



*Fort Settlement Middle School
Falcon Orchestra Handbook
2016 - 2017*

MRS. ANGELA PEUGNET
&
MR. ROGER VASQUEZ, JR.
DIRECTORS

WWW.FMSORCHESTRA.COM

5440 ELKINS ROAD
SUGAR LAND, TX 77479

Fort Settlement Middle School Falcon Orchestra Handbook 2016-2017

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to a new school year with the FSMS Orchestras! The Fort Settlement Orchestras enjoyed tremendous success last year. We earned repeated high marks and judges' commendations at each competition we entered. We also had record numbers of students earn placements in All Region! We believe Fort Settlement Orchestra Students will continue this tradition with hard work and the support of the school, community, and most importantly parents. It is our earnest hope that your child will develop not only the skills and the understanding necessary to perform on a stringed instrument but that s/he will also come to value the joy of music and create lifelong memories of their orchestra experiences.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a written policy on the organization and operation of the Orchestra Program here at FSMS. It contains important information for both students and parents. **Please read each page carefully.** This handbook will be electronically accessible on the district website, the orchestra's website, and our Charms site; however, you may request a printed copy.

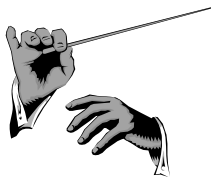
Orchestra offers much more than just an opportunity to perform in concerts and it will teach you many things besides how to play a G Major scale in tune. Orchestra teaches self-discipline, self-confidence, time management skills, leadership, the ability to set your own goals and the determination it takes to reach them, and the list goes on! Students will be challenged both physically and mentally in ways unique to musical experience, stimulating their intellectual and social capabilities to grow and reach their utmost potential. But in addition to all of the hard work and time we put in trying to be the best orchestra we can be, students in orchestra get to have a lot of fun as well.

We would like to encourage parents to GET INVOLVED! Your help as volunteers, your encouragement at home, and your attendance at concerts are necessary ingredients for the orchestra's success. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to call or e-mail us at the information provided below. We will not answer the office phone during scheduled classes, but feel free to leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible. We look forward to working with all of you, parents and students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Angela Peugnet

Mrs. Angela Peugnet
Director of Orchestras
Fort Settlement Middle School



R.V.J.

Mr. Roger Vasquez, Jr.
Associate Director of Orchestras
Fort Settlement Middle School

FSMS FALCON ORCHESTRA MISSION STATEMENT

The Fort Settlement Middle School Orchestra exists to inspire artistry and equip students to reach their full potential, thus creating opportunities without boundaries.



THE GOALS OF THE FSMS FALCON ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

It is the goal of the FSMS Orchestra program to provide a learning environment that fosters dependability, responsibility, honesty, cooperation, competitiveness, self-discipline, a desire for learning and an appreciation for the Fine Arts so that students can become assets to and productive citizens of society.

- ♪ Develop a sense of the importance of music in the life of each student.
- ♪ Develop self-confidence and self-discipline in each student through positive interaction with teachers and peers.
- ♪ Develop the musical potential of each student to the fullest.
- ♪ Develop student understanding of stylistic traits of different periods of music.
- ♪ Develop self-expression and creativity through practice and performance.
- ♪ Develop the highest possible standards of practice and performance for each student in the program.
- ♪ Develop the ability to work in a group as a team for a common goal.
- ♪ Develop an appreciation for music from different cultures and styles.
- ♪ Represent our school and community in a positive manner.

FSMS Orchestra Supply List

ALL ORCHESTRA STUDENTS must have the following items with them EVERY DAY in orchestra class:

- ♪ Agenda
- ♪ Instrument (Make sure the case is labeled with your name; luggage tags work best.)
- ♪ Bow
- ♪ Rosin
- ♪ Shoulder rest (Violins & Violas)
- ♪ Rock stop/Endpin Anchor (Cellos & Basses)
- ♪ Spare set of perlon strings (Dominant work great)
- ♪ Soft cloth for cleaning your instrument after use
- ♪ 1" thick, BLACK, hard cover, 3-ring binder*
- ♪ Pencil bag – inside the binder
- ♪ One highlighter, any color – in the binder pencil bag
- ♪ Two pencils with good erasers – in the binder pencil bag
- ♪ Five page dividers inside the binder (labeled: 1-Practice, 2-Scales and Warm-ups, 3-Theory and Homework, 4-Music, 5-Evaluations/Assessments)
- ♪ Notebook paper (about 40 sheets) – inside the binder



