CHS ORCHESTRA

Student Handbook

The mission of the Centennial High School Orchestra is to create a learning environment of trust and teamwork, which motivates all members to develop their potential while creating musical performances of the highest caliber.

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Program Information

Centennial High School Motto
PRIDE: Proactive, Responsible, Integrity, Diverse, Empathy
Etiquette

Centennial Orchestra Department Mission Statement
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Follow us
www.centennialorch.com
Instagram and Twitter: @Cen10Orchestra

The CHS Titan Orchestras

All CHS Orchestra members are valued members of their ensemble and the program. Students are required to make a full-year commitment to orchestra. Students are encouraged to participate in UIL All-Region/All-State Auditions, UIL Solo & Ensemble, and additional performances as opportunities arise. All students participate in the preparation process for the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Assessment. Students will complete practice, pass-offs, and demonstrate mastery of the music. Throughout the year, students will be involved in school-sponsored masterclasses taught by recognized Dallas/Fort Worth musicians, which will supplement students' progress in our classes. Individual preparation of parts, consistent outside practice, and attendance for all rehearsals are expected of all Titan musicians.

All orchestra members model Titan Orchestra Pride by being prepared, punctual, respectful, compassionate, kind, and team-oriented and practicing a growth mindset approach to all experiences.



Chamber Orchestra* (A - 3B) - Varsity
Virtuosi Orchestra** (B - 2B) - Non-Varsity
Philharmonic Orchestra (C - 3A) - Sub-Non-Varsity A
Symphonic Orchestra (D - 2A) - Sub-Non Varsity B
Camerata Orchestra (E - 4B) - Sub-Non Varsity C
Concertante Orchestra (F - 1A) - Sub-Non Varsity D

Curricular Goals and Learning Objectives

Individual Student Goals and Learning Targets

The learning objectives for individual members of the ensemble are as follows:

- Care and handling of instruments
- Posture and playing position
    - Balanced seated position for all instruments
    - Balanced standing position for upper strings, bass, and harp
    - Fingernails should be trimmed shorter than the end of your finger. Short fingernails are essential to playing a stringed instrument and demonstrating appropriate technique.
    - Shoulder rests and rockstop straps must be included in daily playing.
- Instrumental technique
    - Develop tone and intonation
    - Develop right- and left-hand techniques
    - Develop rhythmic skills
    - Develop the ability to phrase musically
    - Develop dynamic control
    - Develop articulation
- Music literacy skills
    - Develop eye-hand coordination
    - Interpret musical symbols and terms from the printed page to create sound from the instrument.
    - Develop musical fluency: the speed at which students read music successfully.
- Musical sensitivity through performance and listening
- Evaluation of musical performance quality
    - Self-reflect to evaluate progress toward self-established musical goals
    - Evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performances
    - Recognize the quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation
- Self-expression
    - Express oneself in every performance experience
    - Explore different career options

Ensemble Goals and Learning Targets

Students will develop and demonstrate the following skills and concepts daily:

- A high degree of music performance encompassing correct rhythm, stable tempos, instrument-specific techniques, dynamics, precision, tone, and the ability to be versatile and adjust to any given musical circumstance
- The ability to work cooperatively with others toward the performance of music in and with the ensemble
- The knowledge of standard orchestral literature
- Quality artistry through individual musical awareness, control, and technical facility
- Self-discipline, self-confidence, responsibility, and dependability
- Respect for others, loyalty to the ensemble, and pride in the organization
- Respect for and proper use of equipment
- The ability to comprehend and utilize higher-level thinking skills

Daily Rehearsal Student Expectations

The success of an orchestra program depends on its rehearsal techniques. How an orchestra rehearses depends on the conduct and cooperation of its members. The following guidelines for a successful rehearsal should be followed at all times.

