I. H. Kempner High School
Orchestra Handbook Addendum
2026 – 2027



Kempner High School
14777 Voss Rd.
Sugar Land, Texas 77498
Orchestra Office: (281) 634 - 5526
https://kempnerorchestra.carrd.co/
Marea Franklin, Orchestra Director
Marea.Franklin@fortbendisd.gov
kempnerhsorchestra@gmail.com

I H Kempner High School Orchestra Handbook Addendum

(This is presented in addition to the Fort Bend ISD High School Fine Arts Handbook)

PREFACE

The orchestra program at Kempner High School consists of many students from different backgrounds and skill levels. There are three performing ensembles including Chamber (Varsity), Philharmonic (Non-Varsity), and Concert (Sub Non-varsity). These ensembles meet everyday during school to rehearse. These groups perform annual concerts and compete in UIL Concert and Sightreading competitions. The Kempner Symphony Orchestra was named TMEA Honor Full Orchestra Finalist in 2008 and has participated in other events and festivals such as Director's Choice and American Classic. Over the years, the program has produced numerous All-Region and All-State participants. Members of the organization are also members of Houston Youth Symphony, American Festival for the Arts Texas (AFA), Katy Youth Symphony, Virtuosi of Houston and many more.

The success of the orchestra program centers on a commitment to consistently improve individually and to have the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. This is done through teamwork and commitment. Respect and community are equally important in building the relationships that enable the orchestra to be outstanding. *We do not expect every student in the orchestra to become a virtuoso musician, but we do expect every student to establish both short and long range goals for improvement on their instrument, to exhibit mature, responsible behaviors at all times, and to be willing to contribute lots of hard work for the benefit of all.* Orchestra is a team effort and everyone is important. In orchestra no one sits on the bench.

The orchestra program strives to provide excellent music education for all students. This goal is achieved through individual study, varied performances and assessments. Performance opportunities include large ensembles, chamber ensembles, and solos. The skills that music students acquire in these activities are directly related to skills necessary for auditions, presentations, and interviews in other career fields.

Additionally, opportunities are provided for those who wish to develop their leadership skills. Student leadership is crucial to the success of the orchestras, and student leaders are relied upon to help achieve organizational goals.

Social skills are also developed. Participation in orchestra enables the students to form close friendships within the school through their collaborative efforts, as well as the opportunity to work with their peers as part of a team. Orchestra is one of few organizations that enable students to build on relationships year after year, as well as participate in classes with peers from different grade levels. Through this, they work together to achieve a common goal. As a result, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork, and accountability will develop as each student experiences the world of music.

The ultimate goal of our program is to produce graduates who operate at a high level of awareness, are knowledgeable about music, can perform successfully with confidence, can operate within a structured framework, and can work to develop the skills necessary to become a lifelong musician. In addition, the program also strives to produce informed adults of high integrity who understand and appreciate music and musicians, and who will foster the continuing development of artistic endeavors in their community.

This handbook is designed to convey the guidelines and operating procedures of the Kempner Orchestra. Its purpose is to help answer student and parent questions, and be a helpful guide for defining the procedures of the organization. If further clarification is needed, please use the contact information below. Welcome to the Kempner Orchestra family!

Sincerely,



Marea.Franklin@fortbendisd.gov
(281) 634 - 5526

Orchestras Levels and Responsibilities

Membership in the Kempner High School (KHS) Orchestras is based on skill level as well as experience and dedication to the program. The KHS program consists of four (4) String Orchestras and the Full Symphony Orchestra. Every student will be accepted into the orchestra program, provided he/she has at least one year of playing experience. (We are attempting to start a beginner course so that those who wish to start learning at the high school level will have the opportunity.)

Chamber Strings (Varsity):

- This group is the smallest in size and represents the finest string musicians at Kempner High School. All students are welcome to audition for this Orchestra, but the typical Chamber musician is a highly dedicated student who places extra emphasis on music as a part of their studies. Students will participate in UIL Concert and Sightreading competitions at the Varsity level. Participation in the Kempner Symphony Full Orchestra is required. All-Region auditions, as well as UIL Solo and Ensemble participation (with Class I solo) is also required at this level as well. Private lessons are highly recommended. (Please refer to the attached Private Lesson Teacher list provided.)

