**ENSEMBLES**

The **Beginning Orchestra** teaches four orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Our Beginning Orchestra students are being classically trained on these instruments and are divided into instrument-based classes that meet daily during their normal school schedule. Students participate at Beginner UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, perform at FBISD's annual String Fling, compete in the FBISD Beginner Orchestra Festival, and perform at various concerts. There are only 3-5 rehearsals a year that meet outside of the school day.

Students of all grade levels are encouraged to join the orchestra! We have many students who join us as 7th and 8th graders. Furthermore, all students are strongly encouraged to enroll in private lessons.

The **Symphony Orchestra** is the second level orchestra at RTMS. To play at this level, students must demonstrate a developing level of vibrato, the ability to play in upper positions, and be able to consistently and cleanly sight-read intermediate level music. Students at this level are highly encouraged to participate in All-Region Auditions. Students are **required** to participate in UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, String Orchestra UIL, and other orchestral performances. Students at this level are required to attend weekly before and/or after school technique sectionals. Furthermore, students are required to attend ensemble rehearsals as scheduled.

The**Chamber Strings Orchestra** is a **Varsity Orchestra** and the RTMS premier performing ensemble. Students at this level are expected to perform with precision, energy, and a high level of musicianship. Students at this level are also **required** to participate in All-Region Auditions, UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, String Orchestra UIL, and many other orchestral performances both live and recorded. Students at this level are required to attend weekly before and/or after school technique sectionals. Furthermore, students are required to attend ensemble rehearsals as scheduled.