When you come to class

- Greet directors and peers as you enter the room.
- Remove headphones and earbuds before entering the orchestra hall.
- Leave food and drinks out for the orchestra room, CHS music facilities, and the stage. The only exception is sealed water bottles in the orchestra room.
- No chewing gum is permitted.
- Cell phones should be stored in the front pocket chart as you enter the room. You should ask for permission to use your cell phone case-by-case. If you use it without permission, it will be taken up. Please see the CHS Student Handbook for more information on technology guidelines.
- Please bring music, instruments, tuners, and pencils. These materials are necessary for students to demonstrate curricular goals and learning objectives and will result in a loss of points on daily rehearsal assessments.
- Get unpacked, tuned, and begin your assigned warm-up.

During Rehearsal

- *Be intentional each time you play your instrument.*
- Respect directors and peers by listening quietly during instruction and rehearsal.
- Demonstrate positive and affirmative body language at all times.
- Acknowledge receipt of instruction with direct eye contact, nodding, and thumbs up.
- Mark notes and information from directors and section leaders into your music with a pencil.
- Actively participate when another section or group is rehearsing by silently shadow bowing, counting rhythms, practicing left-hand shifting, and other specific goals for that time.
- Actively participate in assigned individual or student-led small groups and sectionals..
- Encourage and celebrate peers.

Other

- Use appropriate language at all times. Your words are a reflection of the Titan Orchestra.
- Don't touch each other
- Secure instruments, music, and other equipment in your lockers and follow locker guidelines
    - Keep your locker clean, no food
    - Take your instrument home to make space for the A/B locker partner.
- Refrain from playing or tuning another student's instrument—if you break it, you repair or buy it.
- Avoid leaning or playing on the music stands. They are for music only!
- Stack chairs and stands before you leave
- Move around the room during rehearsal only when given directives to do so.

CHS Orchestra Private Lesson Information

In the Centennial High School Orchestra Program, your students can take one-on-one lessons on their instrument from a master teacher. We are fortunate to have an outstanding staff of highly qualified private lesson instructors. Private lessons are designed and intended as an enrichment activity to assist students in their musical progress beyond what is possible in a classroom setting. We recommend all students sign up for private instruction during or outside the school day as part of a robust music education.

One-on-one individual instruction is essential to a student's success and a significant reason our orchestra program at CHS is so successful. Private lessons provide students with a competitive edge throughout their orchestra career. Most orchestra students who take advantage of this excellent opportunity succeed at their music, all-region auditions, and solo & ensemble competitions. Private lessons are necessary for those wishing to compete at the district, region, and state levels.

Private lessons are highly encouraged for all current and prospective orchestra students. Students in the Chamber and Virtuosi Orchestras are expected to take private lessons as a commitment to being involved with our Varsity and Non-Varsity Orchestras. Students considering advanced placement in the Chamber or Virtuosi Orchestras in the future must regularly attend private lesson instruction because the rigor of the music demands specialized attention and advanced technique.

Learn more about our private lesson team at http://www.centennialorch.com/private-lessons.html.

Schedule and Cost
Frisco ISD Fine Arts Private Lesson Rates:

- High School Rate: $26.00 / 30-minute lesson
- Paid directly to the private lesson teacher
- Enrollment is a semester-long commitment

A typical private lesson lasts 1/3 of a regular class period or 30 minutes. Longer lessons may sometimes be coordinated with private teachers. For example, a double lesson, 60 minutes, would take up 2/3 of a class period. Students interested in taking private lessons but concerned about the financial commitment should contact Ms. Bell directly (belld@friscoisd) for scholarship information.