Cadence Strings (Non-Varsity):

- This orchestra represents string students who are developing their abilities to one day move up to the Chamber level. While All-Region audition participation is not required, it is recommended. Students will participate in UIL Concert and Sightreading competitions at the Non-Varsity level. All students in Cadence Strings will compete at UIL Solo and Ensemble with at least a Class II solo or ensemble selection of repertoire. Exceptional and dedicated students from this orchestra may be asked to audition and participate in the Kempner Symphony Orchestra. Private lessons are recommended. (Please refer to the attached Private Lesson Teacher list provided.)

Concert II Strings (Sub Non-Varsity):

- The third level of orchestra at Kempner is Concert Strings. This is the typical level for incoming 9th graders who are serious about music but may require maturity and technical experience to compete at the Non-Varsity or Varsity level. Students are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble (Class III solo) and may compete at UIL Concert and Sight-reading at the Non-Varsity level.

Coda (Concert I) Strings (Sub Non-Varsity A):

- This foundational level of orchestra is mainly dedicated to improving basic playing skills, fundamental technique, and note reading. This group is for students who enjoy music and being a part of the orchestra family. Students may also have left the orchestra, and wish to return to the program. Solo and Ensemble participation is optional.

Kempner Orchestra Calendar

Please check your calendar and report any conflicts to the director at least 1 week in advance. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is required. If an excused absence is anticipated, *written notification* should be submitted as soon as the student/parent is aware of the conflict. There are some rehearsals/performances that may not be listed, but will be conveyed at least 2 weeks prior. Your compliance is greatly appreciated. (TBA - To Be Announced)

Kempner High School Orchestra Calendar 2026 - 2027

August 2026			
27 (Thurs.)	Bach to School Social	3:00 - 4:30 PM	Orchestra Room
September			
7 (Mon.)	***Labor Day Holiday***		
10 (Thurs.)	Hoco Parade/Pep Rally		
11 (Fri)	Homecoming Dance		
12 (Sat.)	Homecoming Game		
15 (Tues.)	***Keith Dodson Clinic with Chamber (5th period)***		
25 (Fri.)	***Teacher PD - Student Holiday***		
29	Combined Coda + Concert Rehearsal		
October			
8	SLMS Fall Concert	6:30 PM	Sugar Land MS
3 (Sat.)	***HS Region Orch Auditions***	8:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Sugar Land MS
5 (Tues.)	Combined Coda + Concert Rehearsal	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Orchestra Room
6 (Tues.)	***Kempner Orchestra Fall Concert***	***6:30 PM***	***KHS Auditorium***
9 (Fri.)	***Teacher PD - Student Holiday***		
12-16	***Fall Break - Holiday***		
27 (Tues.)	HS Orchestra Area Elimination Auditions	TBA	Elkins HS
29 (Thurs.)	Halloween Social	3:00 - 4:30	Orchestra Room
25 (Sat.)	All-State Recording Day	TBA	Elkins HS
November			
17 (Tues.)	HS Region Sectionals and Rehearsal	TBA	Dulles HS
20 - 21 (Fri.-Sat.)	HS Region Clinic and Concert	TBA	Dulles HS
23 - 27	***Thanksgiving Break***		
December			
1 (Tues)	**Full Orchestra Rehearsals begin (every Tuesday afternoon until UIL)**	**3:00 - 5:00**	Band Hall
8 (Tues.)	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	3:00 - 5:00	Band Hall
10 (Thurs.)	***Winter Orchestra Concert***	**6:30 PM**	***KHS Auditorium***
15	**SLMS Winter Concert**	**6:30 PM**	Sugar Land MS
16 (Wed.)	Secret Santa Social	3:00 - 4:30 PM	Orchestra Room
17 - 18 (Thurs. - Fri) Early Release			
21 - Jan 6	***Winter Break***		
January 2026			
4 - 5	***Teacher PD- No students***		
6 (Wed.)	First Day of Spring Semester		
12 (Tues)	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	3:00 - 5:00	Band Hall
13	Coug Fest and Course Selection	TBA	***KHS Commons***

18 (Mon)	***Martin Luther King Holiday***		
19 (Tues)	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	3:00 - 5:00	Band Hall
26 (Tues)	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	3:00 - 5:00	Band Hall

