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Wakeland High School Orchestra

Student Handbook

2017 - 2018

Liudmila B. Duston, Director

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After reviewing all of the information, please sign the Student/Parent Agreement Form and turn it in to Mrs. Duston - before or no later than August 28, 2017.

The Orchestras

Participation in the WHS Orchestra Program is predicated on a basic to advanced knowledge of string playing. Students should have had at least two years of prior Orchestra experience and/or private lessons. Chamber (Varsity level) and Symphonic (Non-Varsity level) Orchestras will participate in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Strings (Sub Non-Varsity level) will participate in Concerts, Festivals, other events, and possibly in the UIL C&SR contest, along with the other two orchestras. All students are encouraged to participate in the TMEA All-Region Orchestra Auditions, All-State Orchestra and UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, as well as Youth Orchestras within our area (ex. Frisco Youth Symphony Orchestra, The Greater North Texas Youth Orchestra, GDYO). Eligibility rules apply to all competitive events (students must be passing all courses to participate).

Strings (Orchestra D)

This Orchestra class will focus on advancing the level of intermediate level students with the fundamentals of playing technique, along with correct hand position, posture, simple bowing styles, shifting (where necessary), intonation, and ensemble performance. Students will be practicing simple sight reading and solfege techniques. They will also learn elements of music theory and music history, which will help with the understanding of music literature. This Orchestra will participate in all the required performances and possibly in the UIL C&SR contest. Students will be required to learn and perform a UIL Grade 2 or 3 Solo.

Symphonic (Orchestra C)

The focus of this Orchestra is continued growth and advancement in the areas of fundamental playing technique, hand position, posture, bowing styles, shifting, intonation and ensemble performance. We will also focus on many elements of music theory, as well as music history, to enhance students’ knowledge and understanding of music literature. Sight reading and solfege will be practiced consistently. This Orchestra will participate in all the required performances and in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. All students will be required to learn and perform a UIL Grade 2 or 3 Solo.

Chamber (Orchestra A & B)

Participation in this Orchestra is based on advanced performance level and enrollment is by audition only. Students are expected to possess a higher skill level of technique on their instrument(s). Emphasis will be set on preparation of advanced level literature and performance that displays the highest level of solo and ensemble playing. Continued and more advanced knowledge of music theory and history will also be required. Students will practice a more advanced level of sight reading and solfege. Chamber Orchestra will participate in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. All students will be required to learn and perform a UIL Grade 1 or 2 Solo.

Required Materials and Supplies

* Black, 3-ring, hard cover, 1” binder
* 2-3 Pencils (sharpened, with eraser) and Pens
* 7 dividers for the binder
* Notebook paper for taking notes
* Music Staff Paper Notebook
* Instrument supplies, including the following:
  1. Rosin
  2. Cleaning Cloth
  3. Strings (an extra set for emergencies)
  4. Metronome/Tuner: all-in-one is preferred (independent from your phone)
  5. Music stand for home practice and outside of school events
  6. Rock Stop for Cello, Bass
  7. Shoulder Rest for Violin, Viola
  8. Concert mute (practice mutes are encouraged as well)
  9. Recommended Technique Books for class and home practice:

1. Essentials for Strings by G. Anderson – be sure to purchase the one for your instrument

2. Essential Technique for Strings 2000 by M.Allen, R. Gillespie, and P.T. Hayes - Book 3

Additional method and technique materials will be provided and utilized in class

All instruments will be kept in perfect playing condition at all times and serviced in a timely manner, as necessary! Students will replace any damaged/broken strings on their instruments: either personal or school rented ones, if they are responsible for the damage*.*

Instrument Insurance

Parents are encouraged to insure their child’s personal instrument, as well as school instruments (that go home with the student), either under the homeowner’s policy, or on a separate policy. Students’ personal instruments are not insured by Frisco ISD. If you are renting from a music store in town, they usually provide insurance for your rental instrument. (Please verify policy details with the management of the store).

Uniforms – Concert Attire

Girls –

You will be issued a black Concert Dress for the school year. To complete the uniform you will wear black dress shoes (open or closed toe). Girls may only wear small earrings for concert performances and contests. No bracelets, rings or necklaces are allowed on stage as they are a distraction visually and sometimes aurally.