Before signing up for lessons, please review the following:
Centennial Orchestra Private Lesson Handbook

After reviewing the handbook, you may sign up for lessons using the following link:
Private Lesson Registration and Acknowledgement

Grading Procedures and Attendance

http://www.centennialorch.com/calendar.html.
Orchestra grading will follow the Centennial and Frisco ISD guidelines
Student grades will be assessed in the following manner

- **Assessment Plans**
  - Assessments of concert performances, performance, and written exams, skill mastery progress, and long-term projects. Assessments are based on the fundamental skills and techniques in our orchestra TEKS (Left hand/arm, Right hand/arm, posture/position, tone/dynamics, rhythm, music literacy and notation, aural skills, practice strategies and self reflection, and rehearsal and concert etiquette.
  - Orchestra Assessment Plan

- **Additional Information Pertaining to Grades**
  - Make-up work and retest policy is in accordance with FISD and school policy.
  - Rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts are essential components of the orchestra curriculum. **All required sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts are assessments of learning.**
  - Rehearsals, sectionals, or concerts (with an excused absence) will be made up of alternative assignments that allow the student to demonstrate the skills missed
  - Absences will only be excused if the director is notified at least two weeks prior to a scheduled event.
  - If a student is absent during the school day due to illness or a school-approved absence, they are excused from any evening activities and will need to provide a Dr.'s note.
- **Rehearsals, sectionals, or concerts (with an unexcused absence) cannot be made up because assessing ensemble skills requires the whole group to be present, and that cannot be recreated.**

- The "No-Pass-No-Play" rule affects advancement contests such as All-Region/All-State auditions and UIL Solo and Ensemble Contests. If you fail another course in any given nine weeks, you will **NOT** be eligible to participate in any advancement orchestral activities for the next three (3) week period. Assessment performances are not impacted by "No-Pass-No-Play," such as the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. The activities listed above are spaced out over the year in such a way that it is possible to **NOT BE ELIGIBLE** for **any** or **all** of them, depending on when a course is failed. Thus, PLEASE KEEP UP YOUR GRADES. Daily orchestra rehearsals in class and local concerts at school are exempt because they are considered to be an "extension of the classroom activity."

Absences, Conflicts, and Notification Procedures

- Follow the orchestra calendar so you don't miss anything! Click here
- Check your calendar for conflicts before the event date. If your calendar contains conflicts, follow the procedures below to ensure your director has adequate notice.
    - Notify your director directly by email at least two weeks in advance if you have a non-emergency absence. Do not rely on another student to notify your director of your absence.
    - Notify your director of a family illness or an emergency as soon as you are aware of it. This is the only instance where absences will be excused the same day or after the event.
    - Notify your director in advance of two weeks of religious holidays or conflicts with religious beliefs. These are excused absences only if you provide advanced notice.
    - Avoid scheduling medical appointments during rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts. If you cannot reschedule, provide your director with a doctor's note the next day.
    - Communicate with your director about conflicts between orchestra commitments and other activities.
        - **Orchestra is a UIL activity, so it takes precedence over non-UIL activities.**
        - Suppose there is a conflict with another UIL activity. In that case, you must notify the directors of both activities in advance of at least two weeks, and it is your responsibility to reach a compromise.
        - Failure to communicate will result in an unexcused absence.
- Other examples of unexcused absences include but are not limited to:
    - Forgetting instruments and music
    - Forgetting about a rehearsal or performance
    - Private lessons. Although lessons have a positive impact, you should make every effort to reschedule them when they conflict with a rehearsal, sectional, or concert.
    - Homework. Please manage your time so that you can take care of homework before or after rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts.
    - Work. School always comes first. Notify your boss and reschedule your work hours.

Student Full Supply List

Required Daily Class Supplies

- A 1-inch black binder with a front sleeve
- 5-tab dividers
- A zipper bag to store pencils, highlighters, tuners, etc in
- Pencils with/and erasers
- Tuner
    - Korg Tuner - Violin, Viola, Cello Tuner and Metronome
    - Bass - Korg Bass Tuner

