

FHS Orchestra Handbook

2024-2025

Julie Daniels, FHS Orchestra Director

Danielsj@friscoisd.org

Jeffrey Walters, FHS Harp Instructor

Waltersj@friscoisd.org

After reviewing the Handbook, **please complete the following forms on the last page:**

- Student/Parent Acknowledgement Form (Links to a Google form)
- Parent Permission for Educational Trip (print, fill out, sign, and return)
- FHS Orchestra Student Activity Fee found in the CheddarUp link.
- FHS Orchestra Parent Information Form

The Orchestras

Participation in the High School Orchestra Program is predicated on a basic knowledge of string playing. Students should have had at least two years of prior Orchestra experience and/or private lessons. All students are encouraged to participate in TMEA All-Region, UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, and All-State Orchestra, regardless of their Orchestra placement. Eligibility rules apply to all UIL events (Students must be passing all courses with a 70% to participate). All students are also encouraged to participate in Youth Orchestras within our area (GNTYO, GDYO, DAAYO).

Camerata Orchestra (E)- class period 4A is Sub Non-Varsity B

Sinfonia Orchestra (C/D))- class periods 2B and 4B are both Sub Non-Varsity A, split into two sections, but will perform all concerts together as the Sinfonia Orchestra.

Philharmonic Orchestra (B)- class period 3B is Non-Varsity

Symphonic Orchestra (A)- class period 3A is Varsity

Materials and Supplies (Required by August 31, 2024)

- Your Instrument 😊
- **Black**, 3-ring, hardcover 1” binder
- Pencils (required in the binder at all times)
- Package of 5 dividers for the binder
- Clear page protectors for Music Terms (to remain in the binder at all times)
- Instrument supplies, which include:
 - a. Rosin
 - b. Cleaning Cloth
 - c. Strings (an extra set for emergencies)
 - d. **Metronome/Tuner for class use & home practice and assessments**
 - d. Wire or metal music stand for home practice
 - e. Rock Stop for Cello, Bass
 - f. Kun or Everest Shoulder Pad for Violin, Viola (not optional)
 - g. **Method Book:** *Expressive Techniques for Orchestra* (for your instrument)

by Brungard, Alexander, Dackow and Anderson

- Orchestra Activity Fee \$150 per year (this includes your Uniform charge for hemming pants, jackets, or dresses.)

Instruments

Personal Instruments-

A quality program requires quality instruments. One advantage to owning an instrument of investment quality is that in contrast to “starter” instruments, which can depreciate, quality string instruments will *gain* value as they age. Remember that you almost always get what you pay for when buying a stringed instrument.

Please consult with Ms. Daniels or your Private Lesson Teacher before purchasing, especially if considering an “online” purchase. We would be glad to make recommendations and consult with students and parents to obtain the best possible instrument at the best possible price.

Playing an instrument of poor quality can be very frustrating for the student: the sound quality is poor and the Instruments often will not stay in tune due to ill-fitting pegs, and inferior materials used to construct the instrument.

It is recommended that all personal and school instruments be insured by a homeowner’s policy or property insurance. FISD will not assume liability for maintenance, repair, or damage of personal instruments on school property.

***Instrument Fee is required if you use a school-owned instrument during class: Please fill out FISD Instrument Loan Agreement**

If you use a school-owned instrument during the orchestra class period, FISD requires a usage fee of \$50 per semester (\$100 per year) to be paid through **www.onlineschoolfees.com**.

How this works: At the beginning of the school year, students who play the Cello, Bass, and school-owned Violins and Violas will complete the FISD School Instrument Rental Agreement during class. Once completed, students will have a Parent sign the form and return it to Ms. Daniels. After the form is completed and signatures obtained, the fee is added to Onlineschoolfees.com. This will take approximately one month to show up on your student account.

The student is responsible for the upkeep and care of the school-issued instrument. This includes replacing strings when/if they break or wear out. The student is responsible for maintenance and damage repair while the instrument is in their possession. All students who check out an instrument during the school year are financially responsible for replacing any lost, stolen, or destroyed instrument. The instrument will be inspected at the end of the year for damage and the student **must pay** to repair any damage caused to the instrument while checked out to you.

\$100 for the school year (\$50 per Semester).

(Please complete the required Instrument Loan Form and return it. Rental payments are processed through www.onlineschoolfees.com)

Uniforms

LADIES:

- You will be issued a black Concert Dress provided by FISD.
- You must complete the uniform with black dress shoes (open or closed-toed).
- Small earrings, but **no other jewelry** is permitted for UIL Contests (Bracelets are a distraction visually and sometimes audibly, so no bracelets for any performance).
- The dress will come to you freshly laundered. Please do not attempt to wash or iron the formals, they should be **dry cleaned, only**.
- Tuxedo Connect will be fitting and hemming dresses (the cost for alterations is included in the Activity Fee).
- If you would like to purchase your own dress, you can purchase the Concert Uniform Dress from the Vendor, Tuxedo Connect (see Ms. Daniels for more details).
- **Fingernails** must be clipped to the end of the finger. NO FALSE NAILS, Gels, or any other type of extended nail on the fingers of the left hand is allowed. Fingernail clippers are available in class and students will be asked to clip or file them down during class if necessary. Nail length affects the student's ability to use the appropriate hand position and will cause intonation, shifting, and other important left-hand skills required to play with accuracy.

