



Welcome to the Kingwood High School Orchestra



Vision Statement

The Kingwood High School Orchestra will aim to foster an environment where students feel safe to express themselves through words and music, be held accountable for their actions within and outside the classroom, use their musical talents to build relationships throughout the community, and meet expectations higher than the state standards. The directors will collaborate in a way that enhances co-directorship, creativity, and cohesiveness to best serve the students. Students and directors will act jointly to meet musical goals, stressing the importance of individual responsibility for collective excellence. Students will be encouraged to be involved and excel in all areas of interest; academics, athletics, clubs, and the arts; building skills in time management, organization, and leadership. Strong relationships with the middle school feeder programs and the utilization of community affiliations will be fostered to aid in the stable growth and success of the program. And, most importantly, the directors will seek to instill, in all students, a life-long love of music that will continue past the walls of Kingwood High School.

KHS Orchestra Directors

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Orchestra Web Page
www.humbleisd.net
Select Kingwood High School
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Classroom Policies and Behavior Guidelines

The Orchestra classroom/rehearsal is the same as any other classroom concerning intent and application. Rules that pertain to student behavior are few, reasonable, and can be applied to any other appropriate classroom situation.

- ◆ Students are expected to enter the classroom, gather their music and instrument, go to their seat and unpack before the bell rings. Students will obtain a pass to go to the restroom, leave their phone in the classroom, and will return in a timely manner.
- ◆ Attention and a quiet atmosphere will be maintained during the class period and rehearsals. Students are not permitted to have cell phones outside of their backpacks without express permission from a director.
- ◆ Respect for the rights of other students and adults is expected at all times.
- ◆ Students will not be allowed to chew gum, eat, or drink in the orchestra room during rehearsal.
- ◆ Students shall treat school instruments and equipment with respect. Fingernails will be kept at an appropriately short length for playing a string instrument.
- ◆ Students and parents are expected to regularly check the Orchestra Google Calendar in CutTime and Schoology. Updates to the calendar are made throughout the school year, and students need to know which orchestra events are applicable to them.

Student Responsibilities and Expectations

Instruments and Binders

All students will be issued 3-ring binders. Each student is responsible for putting any distributed music into their assigned binder. Periodic checks will be made to determine if binders are up-to-date.

Cello, bass, and harp students will be assigned school instruments. These instruments will be checked out with an "Instrument Tracking Form." Basses and harps will be checked out with an HISD Instrument Contract signed by a parent or guardian. Responsible parties assume all liability for HISD instruments that are kept at home.

Students are responsible for any damage that occurs to school or privately owned instruments, bows, or equipment that is caused by carelessness, inappropriate use, or unprofessional behavior.

Please note that it is an expectation that personal instruments are treated with utmost care. If a personal instrument incurs damage at a campus event, trip, UIL Contest, Solo and Ensemble, sectional, etc., it is the responsibility of the student to pay for all repairs. Neither the district nor the booster club are responsible for damages incurred to personally-owned instruments.

[Humble ISD Equipment Acknowledgement Form](#)

Concert and Rehearsal Attendance Policies

Concerts and rehearsals are an essential part of the Orchestra instructional curriculum, and hence are an integral part of the course requirements. Requirements of the course during any given academic year include, but are not limited to, the following events and activities, both curricular and extracurricular:

- ◆ Fall Concert, Winter Concert, U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest, Pre-U.I.L. Concert, U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Contest, Kingwood Zone Orchestra Concert, Spring Concert & Full Orchestra activities.
- ◆ All rehearsals that pertain to these activities, including those that occur after school hours.

Students are responsible for all concerts and rehearsals on the master schedule. These co-curricular activities receive a performance and participation grade that is averaged into the other grades accumulated in any given nine-weeks grading period.

- ◆ **Outside jobs, extracurricular activities, or homework DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN EXCUSE for missing a rehearsal or concert.**
- ◆ **It is the student's responsibility to submit the [Excused Absence Request Form](#) two weeks prior to the missed event. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence unless otherwise determined by the directors.**

What constitutes an excused absence?

An absence from a required performance can be excused when a student has a conflict, however, it must meet the following criteria:

- The conflict must be with another school organization's event (basketball game, dance contest, Science Olympiad, etc.).
- The student has a doctor or dentist appointment that cannot be scheduled at a different time.
- The student had travel plans prior to the given notice of the orchestra event. All events can be seen on the [Orchestra Calendar](#).
- The director must be notified via the absence form two weeks in advance of the absence.
- The student and director must work with the other campus sponsor to determine whether a compromise can be made that allows the student to participate in both events (ex.: student arrives late to call time, coach requests earlier/later time in track meet).
- Unexpected emergencies can be excused as long as the parent informs the director of the situation as soon as possible.

Humble ISD policy states an absence from a required performance will not be excused for:

- Doctor's appointments (unless related to an illness that day)
- Out of town trips (unless scheduled prior to the announcement of the performance)
- Non-campus related activities or events

Making up an excused performance

An absence from a required performance will result in an alternate performance assignment. A student with an excused absence who completes the alternate assignment may receive up to a grade of 100. A student with an unexcused absence who completes the alternate assignment will not receive a grade above 80. A student who does not complete the alternate assignment will receive a zero.