Instrument and practice supplies

- A music stand for at-home practice
    - Collapsible Wire Stand, RockJam Music Stand, Manhasset Professional Music Stand
- Rosin specific for your instrument Violin/Viola, Cello, Bass
- Cleaning cloth (microfiber if possible)
- Violin/Viola Students need
    - A shoulder rest that is appropriate for your height and neck length
    - Everest, Bon Musica, Wolfe
    - Violin Strings: Vision Solo for Violin, Dominant for Violin, add Eva Pirazzi?
    - Viola Strings: Dominant for Viola, Jargar for Viola
- Cello students need
    - A rock stop or endpin strap
    - A stationary chair without arms or a stool is appropriate for the correct position **at home practice** (Desk chairs that roll or rotate and the couch or the bed are not suitable for the correct seated playing position.)
- Double Bass students need
    - A rock stop or endpin strap
    - A stool that is an appropriate height for a balanced and flexible position **at home practice.**
        - The seat should be high enough that the student can sit easily and short enough to have a strong foundation on the right foot. Please contact a private lesson teacher or Ms. Bell to help choose the correct height before buying.
        - Bass stool resource, String Bass Online Music Store - Stands, Lights & Stools
        - (Desk chairs that roll or rotate, the couch, and the bed are inappropriate for the correct seated playing position.)
- Harp students refer to Mrs. Caton for supplies

Instrument and Music Supplies

Suggested Local and Online Vendors

Dallas Strings, Cadenza, Williamson Music First, and Music and Arts can supply students with any instrument needs, including strings, rosin, etc. JWPepper, Pender's Music, or Amazon can provide sheet music to students wishing to purchase pieces independently.

School-Owned Instruments

Every student, regardless of instrument, must have an instrument at home (rented or purchased)**.** At-home practice is imperative to your students and the Centennial Orchestra's success.

Centennial High School has limited instruments available for students to use at school, with the $50/semester mandatory FISD usage fee. Families who wish to use a district-owned instrument on campus are required to sign an "FISD Instrument Loan Agreement," pay the FISD instrumental usage fee ($50/semester or $100 for the entire school year), and accept responsibility for maintaining, repairing, or replacing the instrument during the current school year. FISD strongly urges you to maintain insurance on the school instrument. It is your choice whether or not to do so; however, if an instrument is stolen, lost, or damaged, you are responsible for replacing or repairing it. The director can provide information on an insurance company, or you may investigate options through your homeowner's insurance.

Instrument Repairs

Centennial Orchestra sends its instruments for repair to Cadenza Violins and Dallas Strings, and we can also send your instrument there if necessary.

Concert Uniforms

Each student will be issued a concert uniform

- Black dress ($60 value if lost or damaged).
- Tuxedo jacket ($60 value if lost or damaged) and bowtie ($3 value if lost or damaged).
    - Black pants are also checked out if needed for the tuxedo jacket

Students will be fitted for their uniforms during the Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal and are responsible for their uniforms for the entire school year.

What you are expected to provide per uniform type

Dress Uniform will provide

- Black dress shoes (Close-toed, no more than 2" heels)

Tuxedo Uniform will provide

- Black pants
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks
- Formal, long-sleeved white tuxedo shirt

Concert Black Attire examples

Routine care of uniform

After each performance, it is strongly recommended that the black dress or tuxedo jacket be taken to a **professional cleaner for dry cleaning**. Do not machine wash or iron the dress or tuxedo. *Removable sewn hems are permitted for dresses, but permanent alterations should not be made.*

Collection of Uniforms

Any student who does not return the gown or tux by the announced date at the end of the year will have an "unclear record" form submitted to the office, and they will be unable to receive grades or register for the next semester until this obligation is met.

Auditions

The Centennial Orchestra Program is a nationally recognized FISD Fine Arts program. All students involved in the orchestra program at Centennial study a wide range of literature, enjoy performing throughout the year, are involved in community outreach, and have opportunities to travel and participate in social events. Orchestra placement is based on several criteria: technical skill displayed at the audition, demonstrated musical academic success, regular rehearsals skills with a willingness to collaborate and grow together, and teacher recommendation (if required).