Harpists (in addition to above):

- ♪ Proper harp shoes – may be kept in the orchestra rm.
- ♪ Tuning key for the harp you play
- ♪ Tuner and tuner pick-up

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA STUDENTS:

- ♪ Essential Elements for Strings, 2000 Book One – for your instrument
 - Students will get an EEi web-access and app account with the purchase of this book.
- ♪ Suzuki Book 1 (Violin, Viola, Cello)
- ♪ George Vance Progressive Repertoire for the Double Bass Vol. 1 (Bass)
- ♪ Harp: *Fun From the First*, by Samuel Milligan; *First Grade Pieces for Harp*, by Grandjany>Weidensaul; *Harp Exercises for Agility and Speed*, by Deborah Friou

ENSEMBLE STUDENTS (NOT BEGINNERS):

- ♪ All non-beginning students will have a Music First (web-accessible) account.

AT HOME, all orchestra students **must have:**

- ♪ Folding music stand for home practice and off-campus performances
- ♪ Metronome and Tuner or a combination machine (such as the Korg TM-50)
- ♪ A tuner clip (plugs into your tuner, and allows you to tune individually in a crowd).
- ♪ Wall mirror for home practice.
- ♪ Optional: Smart Music Home subscription and a Smart Music microphone

*Students are required to keep this binder in good condition, as it is used for on stage performances.

Writing, stapling, coloring, painting, drawing, and other things considered hazardous to the binder will not be permitted. If at any time in the school year the director deems that a student's binder is unfit and needs to be replaced, another black binder must be provided by the student.

Personal Instruments

- A quality program requires quality musical instruments. Students are encouraged to rent through a quality vendor. The purchase of instruments through the internet, or third party sources are not encouraged unless the instrument is has been checked over by the director in advance. If a purchase is needed, the staff will be happy to consult with the student and parents in order to avoid an inappropriate purchase and to assist in obtaining the best possible price for the instrument.
- With all personal instruments, it is strongly recommended that the instrument be insured through your homeowner's policy (usually called a "rider policy") or a private company*. The school district will not assume liability for maintenance, loss, repair, or damage of personal instruments, supplies, or personal items.

*The Music Agency, of Arlington, TX.

They may be reached at (800) 421-1283, and on the Internet at: <http://www.anderson-group.com/student/> or through the charmsoffice.com website.

Use of School Instruments

As part of the budget process in June 2011, the Fort Bend ISD (FBISD) Board of Trustees instituted an Instrument Use Fee for student use of school-owned musical instruments. In an effort to maintain FBISD's inventory of musical instruments in proper playing condition for current and future student use, an annual \$80 fee will be assessed for the upkeep and repair of those instruments.

The Instrument Use Fee will be waived for all students enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Programs at any campus. Students and parents will be sent detailed information on this fee and billing during the first few weeks of school.

The Instrument Use Fee enables FBISD to extend the lifespan of these musical instruments by generating a revenue source for the proper maintenance and preservation of these valuable assets. We appreciate your participation and cooperation in this endeavor.

FSMS has a limited number of cellos, basses, and harps available as a courtesy to students during their orchestra class period. Students must adhere to the following rules:

- The student must use the instrument assigned by the director.
- Students must provide their own rosin and soft cloth to clean the instrument.
- Students must treat the instrument properly.
- Any student not following rules or teacher instruction of the instrument will lose the privilege to use any school instrument and will be wholly responsible for providing their own.
- School instruments are used for many years and are expensive to replace. It is the student's responsibility to keep his/her instrument clean and in good working condition.
- If an instrument breaks, notify the orchestra director first. Often it is a minor repair that the director can fix at school. If the director cannot fix the instrument, he/she will send it away to be repaired as soon as possible. Learning and skill-building are interrupted each day the student is without an instrument. An instrument left at home due to a broken string is inexcusable. Strings may be bought or borrowed from the director.
- Each orchestra member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him/her for their personal use. Equipment is to be used, not abused. No Charge will be made to the student if the instrument becomes damaged due to normal wear and tear. However, damages caused by fire, theft, negligence, or abuse will be charged to the student.

