of proper equipment, etc...)
- **Participation - 5%** (graded once a week)

If a student missed a concert/chair test due to an absence, that test must be made up within five school days or a grade of "0" will be recorded and averaged into the final 6 weeks grade. A calendar is online and updated frequently. Therefore, it is the student's and parent's responsibility to notify the director of ANY conflicts immediately. Not all conflicts will be excused.

All material must be mastered. Therefore, if a student fails any part of a test, he/she is given five school days to master that portion of the test and must retest in order to remove the failing grade. **It is the student's responsibility to arrange for re-testing.** A maximum grade of 70 may be achieved by any student on a make-up test.

## ELIGIBILITY

The NO PASS, NO PLAY rule has changed. This rule affects all Fine Arts classes, including orchestra for only "competition activities with a possibility of advancement". If a student fails any non-exempt course (69 or lower) or any AP, Pre AP, Honors course (59 or lower) in any given six weeks, they will NOT be eligible to participate in certain orchestral activities for the next three-week period. These participation-type activities include: All-Region/All-State auditions and/or performances, UIL Solo and Ensemble Contests, music festivals and spring trips held during the school year. **If the student fails, their participation in UIL and TMEA will not happen.**

# Attendance Policy, Sectionals & EXTRA REHEARSALS

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Before-school/after-school sectionals and all evening rehearsals are REQUIRED. Student job commitments and 'select sports' are NOT a reason for an excused absence. Please take a copy of the sectional/rehearsal calendar to your employer and/or coach and clear all orchestra performances and rehearsals. 99% of employers are very understanding and are flexible if they know of orchestra commitments well in advance, and they understand that ALL orchestra events are required and a vital part of the course work. Work with employers to clear the evening rehearsals.

An excused absence/tardy will only be granted if the student has notified the orchestra director at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance. In the case of illness or a sudden emergency, a student should notify the orchestra director as soon as possible. Contact should be from the parent/guardian by e-mail or written note:

Mr. Berridge: [todd.berridge@ectorcountyisd.org](mailto:todd.berridge@ectorcountyisd.org)

**Telling another student/texting the director IS NOT proper notification.**

### Examples of EXCUSED ABSENCES/TARDIES:

- Medical emergency or personal sickness
- Death in the immediate family
- Religious holiday
- Approved school functions (UIL, TMEA, ETC.)
- Special circumstances that are pre-approved at least 2 weeks in advance by email

### Examples of UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/TARDIES:

- Work
- Oversleeping
- Transportation not arranged
- Appointments, such as doctor, dentist, orthodontist (UNLESS unavoidable or necessary)
- Family trip
- Church functions
- Scouts
- Non-school athletic events
- Tutorials (Students are expected to use non-rehearsal days or times)
- Testing including SAT, ACT, etc. (UNLESS unavoidable)

### Repercussions for UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/TARDIES:

- Missed time must be made-up within **1 WEEK** during other sectionals or grade will suffer
- The director may reassign the chair of the student in the ensemble
- The student may be dropped from the orchestra ensemble
- The student may be removed from the orchestra program

**WORK IS NEVER AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR A REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE.**

# Instruments, Fees, Lessons & OFFICERS

## SCHOOL INSTRUMENT USAGE

Basses, cellos, bass & cello bows and a few violins and violas are available for student use. An instrument rental agreement must be signed, by both the parent and student, and returned to the director within one week of the day the instrument was issued. The ECISD requires this loan contract to be filled out **COMPLETELY**. By signing this contract, the parents/students agree to give the loaner instrument the best of care. **The parents are also to assume the financial responsibility of repairing or replacing the instrument should it become damaged, lost or stolen (Even personal instruments).** All orchestra students are not required to use school instruments but are required to have an instrument in class each day. In other words, students are encouraged to bring their instruments from home, but they are not to leave their instruments at school overnight.

## ORCHESTRA FEES

Each student pays an "orchestra fee" at the beginning of every school year. The **2024-2025** Fee is **\$200**. If this fee is paid by **SEPT 15**, the fee is discounted to **\$150**. There is a breakdown of this fee on page 14.