Sectional Schedule

Most sectionals are held during the school day.

On occasion, we will have after school rehearsals. Please see the calendar for specific dates.

Sectional rehearsals are vital to both individual advancement and are integral to the overall success of our Kingwood High School Orchestra. Attendance at after-school rehearsals is mandatory and students are expected to complete the absence form if conflicts arise.

Grading Policies

Grades will be developed from both Formative & Summative Domains

Formative: 40%

1. Daily grades are based on the following:
 - a. Being on time
 - b. Have instrument, music, and a pencil
 - c. Participating in an appropriate way in rehearsal. Talking during inappropriate times, disruptions of class, poor posture, and refusing to participate are not appropriate behaviors.
2. Weekly Sectional Grade (most are during the school day)
3. After School Rehearsals
 - a. Full orchestra rehearsals
 - b. Combined rehearsals
 - c. Rehearsals with clinicians
 - d. Dress rehearsals

Summative: 60%

1. Weekly Test Grades
 - a. In person tests
 - i. [KHS Orchestra Testing Rubric](#)
 - c. Video upload tests
 - i. Chair placements
 - ii. Final exams (40% of semester grade)
2. Concert Participation

Daily Practice is crucial to student success. Students should expect to practice at least 20 minutes a day (100 minutes weekly) for individual and collective success.

Letter Jackets

Orchestra students have an opportunity to earn a letter jacket by earning points based on the completion of orchestra activities. Students will use the [Letter Jacket Tally Form](#) to keep track of their points. Once a student is in their sophomore year of Orchestra and has earned 20 points, they are eligible to receive a letter jacket.

Eligibility

Students must meet the academic eligibility requirements to participate in any off-campus event during the school day, any U.I.L. event aside from Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, and any TMEA event. To be eligible, students must be passing all classes at the end of each grading period in addition to the first six weeks progress report. One waiver can only be granted for specific advanced or AP classes, and can only be used once per semester.

Kingwood Orchestra Boosters (KOB)

We invite you to get involved in the Kingwood Orchestra Booster Club! We have a team of wonderful parents whose help and dedication we gratefully depend on throughout the school year, and we invite our parent/grandparent/etc. community to be a part of the booster club team! This group of parents help with coordinating fundraisers, help with our concert uniforms, coordinating senior scholarships, Zone concert, orchestra banquet, and much more. We have monthly meetings, which typically currently fall on the 2nd Monday of each month, see the emailed weekly newsletter and orchestra Google Calendar on your student's Schoology account for monthly KOB meeting details.

Contests and Festivals

Region Orchestra

- Students, during the fall semester, compete against other orchestra students from Region 33 Schools in order to be selected for membership in the prestigious Region 33 Honor Orchestra. It is a requirement that all students in the KHS Chamber and KHS Sinfonia Orchestras audition for Region Orchestra.

All-State Orchestra

- Selection for the Texas All-State Orchestra is the highest honor a music student in Texas can achieve. Auditions take place during the fall semester and the level of competition is extremely high. All expenses for food, lodging and travel and paid by H.I.S.D. for successful applicants. The All-State Festival takes place in San Antonio in February at the TMEA State Convention.

U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble Contest

- Students are required to prepare a solo and participate in the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest. Entry fees are paid by the District, however, students pay for the accompanist as part of their orchestra fee at the beginning of the year. If a student becomes academically ineligible, they will not receive a refund for their accompanist fee.
- All students are required to learn and participate in an Ensemble that is assembled from fellow class members.
- There is also a **Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest**. To qualify, a student must receive a first division rating in a Class I Solo or Ensemble. Solos must be memorized. This event takes place in Austin on the Memorial Day Weekend in May.

U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Contest

- This event occurs in the spring and is a contest that rates the achievement of the competing orchestra against a recognized standard, not against other schools. The organization as a whole competes rather than individual student events. Participation is required by all students except those in the Camerata Orchestra.

Spring Festivals & Trips

- Competitions of this nature vary from year to year according to the proposed activities of the Orchestra. Trips will vary in location and are two - five days in length. Parents must purchase optional trip insurance in advance should they desire a refund in the event of student ineligibility, etc. If students must miss school to attend the trip, they must be eligible in order to participate.

TMEA - Texas Music Educators Association

- TMEA is the State of Texas' organization of music teachers. Approximately 10,000 members have created one of the largest teacher organizations in the world. TMEA has a great deal of influence both educationally and politically in Texas. It has fostered and developed guidelines and essential elements that have set the benchmark for music education around the United States. Texas Music Scholars and Texas Future Music Educators are program outreaches of TMEA that are implemented in the classroom.

U.I.L. - University Interscholastic League

- Texas' U.I.L. is the governing agency of the TEA (Texas Education Agency) that determines rules and regulations controlling all competitive events on the Secondary Level of Public Education. Sports, Academics, Fine Arts and all events considered extracurricular, are regulated by U.I.L.