Note: Director must approve all jewelry.

Boys –

You will be issued a concert tuxedo for the school year. To complete the uniform, you will purchase your own tuxedo shirt, wear black dress shoes and black socks.

Note – no jewelry is allowed for boys during any performance.

Note to all students - Black athletic shoes are not dress shoes, therefore, they are not allowed on a concert stage, with your dresses and tuxedos!

* All Uniforms must be returned, as requested by the director or after the last concert. Uniforms will be dry cleaned (no machine washing allowed).
* All Tuxedos must be returned as a full set: jacket, slacks, cumber bun and bow tie.
* A fee will be assessed for any gravely damaged or lost concert attire ($100)

Grading Policies

The Orchestra grades are usually based on the following:

50% Major:

* Playing/Written Tests
* Concert, Contest, Festival Performances and Final (Dress) Rehearsals (See Attendance Requirements)
* Certain Major Projects

30% Minor

* Playing Quizzes/Class Music Theory and/or Music History Assignments
* Certain Minor Projects
* Punctual Rehearsal Attendance (See Attendance Requirements)

20% Daily

* Homework - Theory/History Assignments, Homework practice assignments (involves instrument practice), Class performance assignments
* Appropriate participation during class (has all supplies/not disruptive)
* Sectional participation and level of preparation

Attendance Requirements

Outside of class rehearsals/sectionals are necessary in order to achieve excellence with any performing group. They are part of Orchestra Curriculum. Students will be issued a schedule of rehearsals/sectionals that they will follow throughout the school year. Extra rehearsals and sectionals will be added as necessary. The following requirements have been established and incorporated into the grading structure:

Note -*Major Grade given for all Final (Dress) Rehearsals and Concert/Contest Performances!*

1. All members are required to attend all Concerts, functions and rehearsals, during and outside of school hours (unless otherwise instructed by the director). See the WHS Orchestra Calendar, 2017-18.
2. All Students are expected to be on time, in the designated place and ready to participate on the director’s downbeat.
3. Attendance will be taken at all events and excused absences are at the discretion of the director. *Prior (well in advance) notification is necessary for all non-emergency absences!*
4. Student’s grade is very important, but even more important is the Orchestra family, which depends on each member to do their part in order to achieve the best results possible! This is truly a group effort!

Rehearsals and Facilities

* 1. Rehearsals/sectionals begin promptly at the scheduled time, with each player in their seat, with instrument, music (binder), pencil and any other materials ready.
  2. No chewing gum or food is allowed at the Orchestra practice space or the Auditorium, during Concert, Contest or Festival performances! As for drinks, only bottled water is acceptable.
  3. During the scheduled rehearsal, there is limited time to accomplish a great deal. The director expects your focused attention and effort throughout the entire rehearsal.
  4. Keep your area and instrument locker clean and neat at all times, during the entire school year.
  5. Tuning is a skill that takes time and focused training. It is imperative that we learn this skill individually and as a group.
  6. Students will ONLY play their personal instrument (owned or rented)!
  7. To receive credit, students will have to participate for the entire duration of any and all sectionals/rehearsals/performances. A make-up policy will be established by the director, depending on the event.

Note – *Students who rent a school instrument will be assessed district mandated fees. Please see the List of Fees.*

WHS ORCHESTRA List of FEES, 2017-2018

*(Please make copies and use the List of Fees pages, when paying the fees, unless another form is utilized. Certain other fees are collected and handled by the WHSO Boosters).*

\_\_\_\_\_\_a) TMEA All–Region Orchestra Audition Fee: $ 10 *Optional* *event*

*(Auditions are scheduled for October 14, and Region 24 Orchestra Clinic and Concert for December 8-9, 2017. Students who would like to participate will learn additional music for their audition, clinics and concert performance. All events are held outside of the WHS campus. Everyone is encouraged to participate!)*

*This fee is due by September 15, 2017. Please make all checks payable to the Wakeland HS Orchestra Booster. Cash is also acceptable.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_b) FISD Instrument Rental Fee: $100