This money is used for a variety of expenditures benefiting ALL members of the PHS Orchestra. Here is a partial list of what this "orchestra fee" is used for: food for after concerts, Orchestra Banquet, Orchestra t-shirt, meals for UIL Contest, snacks at clinics, payment for clinicians, and other musical expenses. We charge a blanket amount at the beginning of the year to avoid nickel and dime-ing you every other week when the kids have to bring a check for their t-shirt, then snacks at their UIL clinic...you get the idea. Even though not everyone will participate in ALL activities for which these fees are being collected, the amount of the orchestra fee considers those (otherwise, the amount would be higher). This fee **MUST** be paid before students can buy Spring Banquet tickets. Additionally, their grades will be held and promotion/graduation will be delayed.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Individual private lessons are highly encouraged for students of all levels. The individual attention you receive in private lessons cannot be duplicated in the classroom. Each private teacher gears the lesson to your individual abilities and allows you to experience all that can be offered in a one-on-one teaching environment. A list of recommended private lesson teachers in the area is attached to this handout.

## ORCHESTRA OFFICERS

Orchestra officers will be elected by the orchestra members and confirmed by the directors. Officers should set an example with their actions and assist with the planning and organization of the orchestra. They will assist the orchestra by helping to select fundraisers, planning social activities, aiding with uniform checkout and assisting the director and chaperones on trips. All officers are expected to be excellent leaders!

# All Region, State, Solo & Ensemble CONTESTS

## TMEA ALL REGION (\$15 FEE)

It is strongly suggested that each member of the orchestra audition for the Region 6 All Region Orchestra. However, it is **NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMEBERSHIP IN THE PHS ORCHESTRAS**. These orchestras are comprised of students in the Odessa/Midland/San Angelo/Abilene/Wichita Falls area high schools who have been chosen to participate due to the competitive audition process. Participation in the Region 6 Orchestras is a wonderful musical experience for every student and provides the opportunity to perform in very high-caliber ensembles. You must be academically eligible to audition and perform at this clinic/concert.

## TMEA ALL STATE (\$25 FEE)

The Texas All-State Orchestra audition is available to all orchestra students who participate in the Region 6 Orchestra. These orchestras are comprised of the best high school orchestra students in Texas. Selection to one of these orchestras provides a free trip for the student to San Antonio where the All-State Orchestras perform each February. You must be academically eligible to audition and perform at this clinic/concert.

## UIL SOLO & ENSEMBLE (\$10 FEE)

All students in the PHS Orchestra program are encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Contest each year. This opportunity allows students the chance to perform solo pieces and/or chamber music pieces for an adjudicator, who provide a performance rating as well as constructive feedback to better the individual performers' ability. You must be academically eligible to perform at this contest. **Each entry is \$10 per entry. Accompanists are required for all solo pieces that have accompaniment parts available. The students are responsible for all finding and paying for accompanists and purchasing all original music needed for the contest.**

## UIL STATE S&E (\$25 FEE)

Any students in the PHS Orchestra program who receives a Division 1 on their memorized Class 1 Solo and/or receives a Division 1 on their Class 1 Ensemble will advance to the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest in May. This contest is held over Memorial Day Weekend in Austin on the campus of **The University of Texas**. You must be academically eligible to perform at this contest. You and your parents are responsible for transportation to and from Austin. The director will enter the student online prior to the contest. **Each entry is \$25 per entry. Accompanists are required for all solo pieces that have accompaniment parts available. The students are responsible for all finding and paying for accompanists and purchasing all original music needed for the contest.**

# Understanding Chair Auditions & EXAMS

## CHAIR TESTS

Auditions for chair placement within a section are an integral part of the orchestral experience. These auditions can be emotional and stressful for students, parents, and directors if not thoroughly understood. **Please read the following information carefully:**

### What is a Chair Test?

- A chair test is when a student performs selected portions of music for the directors in front of the class. The students are graded and then seated in each section according to the rank assigned by the directors.

### Key Points to Remember:

- **Every Student Matters:** Each student is crucial to the orchestra's success. Competition should be seen as an isolated event, not a judgment of the student's value as a person.
- **Nature of Chair Auditions:** A chair audition evaluates a student's performance at a specific time under specific circumstances. Responses to stress vary; some students perform well under pressure, while others may not. Directors have their interpretations of each performance at that moment. Therefore, view competition as part of the learning process, not the end goal.
- **Audition Material:** The material for chair tests will include the music being taught.
- **Chair Placement:** Do not place undue importance on the chair your student receives. Well-prepared students who work hard may sometimes rank lower due to circumstances on the day of the audition or because others performed better at that time. The ranking order does not indicate the success or failure of a student.

