

Stratford Orchestra Handbook 2022 – 2023

“Music can name the unnamable and communicate the unknowable”

-Leonard Bernstein

Office phones: 713-251-3451
713-251-3428

Artan Zhuri – Head Director of Orchestras
Marcos Altamirano -- Assistance Director of Orchestras
Houston Hayes – Director of Fine & Performing Arts SBISD
Mr. Raymorris Barnes – Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Goals: *Our focus as orchestra team is to develop, improve and encourage a lifelong love of music in each member of the Stratford Orchestra. The character goal is RESPONSIBILITY IN ACTION. Throughout the year students will be encouraged to take the initiatives, follow through on them, and take the responsibility for their completion. The musical goal is ADVANCING INDIVIDUAL TECHNIQUE as to enhance each large ensemble's overall performance. This goal will be represented by the SCALE AND FINGER PATTERNS PROJECT in the classes where students will learn 8 major and minor scales, which will address specific needs in the performers to further develop their skills as well as strongly encouraging private lessons in addition to class-time attention. Music selection and style of music we perform throughout the year class will reflect their progress as we are preparing for variety of concerts and venues. Finally, it is always our goal to represent Stratford and our community in a positive manner.*

Stratford High School Orchestra Calendar of Events 2022-23

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|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| August 1,2,3 | Orchestra Camp | | 11:00-2:30 PM |
| August 26 | Orchestra Pool Party | | 4:00-8:00 PM |
| Sept 1st | Parents Meeting | | 6:30 PM |
| Sept 17 th | Car Wash | | 9:00AM-2:00PM |
| October 15 | High School Region Audition | | 8:00-2:00PM |
| October 22nd | Middle School region audition (Host at SHS) | | 7:00-4:00PM |
| October 25th | Fall Orchestra concert SFMS, MMS | SHS | 4:00-8:00PM |
| October 29 | all-state Area recording | MHS | 8:00AM |
| Nov 9th | Region Re-Chairing (hosting at SHS) | | 6:00-9:00 PM |
| Dec 1st | Winter Concert | | 6:30 PM |
| January 26- 4th | Pit Orchestra "Young Frankenstein" | | 7:30 PM |
| Feb 18th | SBISD Solo & Ensemble | MHS | 8:00AM-5:00PM |
| March 24 th | N.C. Roberts Orchestra Festival | Klein Oaks H | 8:00 AM |
| March 29-31 | UIL Non/Varsity Orchestra Concert & Sight-reading | Berry Center | TBA |
| Apr 12 | UIL Varsity/Orchestra Concert & Sight-reading contest | Memorial HS | TBA |
| April 14-16 | Alternate Domestic Trip | | South Padre Island |
| May 11 | Spring Concert | auditorium | SHS 6:30 PM |
| May 17 th | Region Etude Clinic | SHS | 3:30-5:30PM |
| May 18 | Orchestra Banquet | | 4:30-8:00PM |
| May 27 | Graduation performance SHS Full Orchestra | Coleman C.C. | 7:00PM |

STRATFORD ORCHESTRAS

The Stratford orchestra program is divided into different classes:

Symphonic, Chamber, Philharmonic, and Camerata Orchestra. Placement is based on audition, attitude, attendance and scholarship.

Rules

The rules are designed to be simple & easy to follow. They are effective in keeping order during classes & rehearsals only when each member chooses to follow them.

- When the bell rings, be in your seat with your materials ready to start routine (tuning, scales, warm-ups...)
- Have all materials with you daily: instrument, music, pencil, binder
- Do not borrow music or instruments ever
- Speak only when recognized by the instructor
- Be courteous to teachers and students when they are speaking
- **No food, drink, gum or candy is allowed in the orchestra hall.**
- Attend all scheduled rehearsals & concerts
- Restroom Policy (a) No restroom pass during the first 15 min. of class and (b) ask for permission and return in your cell phone/collect cell phone after returning
- **Fingernails need to be appropriate long for playing the string instruments.**

Attendance

Orchestra activities are planned so that the fewest other activities conflict. All students are encouraged to participate in as many social or optional activities as they wish, but at the same time orchestra members are expected to participate in all required events, rehearsals, & performances. A grade is given for each event. Remember, this is a performance class. **Concerts are mandatory participation.**

Important: In the event of a conflict, the student has the responsibility of submitting a signed form from a parent or the appropriate teacher or sponsor stating the reason for the conflict. These forms are available from your director. Notes must be received within one week of announcement of the event to be considered. The note does not automatically excuse absence. Each case will be considered individually & privately according to the circumstances.

Section Rehearsals

Member of Symphonic, Chamber, Philharmonic orchestras will have mandatory sectionals designated day for each instrument after school, during the UIL season.

Individual tutorials are available before school 7:00-7:40 AM daily to assist members with technique & repertoire. Sectionals are the equivalent of a lab in another class. This is an opportunity for each student to work on their music as section or individually with director, helps to highlighting specific problems in their music & inherent to their instrument.

All orchestras, sections, clinics, rehearsals 3:15-4:30 PM. Monday Symphonic, Tuesday Chamber, Wednesday Philharmonic and Thursday Camerata.

Music

Students will have original music of anything under copyright protection. Items that are no longer under copyright may be copied for students use.