****Reminder: At no time should any student be holding or playing an instrument belonging to or assigned to another person. This is a liability and grounds for a disciplinary referral.**

Charms

Charms (www.charmsoffice.com) is an online database that, among other things, allows for better communication between the director and parents. This is accomplished through the use of email and an online calendar. To access Charms you will need our school code and a password. Each student will receive their password from the directors once school has started. Once in charms, student and parents will have access to a variety of information, most important of which will be the orchestra calendar. Within the first few weeks of school all classes will be trained in the use of Charms.

Website: www.charmsoffice.com

School code: fsmSORCH

Your password is your student's ID number.

Practice Rooms

- Practice rooms may be used before and after school with director's permission.
- For morning or afternoon practice a student must sign up on the practice room sheet and receive a pass from the director in their agenda.
- Any vandalism should be reported to the director immediately.
- You may not bring food or drink into the practice rooms.
- Practice rooms are intended only for practicing a musical instrument. Any student who is found not practicing will lose privileges at the discretion of the director.





Being in Orchestra means being part of a team. It is very important that each and every Orchestra member conduct themselves within the classroom and at all Orchestra functions in a manner which reflects common courtesy, consideration for others, and in accordance with district, school, and Orchestra expectations. All students are expected to follow the Fort Settlement Middle School rules printed in the FSMS Student Handbook and Agenda. Students will be responsible for following the rules of the school and the Orchestra including the following:

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Students will show RESPECT for themselves, other Orchestra students, the Director, and all other adults at all orchestra activities, both on and off campus. Students will act in an appropriate manner during rehearsals and performances (including OFF-CAMPUS functions)!
- 2) No food or drinks will be permitted in the Orchestra Room unless provided by the Director. No food or drink is allowed in the practice rooms at ANY time. THIS INCLUDES GUM!!!
- 3) Students will respect ALL school and private property.
 - Only touch Orchestra Room equipment with the Director's permission.
 - Only enter the storage room or the Director's office with permission.
 - Music stands are made to hold music not musicians.
 - Handling or playing any instrument or equipment other than your own is not permitted.
 - The student is responsible for his or her own orchestra instrument, equipment and music.
- 4) Be positive and have a good attitude!! How you act and help others can be contagious!!
- 5) Practice until your music is mastered!
- 6) Don't take yourself too seriously. We are all prone to mistakes, this is how we learn. But nothing is gained if we stay upset about our mistakes.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- 1) Students will come to class *on time* and *prepared*. Students need the following materials for EACH class:
 - a) Instrument and all its accessories (including rosin)
 - b) Black Orchestra Binder with all contents (music, pencil bag, orchestra handbook/calendar etc.)
 - c) Pencil!!!
 - d) FSMS agenda – (should be brought to each class at FSMS)
- 2) Students will enter and exit the classroom in an orderly manner.
- 3) Restroom breaks should occur BETWEEN classes.
- 4) The Director dismisses the class, NOT the bell. Remain seated until you are dismissed by the teacher.

CONSEQUENCES

If a rule is broken, the following actions will be taken at each successive infringement.

- The student will be given a verbal warning.
- The student will write their name and their action in "the book."
- On the third entry in "the book" parent contact will be made by phone or by e-mail.
- A disciplinary referral will be given.
- Further disciplinary action will be left up to the school administration.

Please note there are some actions which are automatic referrals. These are outlined in the district student handbook.

Your child's conduct grade will be based on the following criteria:

- O = Student demonstrates outstanding citizenship and has few warnings, if any, for disruptive behavior.
- S = Occasional warning for disruptive behavior (up to three entries in "the book" per grading period).
- N = Frequent warnings for disruptive behavior. Parent contact will be made.
- U = Severe disruption; repeated removals from class.

The teacher will communicate frequently and clearly with the parent if conduct becomes an issue.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

Students in the Fort Settlement Middle School Orchestra program will be graded as follows (in accordance with the FBISD grading policy).