Students new to the orchestra or their instrument must enroll with a private lesson teacher for at least a year before joining the orchestra, as Titan Orchestra does not have a beginner ensemble. Students in Titan Orchestra have been playing for at least two years in middle school or outside private lessons. Below are some of the necessary requirements needed for consideration to be placed in a higher orchestra:

- A positive attitude toward the orchestra program and a willingness to cooperate with the directors and students involved in the program.
- An ability to listen to and follow detailed and intricate instructions. The ability to comprehend and utilize higher-level thinking skills.
- An audition is required, and the directors judge the technical and musical ability on your instrument to be competent for the level of music that will be performed by the orchestra for which you are auditioning.
- Demonstration of a growth mentality through participation in private lessons, All-Region, and Solo & Ensemble.
- An average of 80 or above in all of your other classes prior to the semester you enter Varsity or Non-Varsity Orchestra.
- An amount of personal practice judged by the directors to be sufficient to warrant moving you into either orchestra.
- Auditions will take place towards the end of the Spring semester. Students may not audition for a higher orchestra at the end of the Fall semester. However, the director has the right to move a student to another orchestra if they deem it necessary.

The director's decision regarding your orchestra placement is final.

Keep up your grades. An individual who fails classes and becomes ineligible because of “NO-PASS-NO-PLAY” is subject to the following:

1. Remaining in the same orchestra;
2. Being moved to a less intensive orchestra class

If, for any reason, you decide to drop out of the orchestra and then want to return in the future, please know that you will go through the audition process to be placed in an appropriate ensemble and will be assigned an orchestra at the discretion of the director.

Lettering in Orchestra

CHS Orchestra students have the opportunity to purchase a Letterman Jacket and receive a CHS letter for orchestra. Students are responsible for purchasing their own jacket once they reach the forty points required to "Letter." To do this, students must understand and follow the procedures and guidelines outlined below:

1. You can purchase your letterman jacket only once a year in the Fall.
2. Letters are earned by accumulating a total of no less than 40 points from service and performance. ***A list of activities and their point values follows this page.***
3. To receive points, students will track points throughout the year and will record points at the end of each year with the Director's Approval
4. To earn a letter, a student must:
    a. have accumulated 40 points according to the "POINT AWARD GUIDELINES,"
    b. be in 12th grade
    c. been enrolled in orchestra for 4 years
    d. be a student who demonstrates PRIDE in Titan Orchestra
5. A student may letter in orchestra only once.
6. Points belong to the student who earned them and only that person. Points may not be traded, sold, or given away.
7. Any attempt to fabricate points or forms will result in a total termination of all accumulated points for the student in question.
8. The director reserves the right to award and subtract points as necessary.

NOTE: Students coming to Centennial HS from another high school will be credited the points they earned at their previous school, according to the Centennial point system.

Point Award Guidelines

40 points required

Performance Points:	**Points**
● Fall Concert	1
● Winter Concert	1
● Musical Pit Orchestra	4
● Pre-UIL Concert	1
● Music and Art Walk	1
● Spring Concert	1
UIL Event Performance Points	
● All-Region Orchestra:	
○ Selected and performed	4
○ Auditioned but not selected	2
● UIL Concert & Sightreading:	1
● UIL Solo and Ensemble:	
○ I with Memorization	4
○ Rating I (Superior)	3
○ Rating II (Excellent)	2
○ Rating III (Good)	1
● State UIL Solo and Ensemble:	
○ Performed at TSSEC	4
● All-State Orchestra:	
○ All-Area Orchestra	2
○ Selected for All-State	4
○ Performed at TMEA All-State	6
Enrichment and Service	
● Yearly Private lessons	1/semester
● Local Youth Orchestra	1
● Serving as an orchestra officer	4
● Volunteering for an orchestra event	.25

Seniors must calculate independently and verify points with Directors before being eligible for a Senior Letterman Jacket

Orchestra Expenditures

Student Activity Fee - All Students

Orchestra Fee (all students) **$150.00**

- Festivals
- Clinicians
- Concert Hospitality
- Social and Event Supplies
- Student Awards
- Postal Supplies
- End-of-year dry-cleaning
- Spring Banquet *(new this year)*