All music performed by the Stratford Orchestras will be provided by the school. Music for solos is the responsibility of the student to purchase. I do have some solo music for students but usually students are required to provide their own.

When original music is used, please take care of the music & use only pencil for markings. Originals will be collected after the concert. Music must be kept in a black 3 ring binder. **Bring your binder to class daily, even if you use your stand partner's music.** You still need to make markings in your music. Binder checks will be graded.

Uniforms

For all concerts, students wear the appropriate uniform. Part of your performance grade for a concert is based on your uniform. The school provides the formal concert uniform; tuxedo for men & black dress for ladies. Members are required to provide their own black dress shoes (& black socks for guys). Our casual performance uniform is the Orchestra T-shirt & blue jeans. T-shirts are purchase through your Orchestra Activity Fee.

Assignments

ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE POSTED IN YOUR SBISD "CANVAS". RECORDING, THEORY, WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL ALSO BE TURNED IN THROUGH "CANVAS". THERE ARE TESTS PERFORMANCE IN THE CLASS AS WELL.

Tests & Exams

Tests & exams consist of scales, exercises, &/or assigned excerpt from your music. Tests are given every two weeks via "Canvas", individual recording or theory assignments. Concerts count as a major test grade, 50% in categories, rehearsals count as participation, 30%, class work 20% in categories. Semester exams are designed to measure the independent musical thought processes & abilities of the student. The semester finals are often solo performance, or theory written exams. Study guides will be provided for written tests & exams.

Grades

Each student will be awarded points based upon the following scale. At the end of each nine weeks grading period, points are awarded for class work, daily participation grade, tests & concerts.

Table of Three Category Grades

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----------------|
| • Class work | 20 % | |
| • Daily participation | 30% | |
| • Concert & performances | 50% | 200 points each |
| • Rehearsals & sectionals | | 100 points each |
| • Playing Tests | | 100 points |
| • Written Exams | | 100 point |

Practice

Individual home practice is an integral part of any musician's learning process. It is very important to the state of the orchestra that an effort is being made by each member to be responsible for learning his or her music outside of the classroom. Ideally, class time & rehearsals are not used as "practice" sessions, but instead as time to work on ensemble concerns. **An Orchestra becomes superior when all members put in hard work which means practice.**

The amount of individual practice needed may vary with different ability levels; I suggest a minimum four to **seven hours of practice each week** outside of class.

Letter Jackets

Member earns their letter jacket in Orchestra by attaining 12 points (in Orchestra). All points are cumulative from year to year & are not transferable between organizations. If you already have a letter jacket from another organization, you can still earn an Orchestra "letter".

How you earn Letter Jacket Points

- 5 points for making HS Region Orchestra
- 3 points for making AREA
- 1 point for making All-state
- 2 points for earning a 1st division on a class 1 solo/ensemble
- 5 points for being in the Symphonic Orchestra
- 4 points for being in the Chamber Orchestra
- 3 points for being in the Philharmonic Orchestra
- 3 points for being in the Camerata Orchestra

Private Lessons

Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. Private lessons have the luxury of extra help on their instrument in a one on one setting. This is the best way to excel on your instruments at a fast pace. If you would like information about private lessons, please ask your directors.

Trips

Each year the Orchestra sponsors an out of town trip to a music festival. This is referred to either as the fall or the spring trip. We will have an opportunity to perform as an orchestra as well as other educational social events. A trip payment schedule will be set up early in the school year. Students will also be given fund raising opportunities to off-set the cost of the trip. All trips must be approved by Stratford High School & SBISD. All school rules apply during the trip.

Fund Raising

In order to fund large trips, fund raising opportunities are made available to orchestra members. All members are encouraged to participate in our fund raisers. The Orchestra is allowed 3 fund raisers each school year. Look for the dates of the events at the beginning of the school year.

Eligibility

It is very important that each member maintains passing grades in all classes. Students who don't pass are not eligible to perform at UIL events & trips. It's the "No Pass, No Play" rule...same as athletics. Students failing a class or classes are still required to participate in concerts. Our goal is to have all members perform in either the symphonic, chamber, or philharmonic orchestras at UIL this year so it is very important that everyone remain eligible.

Fees

The Stratford Orchestra has a **\$120 Activity fee**. This fee pays for the Orchestra T-shirt, solo ensemble contest fee, piano accompaniment, replacement strings for school instruments, violin and viola clinicians to work with our orchestras, as well as other supplies. The fees must be paid by October 1st, 2022.

Instruments

Stratford High School provides all instruments for students to use in the orchestra. We have been working very hard, along with the principal Mr. Barnes and the Fine Arts director Mr. Hayes to complete the needed instruments for the SHS orchestra students. If you need an instrument, ask the directors and we will sign out an instrument to you for the year. School instruments must be insured through SBISD. Rates for instrument insurance are from **\$20 to \$35 a year**. You will receive an instrument insurance form when an instrument is signed out to you.

Forms

Most forms that you are required to fill out & turn in for orchestra can be found at the charms music website at <https://www.charmsoffice.com/> . Students & parents' login at the "Parent/Student Login" login area on the right, or Stratford orchestra website <https://stratfordorchestra.weebly.com/>.