### Importance of Chair Auditions:

- The chair audition process is vital for the development of students as musicians. It also prepares them for other life situations where they must perform under pressure, present themselves effectively, and accept the outcomes. Learning to handle both success and disappointment is an essential part of this process.

### Missed Auditions:

- If a chair audition is missed, the student has one week to make it up.

### Regular Chair Tests:

- Chair tests will be conducted regularly throughout the year during class. Most tests will be recorded live in class. However, these recordings are for the directors' review only and will not be made public.

By understanding and appreciating these aspects of chair auditions, we can support our students through this important part of their musical journey.

## PROFICIENCY EXAMS

Not everyone is guaranteed a spot in an orchestra that participates in UIL Concert & Sightreading. In order to participate, you will need to be very proficient on your music and be at ALL rehearsals. Aside from normal chair tests, there will be proficiency exams on your music to see if you are properly understanding and performing your music at a high level. If you fail a proficiency exam, you will "sit out" of the competing orchestra until you pass. If a student fails their proficiency exam, they will have **ONE** opportunity to regain a passing status. This re-test will occur within 3 school days after the initial failed proficiency exam. The re-test will take place during class. **If a student misses more than THREE required rehearsals, they will not be allowed to perform.**

# Trips, Calendar, Websites & **SOCIAL MEDIA**

## **SPRING TRIP**

Each year the orchestras will take a spring trip. The purpose of the trip is to enhance the students' educational experience by comparing our orchestra to other ensembles from around the state and nation. It is also a reward to the students for their hard work during the school year. All students are encouraged to attend this trip because every person is an important part of the team and is needed and wanted for the spring trip concert.

Each student is responsible for paying for their part of the spring trip. This includes all funds raised through fund raising, donations and personal payments. No refunds will be made once the monies have been spent. For this reason, the students must plan ahead to ensure that they are academically eligible to attend the spring trip. Students and parents are asked to sign a "STATEMENT OF INTENET" early in the year. This shows that the student is serious about going and the parents will support the student and uphold the bylaws set forth. If a student does not go on the trip or drops from the orchestra program, no money will be refunded. The students' orchestra account is not a bank account and as money is given for the trip, it is spent by the tour companies for deposits and travel.

## **CALENDAR**

The calendar provided is for your information and should be used in scheduling events throughout the school year. Conflicts should be avoided. If a conflict arises that cannot be resolved, please contact the director as soon as possible so we can work out a solution. Please note that there are dates and times that will change and disappear throughout the year. Times will be adjusted and concerts and added rehearsals will come out of thin air.

**BE FLEXIBLE.**

The calendar will be updated on the website weekly. Please refer to this calendar for accurate information about concerts, rehearsals and special events:

[www.permianorchestra.com/calendar](http://www.permianorchestra.com/calendar)

## **GET TO KNOW US ONLINE**

The Permian Orchestra has a web page: [www.permianorchestra.com](http://www.permianorchestra.com)

For more immediate and timely info, follow us on these social media sites:



We will monitor and adjust the website and social media daily. Only students who have parental permission to be on the web page will be allowed. Any offensive or disruptive posts or comments will be deleted.

# Principal Players, Online Activity & **FUNDRAISING**

## **SECTION LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES**

In each of the Permian High School orchestras, there are five principal players, or section leaders: Concertmaster/mistress, Principal Second, Principal Viola, Principal Cello, and Principal Bass.

There is a reason they are called principal players. They have been chosen by the directors to lead their sections. They are chosen for their musical ability as well as their leadership capabilities. It is the expectation of the directors that the principal players assume the role of the directors in helping to provide information during their own private sectionals away from class. It is the responsibility of the section leaders to call their own individual rehearsals, in addition to the ones required by the directors, in order to fully prepare their sections.

The director expects that during orchestra rehearsals the principal players conduct themselves responsibly and seriously as the student role models for their sections.