Learning objectives are based on performance skills, responsibility, and participation. Therefore, students are expected to fulfill individual as well as group responsibilities. Since orchestra and orchestra are performance based courses and team activities, all students are required to attend all performances and rehearsals. Therefore, students may have points deducted as follows:

Unexcused absence from rehearsals that are extensions of classroom activities such as section rehearsals = **double daily grade**

Unexcused absence from a performance that is an extension of classroom activities, such as school concerts, which do not meet the definition of extracurricular = **double major grade**

Nine weeks grades will reflect an average of the following areas:

Daily Grades (50%)

1. Participation – This grade reflects a student’s contribution to classroom activities and discussions, behavior, and having the supplies required for class. Points will be deducted when these criteria are not met.
2. Practice Logs – Practicing is the single most important factor in the development of your performance skills; without consistent, quality practice, your performance skills will never develop to their fullest potential. Used wisely, practice time will result in higher Major Grades when playing tests and long-term projects are assigned.
3. Written Assignments – There will be some written assignments in every grading period working on concepts in music theory, or aural evaluations of rehearsals and performances.
4. Rehearsals – Rehearsals and sectionals, as an extension of classroom activities, will equal 2 daily grades. Scheduling conflicts will not be considered excused, unless approved by a director at least one week in advance of the occasion. Unexcused absences will result in a zero.
5. Playing Quiz – A playing quiz will constitute one daily grade. These grades may be announced or unannounced in the schedule. As in other classes, students in orchestra practice as their homework. A playing quiz is a means of checking their homework.

Major Grades (50%)

1. Performances and Concerts – Performances and concerts are an extension of classroom activities and are counted as a double major grade per FBISD policy. An unexcused absence from concerts will result in two major grades of zero. An excused absence will only be given for emergency situations; scheduling conflicts will not be considered excused. In accordance with FBISD policy, all excused absences will be honored with no grade penalty. This will include:
 - a. Medical emergency or illness
 - b. Death in the family
 - c. Family emergency
 - d. Religious holiday (as noted on the FBISD calendar)
2. Clinics, Playing Tests (individual or section), Written Tests, Co-curricular Performances and Special Projects – These items are an extension of classroom activities and will count as one major grade each. An excused absence will only be given for emergency situations; scheduling conflicts will not be considered excused, unless approved by a director at least one week in advance of the occasion.

Attendance

Students will attend all scheduled rehearsals, sectionals and performances held outside of the school day. The Fort Bend I.S.D. Extra-Curricular Handbook contains the official district procedure for attendance at all co-curricular and extra-curricular events.

1. A calendar of events is handed out at the beginning of each school year. A current calendar is always available on our Charms website. Please try to schedule other activities and appointments around the designated dates and times.
2. Attendance is required for orchestra students at ALL rehearsals, sectionals, concerts and contests because these are designated as co-curricular. These activities are co-curricular because they are an extension of the orchestra class and grades may be given during this time.
3. At rare times, an absence at a scheduled event is inevitable. In such cases written notice must be given to the director at least one week in advance using the “Notice of Absence” form included in this handbook (also found on Charms under the “Handouts” button). Not all absences will be excused, but this form will allow for record keeping and notification. In the case of emergencies, please contact the director by e-mail or phone.
4. Unexcused absences will result in a “zero”.

We are very aware of the many demands placed on our students’ schedules: academic, social, and familial, and am aware that success in one area positively influences the others. Knowing the busy schedule of students and parents, we try to get as complete of a calendar of events out to each family at the beginning of the year as possible. While not 100% complete, this calendar is a fairly accurate indicator of what activities the orchestras will be participating in throughout the year.

Orchestra is a “team” event and all students are important and necessary to the success of the group. Please be assured that we will work with the student and parents as closely as possible to help resolve any situations in the student’s best interest.

Academic Eligibility Rules (No Pass-No Play)

House Bill 72, which became law in 1984, mandates that a student be suspended from participation in ALL extracurricular activities (athletics, orchestra, band, choir, clubs, etc.) sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the three week period following a nine-weeks’ grading period in which the student received a grade lower than 70 in any class. This suspension continues for at least three weeks, and academic eligibility is not regained during the school year until such time as the student’s grade in ALL CLASSES is 70 or higher at grade check time (typically at the end of each three-week interval) or at the end of a nine-weeks’ grading period. **A student will continue to practice or rehearse with other students for an extracurricular activity, but he/she may not participate in an extracurricular performance (or game) until the suspension is lifted.** A suspended student may regain academic eligibility:

- seven days after the nine-weeks’ grading period ends or
- seven days after the three-week progress or waiting period, provided that he/she is passing ALL subjects with a 70 or higher.

The school district maintains a calendar with these dates of loss of eligibility/regain of eligibility. The Fort Settlement MS faculty has established procedures for checking the academic eligibility status of students. (See FBISD Extracurricular Handbook.)