GENTLEMEN:

- You will be issued a black Tuxedo Jacket and Pants.
- Tuxedo shirts and bow ties are purchased separately through Tuxedo Connect and are included in the Activity Fee. Our Uniform Vendor will fit gentlemen for the appropriate size shirt, jacket, and pants at the beginning of school.
- Gentlemen will complete the uniform with black **dress shoes** (no tennis shoes or athletic-looking shoes) and **black dress socks (go up to mid-calf)**.

GRADING POLICIES

Nine Weeks Grades will be assessed in the following manner:

Major Grades are weighted:

- Concerts and Dress Rehearsals
- Playing/Written Tests
- UIL Sectional Attendance
- Rehearsals outside of class
- Quizzes (written and performance)
- Attendance at all required, scheduled sectionals
- Participation (Your Work Ethic), Preparedness (YOUR instrument, music IN BINDER, pencil at every rehearsal), Punctuality (turning in work on time, arriving on time to rehearsals, etc.), appropriate nail length for all rehearsals and concerts

Attendance Requirements

Participation at sectionals, rehearsals, and performances is required and will be integrated into the student's grade which is in accordance with the TEA/UIL Guidelines. High School Orchestra is a co-curricular class that extends outside of the regular class day. Students' orchestra grades are important, but equally important are the orchestra family members that depend on each member to do their part to achieve the best performance possible.

This is truly a group effort!! Therefore, all students must attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the Director (requires 24-hour advanced notice and approval). A yearly calendar is given out at the beginning of the year. Calendar Dates will not be changed without advanced notice to the student and parent/guardian. Rehearsals will be announced as far in advance as possible. Good communication between students, the director, parents, and teachers will help.

Grades for all Rehearsals and Concerts

1. All members are required to attend **all** Rehearsals and Concerts, during and outside of school hours. (Orchestra Calendar of events attached and posted to the website)
2. All Students are expected to be on time, in the designated place, and ready to participate immediately after the bell.
3. Attendance will be taken at all events and excused absences are at the discretion of the Director. **Prior notification (24-hour minimum)** is necessary for all non-emergency absences.
4. High School Orchestra is a UIL activity, which takes precedence over non-UIL activities except in extenuating circumstances. If there is a conflict with another UIL activity, the director of both activities must be notified in advance to reach a compromise.

Rehearsals and Facilities

- Rehearsals will begin promptly at the scheduled time, with each player in their seat, with their instrument, music, and pencil.
- No chewing gum is allowed on stage, ever.
- During the scheduled rehearsal, we have limited time to accomplish a great deal. I expect your focused attention and effort throughout the entire rehearsal.
- NO Cell phones are allowed on the music stand during class or on the stage during rehearsals. Repeated offenses will result in dismissal from the rehearsal and an unsatisfactory grade will be recorded.
- Show respect to the Conductor/Director and your classmates always!
- Keep your area and locker clean and neat.
- **All fingernails** on the left hand must be kept **trimmed to fingertip length** for every rehearsal and performance. It is not possible to play your instrument with the required technique if you have nail extensions past fingertip length, therefore, **absolutely NO fingernail tips/extensions** are permitted on the left hand at any time that are beyond fingertip length. Yes, Cello players, that goes for you, too! Consequences will be issued each time a violation occurs. Repeated offenses will result in disciplinary action (it is THAT important).
- Tuning is a skill that takes time and focused training. We must learn this skill individually and as a group. This first 10 minutes of class-time training will be done without interruption.
- Play **ONLY YOUR** instrument. Do NOT borrow or ask to borrow anyone else's instrument.

Lettering Policy

Frisco Orchestra students will receive points toward Lettering, based on participation in Orchestra and the terms below. Not everyone will letter yearly, but earning your letter in various ways is possible. To letter, a student must accumulate **10** or more points. Excessive behavior problems can result in a student losing their lettering privileges. According to this point system, students coming to Frisco from another high school will be credited the points they earned at the previous school.

3 points: Completion of a full year in the high school orchestra.

3 points: Audition for the All-Region Orchestra

5 points: Selection in the All-Region Orchestra

10 points: Selection in the All-State Orchestra (Students who earn a spot in the All-State Orchestra through the TMEA audition process will immediately earn a letter and become eligible to purchase a letter jacket in January.