February

2 (Tues.)	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	**3:00 - 5:00**	Band Hall
4 (Thurs.)	****Kempner Symphony Orchestra Pre-UIL**	**3:30 - 6:30 PM**	**KHS Auditorium**
9 (Tues)	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	3:00 - 5:00	Band Hall
10 - 13	TMEA *(Conference) All-State*	TBA	San Antonio, TX
16 (Tues)	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	3:00 - 5:00	Band Hall
12 (Fri.)	***Teacher PD- No students***		
15 (Mon.)	***President's Day Holiday***		
17 - 18 (Wed. - Thurs)	***MS NV String UIL HOST SITE! - ALL DAY (Band, Choir, Orch Rooms)***		
19 - 20 (Fri. - Sat.)	***HS Region 13 Solo & Ensemble**	**TBA**	**Dulles HS**
23 (Tues.)	****HS NV UIL Concert and Sight Reading***	**TBA**	***Austin HS***
25	**Kempner Jazz Band Concert - Full Orch**	**7:00 PM**	**KHS Auditorium**

March

1 (Mon.)	**Final Full Orchestra rehearsal**	**3:00 - 5:00**	Band Hall
2 (Tues.)	***Region 13 Full Orchestra HS UIL**	**TBA**	**Crawford HS**
3 - 4	***(Wed. - Thurs) MS NV String UIL HOST SITE! ALL DAY***		***(Band, Choir, Orch Rooms)***
5 (Fri.)	***Teacher Planning - No students***		
8 - 12	Spring Break Trip with Kempner Band (Colorado)		
26 (Fri.)	**Good Friday Holiday**		
31 (Wed.)	***HS Varsity Concert and Sight Reading**	**TBA**	**Ridge Point HS**

April

TBA	Main Event/Andretti's Trip	TBA	Event Location
TBA	Splash a Member	TBA	Kempner Courtyard
29 (Thurs.)	Senior Fine Arts Excellence Awards	TBA	Dulles HS

May

6 (Thurs.)	***KHS Spring Concert**	**6:30 PM**	**Kempner Auditorium**
29 or 31 (Sat. or Mon.)	****TSSEC State Solo & Ensemble***	***TBA***	***Austin, TX***
26 - 27 (Wed. - Thurs.)	***Early Release***		
TBA	Senior Celebration Dinner	TBA	TBA
TBA	Graduation	TBA	Fort Bend Epicenter

An updated calendar information will be communicated to students via Schoology and through our Google Calendar. Bold dates refer to mandatory events.
https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=a2VtcG5lcmhzb3JjaGVzdHJhQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ

Core Beliefs

Kempner Orchestra Members:

- *Will always work as a team (no one sits on the bench)*
- *Practice doesn't make perfect, Practice makes permanent, Practice makes progress*
- *Develop strong leadership skills, responsibility and accountability*
- *Continuously strive for excellence (which does not require perfection)*

General Principles

- Be Kind - respect classroom, equipment, others' belongings and others' musical abilities
- Be Responsible - remember your practice or lack thereof will always be visible to others

- Be Prepared - always have a pencil, correct posture, correct music on your stand
- Be Engaged - be ready to play, ask questions, and perform

During Rehearsal

- All students are expected to have THEIR individual binder with them at rehearsal (remember to mark your part even if your music isn't being used)
- Always have a pencil on your stand! Everyone will mark their music every rehearsal.
- Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player—study your part quietly/shadow bow while the director works with others.
- Maintain proper posture at all times.
- Do not be afraid to ask relevant questions during the rehearsal (director or stand partner.)
- If you borrow something, please make sure to return it where you retrieved the item (don't steal.)
- Wait to be dismissed, the clock/bell does not dismiss you. (Bell to bell instruction)
- Only cases and music are allowed in the rehearsal space. Bags and backpacks should be left in your locker or along the back bulletin board wall.
- Cases for violins and violas will be placed on the LEFT side of your chair (closed). (Cellos/Basses if you have your case, please place it carefully behind your chair/stool - if you carefully set your instrument down, please place it on the left side of your chair.)
- All instrument cases MUST have a name tag at all times (one can be provided for you.)
- No earbuds during instruction
- No phones during instruction - please do not place them on stands as they are a distraction, phones will be left in the classroom secured if you need to go to the restroom.
- No food or drink (unless permission is granted, or given by the director) - liquid/food and wood do not mix.

Behavior

Behavior issues will not be tolerated in orchestra. Your behavior is expected to be exemplary at all times. Orchestra is an organization that comes with many advantages and benefits you will not experience in your academic classes. Everyone must be willing to work together with kindness and patience. Please remain on task at all times, no side conversations during instruction, and do not interrupt the focus of a rehearsal. Show respect to your teachers and peers at all times.