If a student receives a comment on a progress report indicating that he/she is failing and that student is currently eligible, the student will remain eligible until seven days after a failing grade is verified on the nine-weeks report card.

Tryout/Audition Procedures

Prior to the academic school year, ALL seventh and eighth grade students will audition for placement in one of the orchestras. This placement will be determined by an audition on music materials selected by the director and on the student's past performance. NO STUDENT WILL BE ENROLLED IN ANY ORCHESTRA UNTIL THIS AUDITION IS COMPLETED.

The audition is only one fifth of what is considered when placing a student in any orchestra. Below is a list of the five areas that are considered for placement:

1. Audition Score: each orchestra has a performance standard
2. Grades
 - a. Student who have a history of not passing all classes will not be placed in a competing orchestra (varsity/non-varsity) because they will not be able to participate at UIL if they are failing
3. Work Ethic: Orchestra takes a lot of hard work from every individual and students who have demonstrated this will be considered for honors and advanced. Students who do not demonstrate this will be placed in intermediate orchestra. Below are some ways in which students can demonstrate this:
 - a. Practice logs
 - b. Chair test and Playing test scores
 - c. Playing quizzes
 - d. Always having required supplies (pencil, binder, instrument)
 - e. Always communicating with director when conflicts arise
4. Interpersonal skills/Behavior: Students who disrupted rehearsals will not be allowed in the varsity/non-varsity Orchestra
5. Instrumentation: To be competitive, the Varsity and Non-varsity (sub-non-varsity) Orchestras must have balanced instrumentation. A group with 30 violins and 1 cello will not sound good and will not do well at contest

Audio/video recording

Throughout the year, the orchestra will make audio and video recording of rehearsals and concerts. These recording will be in compliance with the Texas Education Code, Sec 26.009 subsection (b) which states:

(b) An employee of a school district is not required to obtain the consent of a child's parent before the employee may make a videotape of a child or authorize the recording of a child's voice if the videotape or voice recording is to be used only for:

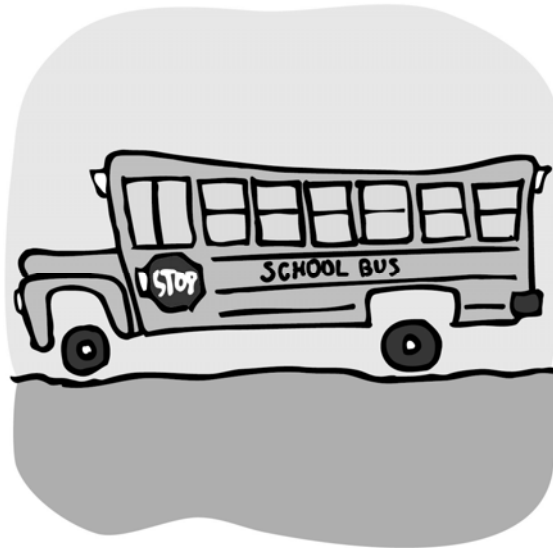
- (1) purposes of safety, including the maintenance of order and discipline in common areas of the school or on school buses;
- (2) a purpose related to a co-curricular or extracurricular activity;
- (3) a purpose related to regular classroom instruction; or
- (4) media coverage of the school.

TRANSPORTATION

Several times during the year the orchestra has the opportunity to travel for events such as contest or spring trip. For each of these events a letter and permission form will be sent out. It is extremely important that the permission form be filled out for each event and that medical information is included on the form. Also itineraries will be distributed for all Fort Settlement Orchestra events. Parents, please make arrangements to pick up your orchestra student at the scheduled time. While on such a trip all members represent Fort Settlement Middle School, Fort Bend ISD, and the community. As such, when traveling to other locations on district transportation, all students are expected to:

- Be on time
- Dress as directed (see Uniforms section below for a description)
- Avoid excessive noise on the bus to and from the places we go
- Travel on the same bus for all segments of the trip
- Return equipment to its proper storage place upon returning to school

If a student is required to leave an off-campus event or activity, the student's parent or legal guardian must provide written notification to the director at least 24 hours before the event, and the student may leave ONLY with his/her parent or legal guardian. This policy is meant to protect the student, not to inconvenience the parent.



LATE PICK UP FROM EVENTS

It is important that all students are picked up on time after any orchestra activity (parties, rehearsals, performances, etc.). Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in the occurrence of students being picked up late.