3 points: Participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest

5 points: Earning a 1st division on a Grade 1 Solo or Ensemble at the UIL Orchestra Solo/Ensemble contest

3 points: Earning a 1st division on a Grade 2 or 3 Solo or Ensemble at the UIL Orchestra Solo/Ensemble contest

5 points: Participate in the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest

3 points: Serving in an outside Orchestra (such as GNTYO, GDYO or DAAYO)

Spring Trip

- The orchestra will be taking a trip during the latter part of the spring semester.
- Spring trip is a privilege, not necessarily a right. It is intended to be a reward for a successful year. Students should exhibit 100% effort at all times during the school year musically and behaviorally.
- Any student who is consistently having a behavior problem in class will not be allowed to go on the spring trip.
- Students must be academically eligible at the time of the trip.
- Students must keep up with payments. If a family decides their child is not going on the trip, they can expect cancellation fees. (More information to come when the spring trip packet is distributed to students.)
- More information will be given out about the spring trip when the details have been finalized.

Fees and Dues

Student Activity Fee

- \$150 per year (this pays for Orchestra Spirit T-Shirt, Uniform fitting, uniform dry-cleaning, dress rehearsal meal, snacks, social events and activities, Orchestra Banquet, operational fees, concert recordings, Orchestra Poster, website, etc.)
- The activity fee is paid on the FHS Orchestra [Cheddar Up](https://back-to-school-registration-temp-9732.cheddarup.com) site (select link) or go to: <https://back-to-school-registration-temp-9732.cheddarup.com>
- Cash or check is also acceptable (checks made payable to FHS Orchestra Booster Club).

- All fees must be paid or arrangements made for payment at Registration in August.

Instrument Usage Fee for school-owned instruments

- \$50 per semester or \$100 for the entire year
- Cellos and Basses are checked out for school use only (students must also be renting/owning an instrument for home practice)
- Violins and Violas are limited and must be checked out on a needs basis
- The instrument Usage Fee must be paid via www.onlineschoolfees.com (after it is posted to the student's account).

2024-2025 Contest Fees (fees due before event entry deadline)

All-Region Auditions

- High School All-Region Entry Deadline (form and \$15 fee paid on CheddarUp or check/cash turned in to Ms. Daniels): Thursday, September 20, 2024, 11:59 pm
 - High School All-Region Auditions: Saturday, October 5 @ Independence HS, Frisco, TX
 - Audition materials for the Symphony and Philharmonic orchestra will include excerpts from the All-State Etudes (with Region cuts), and excerpts from All-Region literature.
-

All State Auditions

- High School All-State Auditions: Sat., 10/26/24 @ Lawler Middle School, Frisco (\$25 Fee)
 - All-State Pre-Area (Round 1): November 16, 2024
 - All-State Area (Round 2): November 17, 2024
 - All-State Results posted: November 18, 2024
-

UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest

- Contest Date: January 25, 2025, @ Centennial High School, Frisco
 - The solo fee is \$12.50
 - The ensemble fee is \$12.50 for each member of the ensemble
 - Event Entry Deadline: Form and fee due by January 10, 2025
-

** UIL Rules require almost all Solos (with a few exceptions) to be accompanied by a pianist to be heard by a judge. An Accompanist will determine the fee for students, but it is typically \$60 for two rehearsals and a performance at the UIL Contest site.

** Your solo/ensemble must meet certain UIL requirements (Grade 1, Grade 2, or Grade 3 *for Freshman only*). Please look at the Prescribed Music List (PML) online (link below) to

make sure your solo meets UIL requirements: <https://www.uil texas.org/music/pml>

** UIL requires an original score with each measure numbered to be provided to UIL Contest judges for all solos and ensembles to be heard/judged. Students must provide (purchase or borrow from FHS Music Library if available) an original of their solo music to participate in the competition. You must bring the original score or part (**with measures numbered**) to the Competition for the Judge to look at during your performance.

** Students who receive a “1” on a memorized Grade 1 Solo at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest will qualify to attend/participate in the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest (TSSEC) at the University of Texas in Austin on May 25, 2024. Ensembles do not require memorization.

FORMS

Please complete these (*) forms for Student Registration:

* [Student/Parent Acknowledgement Form](#)

* [Parent Permission for Field Trip Form](#)- Print/Sign/Return

* [FHS Orchestra Parent Info Form](#)

[Private Lesson Form](#)- to be completed if you would like to take private lessons during school.

[FISD District Owned Musical Instrument Rental Contract](#) - This is for Students who check out a musical instrument for school use.

[FHS ORCHESTRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 24.25.docx](#) - Please review all Rehearsal, Concert, and required event dates. Print for your records.

[FISD Volunteer Form](#)- if you would like to volunteer your time to serve our Orchestra Students, this form must be filled out and submitted. Thank you for volunteering!

[CheddarUp](#): This year, we are using CheddarUp to facilitate the payment of all student fees. Please use this link to pay the required Student Activity Fee, All-Region entry fee, Solo & Ensemble entry fee, and Spring Trip payments.