The directors will expect all students in the sections to respond in a favorable and positive manner and show respect toward their section leaders as the representative of the director. Conversely, it is the expectation of the directors that the section leaders will listen to suggestions provided by their sections, and all students will work in a cooperative, team spirit. Some of the types of technical assistance that the section leaders must provide to their sections are fingerings, bowings, dynamics, and repetitive work on difficult technical passages, rhythm and tempo problems, and any other item that will enable the sections to be better prepared for the next rehearsal.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND TEXTING**

In this day and age, our lives are lived out loud on social media sites and on our cell phones and tablets. These various technologies bring about wonderful creations and make communication very easy. On the flip side, however, it can also be a terrific way to damage relationships and destroy programs. PLEASE use self-control when commenting, liking, or texting your friends and classmates. A poorly chosen phrase or comment could cause a ripple effect that could lead to a very bad situation in class. If you can, DO NOT respond or comment. Remember: once you hit send, it is out on the web forever. Please act responsibly for the sake of the program and yourself.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Each student will be asked to raise a certain amount of money each year for the orchestra. This amount will be necessary to incorporate items that enrich the students' experiences in orchestra. Money raised will be used for social events, clinicians, and for trips. All of the funds will be collected and distributed by the PHS Orchestra Booster Club.

# Orchestra Booster Club, Fees & SPONSORSHIP

## ORCHESTRA BOOSTER CLUB

The mission of the Permian Orchestra Booster Club is to fully cooperate with the Ector County ISD Board of Trustees, the Superintendent, The PHS administration and the orchestra directors in supporting and furthering the interests and activities of the students in the PHS Orchestras. Anyone interested in supporting the orchestra program is invited to join! This organization assists the orchestra with office work, fundraising, chaperones, planning social events and any other area where assistance is needed.

## FEES

Everyone owes **\$200**. If you plan to attend all of the fall and spring meetings, then you only pay **\$150** by **Sept. 15, 2024**. (the mandatory August meeting does not count). If you haven't paid by **9/15** or do not attend any of the fall booster club meetings, then your fee is **\$200**. If you haven't paid your fee by December, then you accrue a late fee of **\$25.00**. The maximum orchestra fee is **\$225** – the minimum is **\$150**. All of your Orchestra Fees (Organization fee, All Region, S&E...) must be paid before you can buy tickets to our Spring Banquet.

You can pay by credit card through Cognito Forms or send the check or money order to the school. Please sign the online parent/student agreement. Students can certainly fundraise for their fees. All fees are non-refundable at ANY time for ANY reason during the school year.

## BE A FINANCIAL PARTNER

We hope you'll consider donating as a sponsor and/or supporting us in other ways throughout the year. The Permian Orchestra Booster Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All of your donations, no matter the amount, are tax deductible. Below are our individual and corporate sponsor rates:

### MOJO SPONSOR - **\$2,000 and up**

- Advertisement on website
- Full page advertisement in all printed programs
- Free orchestra t-shirts and other related orchestra merchandise

### PANTHER SPONSOR - **\$1,500**

- Advertisement on website
- Half page advertisement in all printed programs
- Free orchestra t-shirts

### BLACK & WHITE SPONSOR - **\$500**

- Advertisement on website
- Half page advertisement in the Spooktacular program

### DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE SPONSOR - **\$100 - \$250**

- 1/4-page advertisement in the Spooktacular program

**Your membership will help us reach our financial goals!**

# Orchestra Required Materials List 2024-2025

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Below is a list of required materials you will need to be successful in orchestra. You will use them regularly. You must arrive in class EVERY DAY with these materials as part of your participation grade.

You must have all of these materials by **FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024**

The rubric is simple: you will receive credit for each required piece you have. If you have a financial concern about obtaining these materials, please let us know and we will work it out.

- Instrument (either your own / rented / school owned)
- Bow
- Shoulder Rest (Violins & Violas)
- Endpin Anchor Strap (Cellos) Rock Stop (Basses)
- Rosin
- Extra strings. Please purchase a whole set. The red and white brand Prelude is cheap and works fine. Dominant strings have a better sound quality but are slightly more expensive.
- Soft cloth or T-shirt (to clean the rosin from your instrument)
- Black Binder
- Tuner (with clip)\* - These can be checked out from the orchestra
- Metronome\*
- Lock for school violin & viola music locker

\* *These can be purchased at N-Tune.*

**If you have any questions on quality or need a second opinion BEFORE you purchase or rent, please call or email the directors. We will help assess and find the BEST INSTRUMENT for your student.**