The FSMS fine arts department is implementing a policy this year in an attempt to help with this problem. If your child is picked up late (15 minutes or more) you will be required to fill and sign a form stating the date, the scheduled pick-up time, and the actual pick-up time. If a student is picked up late on multiple occasions, the matter will be referred to an administrator.

Fort Settlement Middle School Orchestra



ABSENCE FORM

Complete the form and turn in directly to Mrs. Peugnet at least one week in advance of your absence, except in cases of emergency or illness. Completing this form/request does not automatically excuse you from a concert, rehearsal, sectional, or guarantee full credit or restoration of full credit for missing the scheduled event. Please see the FSMS Orchestra Handbook and or the FBISD Extracurricular Handbook for further explanation of the attendance policy.

NAME: _____

ORCHESTRA: _____

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

DATE OF CONFLICT/ABSENCE: _____

TYPE OF REHEARSAL: SECTIONAL DRESS REHEARSAL
 CLINIC CONCERT

REASON FOR CONFLICT/ABSENCE: _____

(INCLUDE THE ACTIVITY AND TIMES INVOLVED)

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO TRY AND RESOLVE THIS CONFLICT? _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

SPONSOR/COACH SIGNATURE: _____

For Director Use Only :

EXCUSED UNEXCUSED FULL CREDIT PARTIAL CREDIT NO CREDIT

GRADE: _____ DATE: _____ DIRECTOR: _____

Beginning Orchestra Uniforms

Beginning Orchestra

Concert Uniform:

- Boys: ✓Black slacks
 ✓Black dress shoes/socks
 ✓Red FSMS Orchestra Polo-
 style shirt
- Girls: ✓Black slacks
 ✓Black dress shoes and
 hose/socks
 ✓Red FSMS Orchestra Polo shirt
- No: ⊘Jeans
 ⊘Tennis shoes
 ⊘Skirts



All Beginning Orchestra students will be fitted for the red FSMS Orchestra Polo shirt at the beginning of the school year during class. Students must pay for this item.

Informal Uniform:

- Boys/Girls: ✓FSMS Orchestra T-shirt
 ✓Blue denim jeans

Students must purchase the FSMS Orchestra T-shirt every year, as the design changes annually.

The appearance of the Fort Settlement Middle School Orchestra students is a source of great pride and an important first step to any successful concert performance.

Thank you for your help with our uniforms.

Ensemble Orchestra Uniforms:

Intermezzo, Camerata, Philharmonic, Sinfonia & Chamber

Formal Uniform:

Boys: ✓Black slacks
 ✓Black dress shoes and socks
 ✓White tuxedo shirt
 ✓Orchestra vest and bow tie

Girls: ✓Black slacks
 ✓Black dress shoes and hose/socks
 ✓White tuxedo shirt
 ✓Orchestra vest and bow tie

No: ⊗Jeans
 ⊗Tennis shoes
 ⊗Skirts



All Concert, Philharmonic, Sinfonia, and Chamber students will be fitted in class for a white tuxedo shirt and vest/bow tie set at the beginning of the school year. Students must pay for these items.

Informal Uniform:

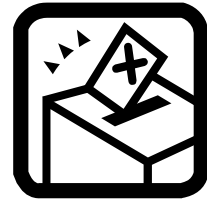
Boys/Girls: ✓FSMS Orchestra T-shirt
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Students must purchase the FSMS Orchestra T-shirt every year, as the design changes annually.

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Thank you for your help with our uniforms.

FSMS Falcon Orchestra Officers



Orchestra officers for each level of orchestra will be elected by a simple majority vote of students during the Fall semester. The offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer will be elected by simply majority vote of students in the Spring semester for the following school year.

General qualifications for all positions:

1. The student must set a good example for all orchestra students through musicianship, practice habits, general attitude, and cooperation.
2. The student **MUST** have a school discipline record *in good standing*. The student shall have no prior record of excessive tardies, no suspensions, no more than (1) Office Referral, and have no record of time in the BLC program.
3. The student must have and maintain passing grades in all classes.
4. The student must be able to fulfill the requirements of the position per the Directors' discretion.

Expectations in addition to the position's responsibilities:

1. All officers will be expected to attend officers' meetings which will be held either from 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM or 4:00 PM -4:30 PM. There will be at least four meetings throughout the year.
2. All officers will be responsible for rendering assistance to the Directors or the Orchestra President when asked to do so. Failure to help when asked can result in removal from office.

