



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021 - 2022

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The Mission of the WHS Orchestra is to discover, encourage, nurture, and cultivate the talent and improve the skills of each and every one of our students within the greater scope of our performing organization, as we prepare the leaders of tomorrow.

The Orchestras

Participation in the WHS Orchestra Program is predicated on a basic to advanced knowledge/ability of string playing. Students will 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, UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, as well as Youth Orchestras within our area (ex. The Greater North Texas Youth Orchestra, GDYO). Eligibility rules apply to all competitive events (students must be passing all courses to participate).

Strings (Orchestra C/D)

This Orchestra class will focus on advancing the level of intermediate (and beginner, when/if necessary) students with the fundamentals of playing technique, along with correct hand position, general 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 as a Sub Non-Varsity group. Students will be required to learn and perform a UIL Grade 2 or 3 Solo.

Symphonic (Orchestra B)

The focus of this Orchestra is continued growth and advancement in the areas of fundamental playing technique, hand position, general 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 as a Non-Varsity group. All students will be required to learn and perform a UIL Grade 2 or 3 Solo.

Chamber (Orchestra A)

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 both 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 as a Varsity group. All students will be required to learn and perform a UIL Grade 1 or 2 Solo.

Instrumental Ensemble

This is an optional class program that serves as a double blocking feature for some of our students, who would like extra practice time, as well as remedial means to some of other students looking to improve their skills at a more rapid pace. In some capacity, the learning will be student led, but always under the director's guidance.

Required Materials and Supplies

- Black, 3-ring, hard cover, 1" binder
- 2-3 Pencils (sharpened, with attached eraser)
- Pens and highlighter
- 10 dividers for the binder
- Notebook paper for taking notes
- Music Staff Notebook or at least 25 loose pages of Music Staff paper
- Webcam and External USB mic – Optional
- Instrument supplies, including the following:
 - a. Rosin
 - b. Cleaning Cloth
 - c. Strings (an extra set for emergencies)
 - d. Combo Metronome/Tuner – KORG TM-60 is preferred
 - e. Music stand for home practice and outside events
 - f. Rock Stop for Cello, Bass (a separate one for home practice)
 - g. Shoulder Rest for Violin, Viola
 - h. 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

3. Advanced Technique for Strings by M.Allen, R. Gillespie, and P.T. Hayes – REQUIRED ONLY FOR VARSITY ORCHESTRA, but encouraged with everyone else.

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

All instruments will be kept in excellent playing condition at all times, and serviced in a timely manner, as necessary! Students are responsible for any damage to the instrument and will replace damaged/broken strings on their instruments: either personal or school rented ones (unless the damage is not their fault. The director will make a decision).

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 will usually provide insurance for your rental instrument (please verify the policy conditions 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). The concert dress might need to be hemmed, however – *you are not allowed to cut the bottom of the dress!* Additionally, 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 ensemble for the school year. To complete the uniform, you will purchase your own tuxedo shirt, bowtie and cummerbund. You will wear black dress shoes and black long 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 permitted on a concert stage, with your Concert Attire!

- All Uniforms must be returned, as requested by the director, or after the last concert. Uniforms will be dry cleaned (no machine washing is allowed).
- All Tuxedos must be returned as a complete set: jacket and slacks.
- A fee will be assessed for any gravely damaged or lost concert attire (\$100 per person)

Grading Policies

Nine Weeks grades will be based on/but not limited to the following:

60% Major

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

40% Minor

- Playing Quizzes
- (Certain) Minor Projects
- Punctual Rehearsal/Sectional Attendance (See Attendance Requirements)
- Comprehensive Music Theory/History Assignments
- Appropriate participation during class (has all supplies/not disruptive)
- Daily 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 the 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 Students are required to attend **all** Concerts, events and rehearsals, during and outside of school hours (unless otherwise instructed by the director). See the **WHS Orchestra Calendar, 2021-22**.
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 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 in the Orchestra Hall 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 assigned instrument (owned or rented)!
7. To receive complete credit, students will have to participate for the entire duration of any and all sectionals/rehearsals/performances.

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

WHS ORCHESTRA List of FEES, 2021-22

(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: \$15**

(Auditions are scheduled for October 2, 2021 and Region 24 Orchestra Clinic & Concert for December 10-11, 2021. 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 14, 2021. Please make all checks payable to the **Wakeland HS Orchestra Booster**. Cash is also acceptable.

_____ b) **FISD Instrument Rental Fee: \$100**

(District mandated fee - requires an additional form. Cello, Bass, Piano and Harp players are required to pay the fee, unless they are using their own instrument. The district owned instruments will remain in the 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, as necessary).

The Instrument Rental Fee is due by October 30, 2021 and paid via OSF.

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 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**

Recording date is set for October 30, 2021. 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 29, 2021.

This fee is due the day of recording on October 30, 2021 - at the recording site.

d) **UIL Solo and Ensemble Regional Contest Registration Fee(s):** \$12.50

* \$12.50 *per Student per Solo*

* \$12.50 *per Member of each Ensemble*

*This fee is due by December 14, 2021. Check, payable to the **WHS Orchestra Booster** or cash are acceptable.*

UIL S&E Contest Date – January 29, 2022. *(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 28, 30, 2022.*

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 \$50 for two rehearsals and the performance, at the regional event 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/person 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 and Spring Festival

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 considered T.B.A. status and will be announced as necessary. The Festival events are also to be determined and information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

* *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.*