# Orchestra Rehearsal & Concert ETIQUETTE

## REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

- Write in cues, bowings, or other notes before the first rehearsal OR when the Director/Clinician gives it to you, but do not make the part illegible for your stand-partner.
- If you are on the outside, put your fingerings on the top line. Inside players: below the line. Inside players (even chairs) turn pages, get music from folders and prepare the stand.
- Show up early to rehearsal to get your instruments together, and be warmed up at least 10 minutes before the "A" is given. **"If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, YOU ARE LATE!"**
- Make sure all copies of the music have the correct bowings, fingerings.
- Have good hygiene, keep your shoes on, and wear appropriate clothing.
- Do not start complaining about anything to anybody or on Social Media!
- Avoid tapping, plucking, and playing sul-tasto. It is noisy, annoying to your colleagues, and lets everyone know you did not learn your part.
- If you are the concertmaster or a principal player, avoid demonstrating to your section if possible, unless asked for by the director/clinician. This usually carries more negative connotation than a spoken description and is embarrassing if you do not play it perfectly.
- Your pencil is your best friend. Make sure you have it at every rehearsal.
- When a conductor speaks to you, always acknowledge by making direct eye contact and possibly a nod "yes."
- Be direct and friendly about fixing pitches or rhythm. Do not be manipulative or rude to the person to whom you are speaking.
- Do not pack up before the end of rehearsal! This is rude and lets the conductor know you would rather be somewhere else.
- Always double-check rehearsal/performance times, locations, and dress code.
- Do not yawn audibly if you are tired.
- Your non-musical accessories (phone, keys, etc.) belong in your case/purse/backpack, not on the shelf of your stand.
- Do not cross your legs on stage in a rehearsal/concert.
- At the end of a piece, do not finish playing and put your instrument down before the conductor has concluded.

## CONCERT ETIQUETTE

- Sit quietly and wait for the concert to begin. You may talk softly while you are waiting. Do not talk or make noises during the performance. It can be very distracting to the performers.
- Applaud after each full piece of music has been completed.
- Sit quietly during the performance. When a performing organization presents a concert, they are putting forth their best effort; and they should expect the same from those in the audience.
- Keep concert programs quiet during the performance.
- If you must get up to leave during a concert, do so only at the end of a group's performance or between pieces.
- Cell phones should be turned off or muted. Being on your phone during the performance is impolite to the performers and are distracting to everyone.
- Please remove all hats.
- Please dress appropriately. This is not a rock/country concert. Dressing up lends to the importance of the performance. Cut-off shorts and tank tops are NEVER acceptable.

# ECISD Approved Private Lesson STAFF

## PRIVATE LESSON TEACHERS

### VIOLIN:

- Alex Reiff • (325) 829 – 4693
- Kathy Hohstadt • (432) 363 – 0317
- Renee Pelopero • (432) 352 – 2847
- Johnathan Beck • (432) 967 – 8027

### VIOLA:

- Gary McMillian • (432) 312 – 0282
- Conrad Sclar • (720) 233 – 9482
- Laura Peña • (561) 703 – 8575
- Kathy Hohstadt • (432) 363 – 0317

### CELLO:

- Su Kim • (213) 258 – 0706 (Lives in Lubbock)
- Maia Bruce • [maiabrucemusic@gmail.com](mailto:maiabrucemusic@gmail.com)
- Libby Dirks • (432) 528 – 1219 (limited number)

### STRING BASS:

- Caleb Williams • (432) 456 – 2608
- Dr. Mark Morton (Texas Tech) • Via Zoom (contact the university)

## HOW TO KEEP A PRIVATE TEACHER

- You pay for THEIR services. Do not treat them like hired help. They are professional musicians and should be treated as such. Give them 100% and benefit from their knowledge and experience.
- Be on time, pay on time, pay the proper amounts and PLEASE inform them if you cannot be at a lesson. If you miss or skip a lesson without informing them, **YOU STILL OWE for that lesson!**
- Practice in-between lessons. Your progress is dependent on your practice.
- Be prepared & have all your materials for the lesson.
- Your private teacher does not know your school/orchestra schedule. Inform them ASAP.
- Please communicate! Life happens and lesson times/schedules change...**YOU must be in contact!**