Officer Positions

President (1) (elected Spring of previous school year)

- **Responsibilities**
 - ♪ Acts as "voice" of the Orchestra.
 - ♪ Helps Directors to organize and direct the officers.
 - ♪ Assists Directors with co-curricular events.
 - ♪ Reminds the Historians to take pictures and is acting head of the Scrapbook committee.
- **Qualifications**
 - ♪ Two years in Orchestra (8th Grade only).
 - ♪ Strong leadership skills.
 - ♪ Strong musical skills.
 - ♪ Has good Public Relations skills and is able to make fair and impartial decisions

Vice President (1) (elected Spring of previous school year)

- **Responsibilities**
 - ♪ Assists Directors and President with duties as necessary.
- **Qualifications**
 - ♪ One year in Orchestra (7th or 8th Grade).
 - ♪ Strong leadership skills.
 - ♪ Able to make fair and impartial decisions.

Treasurer (1)

- **Responsibilities**
 - ♪ Assist Directors with record keeping of collection of monies for various events.
 - ♪ Is responsible for collection of money from all orchestra members for gifts, cards, etc.
- **Qualifications**
 - ♪ One year in Orchestra (7th or 8th Grade).
 - ♪ Passing grades in all classes.
 - ♪ Competent math skills.
 - ♪ Good Organizational Skills

Secretary (8 – one per class)

- **Responsibilities**
 - ♪ Will take roll each day in class and in rehearsals when asked by a Director.
 - ♪ Take minutes at officer meetings and report minutes to class.
 - ♪ Assist with paper work, record keeping, birthday recognition of class members.
- **Qualifications**
 - ♪ 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade—one per class/section.
 - ♪ Good organizational skills.

Librarian (6 – one per class)

- **Responsibilities**
 - ♪ Assists Directors with the organization, distribution, stamping, and filing of orchestra music and materials.
 - ♪ Helps to keep the library database up to date.
- **Qualifications**
 - ♪ 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade—one per class.
 - ♪ Good organizational skills

Historian (6 – one per class)

- **Responsibilities**
 - ♪ Take pictures of fellow ensemble members during, but not limited to, orchestra socials, concerts, orchestra trips, etc.
 - ♪ Create the Orchestra's Digital Scrapbook and end of year PowerPoint with the other Historians and the President through the Scrapbook Committee.
- **Qualifications**
 - ♪ 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade – one per ensemble.
 - ♪ Good organizational skills.
 - ♪ Ability to work with others in a group computer project.
 - ♪ Ability to work with PowerPoint and with Digital copies of Images.
 - ♪ Creative.



FSMS Falcon Orchestra Officers 2015-2016 Campaign Regulations

All interested candidates will create a poster that includes the following **required** information:

1. **Name**
2. **Period of Orchestra & Ensemble Name**
3. **Position for which you are running**

Posters may also include additional information. Some suggestions are:

- ♪ Why your fellow students should vote for you!!!
 - This could be former leadership experience, number of years in orchestra, playing experience, etc.
- ♪ Pictures, graphics, drawings, and artwork that is **appropriate** and **tasteful**.

There is **NO negative campaigning!!** You may only give **YOUR** qualities. You may **NOT** discuss the qualities of **ANY** other student!

Poster Requirements:

- ♪ Your poster may be no larger than 22" x 28" (standard poster size)
- ♪ Your poster must be tasteful.

YOUR DIRECTORS ARE THE FINAL JUDGE ON WHAT IS AND IS NOT APPROPRIATE & TASTEFUL. THEY RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DISQUALIFY ANY POSTER THAT DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS STATED HERE.



Awards

The district gives the following awards:

- ♪ All 6th Grade orchestra students will receive a certificate.
- ♪ All 7th Grade orchestra students will receive a pin.
- ♪ All 8th Grade orchestra students will receive a trophy.

The following awards will be given at the campus level and will be given in each orchestra: Beginning, Camerata, Philharmonic, Sinfonia, and Chamber Orchestras.

- ♪ Outstanding Violin (2), Viola, Cello, Bass, and Harp
- ♪ Outstanding Overall Girl
- ♪ Outstanding Overall Boy
- ♪ Most Improved

In addition, one student out of the entire orchestra program may be selected for the "Director's Award" as "Outstanding Overall Student."

Awards are NOT based on the playing ability of the student.