Grading Guidelines

Students must be committed to developing individual academic and musical skills and be disciplined with expectations to deadlines. An orchestra member's grade will be an average of the following:

Participation

- The student will receive a grade for each sectional and rehearsal during a grading period.
- Sectionals and rehearsals held after school will be counted as double daily grades.
- The student is expected to **actively participate** during the rehearsal.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have an instrument, music, **pencil,** and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play their part successfully.
- The student will **annotate** music and take notes when instructed.

Fundamentals and Skills

- The student will be evaluated for improvement of music fundamentals through daily observation during playouts. (Daily grade = 50%)

- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand positions, bow control, bow articulations, technique, flexibility, musicality, and attentiveness as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve individual and ensemble music skills.
- The student will be expected to contribute musically during the rehearsal.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, technique tests, and written tests. (Major grade = 50%)
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to develop historical knowledge of the literature relative to their respective instrument.

Performance (concerts)
- The student will receive a grade for each performance/concert during a grading period.
- Performances will be counted as a double major grade — one for listening/etiquette/dress, and another for performance attendance.
- The number of performances will be determined by the performance calendar.
- If no public performance occurs during a grading period, the performance grade will be based upon the aforementioned criteria.

Conduct Grades
- A student merits a conduct grade of “E” when they fulfill all classroom behavioral expectations consistently.
- A student merits a conduct grade of “S” when they fulfill most classroom behavioral expectations regularly.
- A student merits a conduct grade of “N” when they do not fulfill classroom behavioral expectations regularly and director feedback is occasionally necessary.
- A student merits a conduct grade of “U” when they do not fulfill classroom behavioral expectations, are disruptive to the educational process, and director feedback is regularly necessary.

Instruments

Personal Instruments:
- A quality program requires quality musical instruments. An instrument purchased for the beginning years is generally not acceptable at the high school level. By the time a student is a sophomore at Kempner High School, it is recommended that he/she own a higher quality instrument. In many cases, “step up” instruments will have been purchased during the eighth or ninth grade year. Bows are equally important to the development and also need to be changed. In many cases a better bow can be made without changing the instrument. All instruments will be inspected at the beginning of the year, with recommendations given by the director.
- With all personal instruments, it is strongly recommended that the instrument be insured through your homeowner's policy or a private company. ***The school District will not assume liability for maintenance, repair, or damage of personal instruments.*** Kempner Orchestra WILL NOT provide strings, rosin, end pin anchors or shoulder rests for personally owned instruments (this includes all violins and violas.)
- Please make sure that your instrument is always secured in orchestra lockers at school, and affixed with a name tag. (If you would like a lock to secure your instrument, you may ask the orchestra director for one, and one can be provided to you.)

School Owned Instruments: (Instrument Use Fee)

- Kempner High School only furnishes cellos and basses for students to use during the school day. We are not equipped to rent out violins and violas. There may be additional instruments available for students to check out and keep at home. There are many rental programs that provide an affordable option to purchase. This option may provide a better instrument then the ones that will be checked out for home use. The **DISTRICT FEE** to use **CELLOS AND BASSES** during the school day is **$100 for the year** (in addition to the orchestra activity fee). This is far less a fee than those imposed by area violin shops. Please see the attached instrument insurance form for further information. (Also available in the FBISD Orchestra Handbook) - ***Please understand this is separate from the Kempner Orchestra Materials Fee. This fee is due to the district before Thursday, September 24, 2026.***

- Students must provide their own personal accessories such as rosin, strings, rock stops and shoulder rests. The student is responsible for damage to the instrument while in their possession. The instrument will be inspected at the end of the year for damage and the student will be charged for any necessary repairs.

Required Expenses and Fees

Members of the Kempner Orchestras have financial obligations in three different categories: Required Materials Fees, Program Operation Fee, and Trip Expenses. **No student will be denied participation in the Orchestra program due to financial difficulties.** Parents should contact the Orchestra Director with any specific concerns. All checks are to be made to "***Kempner High School/Orchestra."*** *The activity fee may be paid in installments, but this must be set up by the director in advance.* All fees may be paid by **cash, personal check or money order, or credit card via Presto. (***https://www.presto-assistant.com/*) Unfortunately, at this time we are not equipped to accept funds via mobile payment services (Venmo, Paypal, Cashapp, Zelle, ect.) Contact Mrs. Franklin for information regarding installment payments or alternative payment methods. A brief description of all expenses follows:

Required Materials Fee: Amount Due

Orchestra T-Shirt, binder replacements, large group and small group contest entry fees, supplemental costs for piano accompanist fees for solo and ensemble competition, uniform cleaning fees, operation expenses for All-State and Region Orchestra, End-Of-Year awards, concert/performance food items, class prizes, necessary breakfast/lunch/dinner items hosting, extra curricular field trip supplements, and clinicians.