UIL Events and Fees

- All Region Entry Fee $ 15.00
    - All-State Audition Recording Fee (pending advancement)
- UIL Solo & Ensemble Registration $ 12.50
    - Region Accompanist Fee $ 60.00
    - State UIL Solo & Ensemble Registration (pending advancement) $ 20.00
    - State Accompanist Fee $110.00

Explanation of Fees

Orchestra Fee: Each student will pay an orchestra fee, which is used for various expenditures that benefit ALL members of the CHS Orchestra. Even though not everyone will participate in all activities for which these fees are being collected (but we hope everyone will), the fee amount considers that; otherwise, the amount would be more than the given amount.

All Centennial Orchestra students are strongly encouraged to audition for one of the All-Region Orchestras (which may also put you on the All-State path, depending on your audition level). Region auditions are an expectation for students in the Varsity and Non-Varsity Orchestras. They are strongly encouraged for all orchestra members as a means to push students to the next level in their musical journey.

Please use the QR code below to visit our online payment platform to make any payments throughout this year.

Parents and Booster Club

- The Centennial Orchestra Booster Club is an integral part of the orchestra's growth. Parents donate countless hours to finding ways to raise money for the Orchestra. They volunteer to help out at concerts, receptions, contests, and more.
- Students enjoy all of the "extra" things that happen in orchestra. We go on trips, have parties, compete in contests, eat lots of food, and much more! We look forward to maintaining traditions!
- All of these "extra" things are not free. Students want to see the traditions thrive. They will continue as long as we have parents to volunteer and help raise the necessary funds.
- A few parents can only continue to do some of the work for an orchestra this size. The booster club, the Centennial Orchestra, and the directors need help from ALL parents.
- The orchestra's school accounts and budget only take care of a minimal amount of the monetary needs of the Centennial Orchestra. Fundraising and parent help is essential.
- Parent volunteers are needed in the following ways:
    - Serving at concert receptions
    - Helping to prepare/set up/serve at the Orchestra Banquet at the end of the year
    - Spring Trip Chaperone
    - Field Trip Chaperone
    - Orchestra Party Chaperone
    - Offering to pick up food or drinks for an orchestra function or party
    - Being a member of the Booster Club board
- For this orchestra to run efficiently, ALL must contribute. The CHS Orchestra students deserve the best! Parents, you have wonderful children, and they should get to experience every opportunity the CHS Orchestra offers.

Please contact Mrs. Sirisha Mantripragada (President) for more information on our fantastic Booster Club.

Spring Trip

All students of the Centennial Orchestra have the opportunity to go on our spring trip. Offering students the chance to go on our trip is a distinct privilege, not necessarily a right. It is an honor to represent the Centennial High School Orchestras to the public community. It is intended to be an opportunity to experience music in workshops, recitals, and rewards for a successful year, and therefore, it is assumed that a 100% effort is displayed at all times during the school year, musically, emotionally, and attitude-wise. You must be academically eligible to be permitted to go on the trip. This is our own policy here in the Centennial Orchestra. We want you to pass your classes at all times, not just when something fun is at stake. The director also has the right to deny any student the opportunity to go on the trip—we will not take students who are ill-mannered or ill-behaved! That is not the persona we want to reflect on the Centennial Orchestra. Put your best face forward at all times!

In addition to being a reward for hard work, the Spring Trip is intended to be a quality musical experience outside of the Orchestra classroom. Such an experience could be a contest or music festival that offers rewards through a strict adjudication procedure, or it could be a voluntary performance for the nearby community. This kind of experience teaches students many things in addition to preparing the music: how to live and get along with one another over a period of several days in a relatively close, confined mode of travel and living accommodations; how to stay focused, disciplined, and prepared to perform the music at a very high level; and finally how to interact with another in a social setting away from family and home. It is a maturing experience musically, emotionally, and socially.

As details of our trip become more available, students and parents will be updated.