Criteria constituting award eligibility include, but are not limited to:

- Running for office
- Auditioning for Region Orchestra
- Participation in Solo and Ensemble
- Conduct
- Academic Responsibility
- Willingness to help with extra projects
- Peer Assistance

Awards are given on the basis of student performance throughout the year and are bestowed at the director's discretion.

Campus awards will be presented at the Spring Concert.
District awards will be presented before the last day of school.



Area String Shops

These are some reputable area merchants that sell/rent string instruments, do repairs, sell sheet music, and other accessories.

Please do not purchase an instrument without having a professional check your purchase. The orchestra teachers here at FSMS are more than happy to assist you with instrument purchase decisions.

These stores can pick-up/deliver rentals and repairs at FSMS

***Lisle Violin Shop**

2450 Bissonnet
Houston, TX 77005
713-526-4005
www.violins.com

***H & H Music**

S, 17420 W Grand Pkwy
Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-239-3718
www.hhmusic.com

***Fishburn Violin Shop**

11435 Spring Cypress Rd., Suite C
Tomball, TX 77377
281-290-4580
866-950-3480
www.fishburnviolin.com

***Quantum Bass Center**

3414 La Branch St.
Houston, TX 77004
713-909-0994
www.quantumbasscenter.com

***Music & Arts**

2567 Town Center Boulevard
Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-980-5777
www.MusicArts.com

Other vendors:



Antonio Strad Violin

10288 San Pedro
San Antonio, TX 78216
1-800-284-9788
www.stradviolin.com

RBC Music (online)

www.rbcmusic.com

Amati Violin Shop

2315 University Blvd
Houston, TX 77005
713-666-6461
www.amativiolinshop.com

Luck's Music Library

www.lucksmusic.com

Southern Music (online)

www.southernmusic.com

Southwest Strings (online)

1-800-528-3430
www.swstrings.com

Wu's Fine Violins

15510 Lexington Blvd. #M
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-565-7088

Shar Music (online)

1-800-248-SHAR
www.Sharmusic.com

How to Practice

** Make practice a habit and you will be successful. Your enjoyment of playing your instrument is related to how much effort you put into it. Your brain and your fingers must exercise together everyday to become limber and quick acting. Skills are perfected only when practiced correctly and carefully each day.*

Students are expected to take their instrument home each day. Meaningful home practice is essential to a student's continued progress in orchestra. It is a consideration on orchestra placement for future years.

The keys to progress on a musical instrument include *teacher instruction* and *correct repetitions* of that instruction by the student. The most common hindrances from steady progress are lack of student practice, student practice with improper technique/posture, and insufficient practice repetitions. It takes some students more repetitions than others to master a certain technique. Practice records are required to assist in the student's development of a regular practice habit.

1. Keep your orchestra binder in order! This keeps you from wasting time looking for your music.
2. Find a quiet place to concentrate and hear your sound.
3. Have a specific practice time each day to create a routine! You should be alone or helped by a quiet parent. This is not the time you talk or share with someone else. Your focus should be only on your set goals for that practice time.
4. Make sure that you have all supplies that you need to practice at home. Everyone needs a music stand to hold your music, your orchestra binder, and your instrument. Cello and Harp players need a proper chair, one that allows you to sit and play with proper position. Bass players need a stool to practice on – make sure it is the correct height for you.
5. Check your practice chart for your assignments! Know what your goal is for that practice time. Write down your goal for the day and grade yourself at the end of your practice session. This helps you plan your next day's practice goal or goals.
6. Work on the one specific thing that you have set as your practice goal! Isolate sections of the music that are difficult and carefully practice them. Use practice techniques discussed in class for efficient practicing. Playing pieces over and over from start to finish does not accomplish much and may in fact be harmful to your growth as a musician. Using a metronome at a slower tempo then gradually increasing the speed is very useful in many practice situations.
7. Always play with excellent position! Hold your instrument the correct way the entire time while playing. Be sure that your fingers are correctly placed on the strings and on the bow. Make sure that your body and arm positions are correct at all times.
8. Work on playing all the notes with a good sound and in tune. Work out rhythms by clapping, counting and shadow bowing. You can practice as little as one or two notes at a time to get them in tune, with a good sound and proper bowings.

Orchestra Objective:

To play correctly



in time



in tune



in balance

in the correct style with uniform bowings and a good work attitude.