*(District mandated fee, will require an additional form. Cello, Bass and Harp players are required to pay the fee, unless they are using their own instrument. The district owned instruments will remain in the Choir/Orchestra Hall, and only travel to school related events. Any violin and viola players who need to rent a district owned instrument – will have to present the director with a parent/student letter stating the reasons they need to rent a school instrument. The decision will be made on a case by case basis, at the director’s discretion. Subsequently, the student will be assessed the same, once per school year fee. These instruments can travel, but only as necessary).*

*The Instrument Rental Fee is due by September 29, 2017 and will be paid through My Payments*

*Plus online. More information will follow.*

*Note: Due to the high cost of school orchestra instruments, and current enrollment, the number of instruments (violin and viola) that can be checked out for class/home use is limited. Parents*

*are strongly encouraged to carry insurance on the rented school instruments, or be prepared to repair or replace the instrument in case of (serious) damage, accident or loss.*

*The following fees are due at a later date, according to deadlines for events taking place later in the school year. They will only be required for students participating in these events.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_c) TMEA All-State Orchestra Audition (Recording) Fee: $25 *Optional event*

*Recording date is set for October 28, 2017. To qualify for All-State recording, students will have to audition and be placed in the top two Region Orchestras. They will be required to pay the above mentioned recording fee for All-State Orchestra Auditions. The recording will take place outside of the WHS campus. Audition material cuts will be posted on October 27, 2017.*

*This fee is due the day of recording on October 28, 2017 - at the recording site.*

\_\_\_\_\_d) UIL Solo and Ensemble Regional Contest Registration Fee(s): $12.50

\* $12.50 *per Student for a Solo*

\* $12.50 *per Member of each Ensemble*

*This fee is due by February 16, 2018.*

*UIL S&E Contest Date – March 24, 2018. (Students who receive a “1” on a memorized Grade 1 Solo or a “1”on an Ensemble at the Regional UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest - will qualify to attend TSSEC (TX State Solo & Ensemble Contest in Austin (UTA) on May 26-28, 2018).*

*Every student may perform either a solo, as member of an ensemble, or both. In some cases students will perform as members of two different ensembles, or perform two solos on two different instruments.*

*Most Solos will require an accompanist, in order to qualify to be heard by a judge. Our piano accompanist will determine the fee for students, but it is typically $35 - $50 for two rehearsals and the performance, at the event at regional level.*

*There will be another accompanist fee for all the State Contest participants (where applicable). In the past, this fee has been $75 - $80 per solo, and it covered 2 local rehearsals, 1(one) warm up at UT (if possible), and the performance itself.*

*Most of the ensembles do not require an accompaniment.*

*All accompanist fees will be due at the first rehearsal, before each event and directly to the piano accompanist.*

WHS Orchestra Field Trips

The Wakeland High School Orchestras and their members will participate in educational field trips and/or activities outside of the regular school schedule. Any subsequent activities and fees are currently considered T.B.A. status and will be announced as necessary.

*\* Students must be passing all classes to participate in any and all field trips and extra-curricular school orchestra activities.*

*\* A Parental Permission Form for an Educational Trip will be issued to all students.*

*\* Students will be responsible for all their missed coursework and make ups.*

WHSO 2017-18 Handbook STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT FORM

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As a member of WHS Orchestra, I have read the WHS Orchestra Student Handbook and understand the membership requirements. I will participate and follow the guidelines as stated with regard to any and all the policies.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As Parent of this student, I understand the rules and requirements, which my child is expected to follow and will support his/her musical growth as WHS Orchestra member.

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Parent’s Signature Date

WHSO 2017-18 Private lessons interest FORM

Private lessons will be offered at WHS by Professional Musicians in our area! Lessons will be scheduled during the orchestra class time, when possible, but may also be scheduled before and/or after school. Our district screens each private instructor before they are allowed to meet with any student. The length of lesson vs. rate of pay is regulated by the district, and it’s based on a standard rate of $20 per 30-minute lesson. It is highly recommended that High School Orchestra students take more than one 30-minute lesson per week, if possible. If you are interested in private lessons, please complete the form below and return to the director as soon as possible. (The private lesson instructor will contact you very soon to discuss details and options). These spaces fill up very quickly!

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Instrument\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No. of 30-min. lessons per week\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #(Home)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Mobile)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Work)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_