…… **$100.00**

This fee is due no later than Friday, September 11, 2026.

Payments and partial payments will be accepted but the first installment needs to be paid by this date. *Five (5) payments of $20/each may be paid as well, but* ***must be paid in full by Fri., October. 30, 2026.*** *→ Mrs. Franklin must have documentation of installment payments*

- *Installment #1 -* ***Tuesday, September 1, 2026*** *- $20.00*
- *Installment #2 -* ***Tuesday, September 15, 2026*** *- $20.00*
- *Installment #3 -* ***Tuesday, September 29, 2026*** *- $20.00*
- *Installment #4 -* ***Tuesday, October 20, 2026*** *- $20.00*
- *Installment #5 -* ***Tuesday, October 27, 2026*** *- $20.00*

Required Materials Fees are non-refundable. Any student who is removed or withdraws from the program will forfeit any and all deposited funds.

→ *<u>Important:</u> Families with multiple students in the Kempner Orchestra: Please inquire with Mrs. Franklin regarding reduced required fee rates for siblings. (Two siblings in orchestra, $100 + $50 = $150 for both, instead of $200)*

Other Required Materials

In order for the program to operate, all students need required materials. Many of these items may have been purchased at the middle school level and would not need to be "upgraded" unless they are no longer adequate (defective, too small, etc.). Some items are instrument specific. See list below. *It is expected that a student will have working equipment including replacement strings, and a properly re-haired and functional bow.* A student cannot be successful in progressing on their instrument if the equipment is not working properly. Please check with Mrs. Franklin before making a purchase, because she may have items on hand for immediate purchase (such as shoulder rests, cleaning cloths, rosin, ect.)

All Students

- Metronome/tuner
- Tuner with pick-up, D'addario clip tuners, Korg tuner with microphone
-   
- Black binder (1 ½" - 2") - is it time for an upgrade? We will have *<u>binder checks!</u>*
- Dividers for binder sections (8 tabs) - organization is important!
- Pencils
- Rosin
- Pencil pouch (optional)
- Soft cloth to clean the rosin from personal and school instruments (optional)
- Folding music stand for at home practice and/or outside events (optional)
- Finger nail clippers (please invest and keep one in your case or binder - optional)

Instrument Specific:

- ***<u>All violins and violas</u>*** should have an extra **set of strings** at the beginning of the year. **Extra strings** should be on hand in your case if one should break. Unless you are studying privately and your teacher requests different strings, then please use *Thomastik dominant strings*. (Price range $50 - $100 depending on instrument)

<u>Violin/Viola</u>

- Shoulder rest
- Mute

<u>Cello/Bass</u>

- Rock stop/ endpin anchor
- Mute

Private Instructors

A private instructor is able to identify both strengths and weaknesses in your child's playing ability and work with them one on one to develop and enhance these techniques. Houston is a large city and many private teachers are available in your area. Make sure that you ask for a resume and education level when searching for a teacher. Lessons are often given once a week for 30 minutes to an hour, depending on the teacher/student. Chamber and Philharmonic members are strongly encouraged to seek private lessons.

List of Recommended Private Teachers

Violin and Viola Teachers

Amber and Luka Secek	violin and viola	346-454-4013	info@sesekstringstudio.com
Emily Madonia	violin	346-205-1514	emily@emilymedonia.com
Matthew Madonia	violin	346-773-6577	
Samantha Arizpe	violin	281-846-8274	arizpe.samanthaviolin@gmail.com
Jennifer Alger	violin and viola	713-927-1454	jalger18@gmail.com
Yuli Jiang	violin	281-395-8408/713-419-2918	
Hang-Chi Pham	violin	832-524-0483	hangchiviolin@gmail.com
Jack Li	violin	713-306-8831 / 281-265-3254	
Zachary Montasser	violin	281-636-2570	
Amy Mathis	violin	281-491-8856	amysnotes@juno.com
Lauren Haley	violin	832-600-5338	
Chris Nguyen	violin	281-919-3725	ctmn215@gmail.com
Shinting Huang	violin	832-814-6000	
Danette Schuh	violin and viola	281-277-9012	www.dolcemusicstudio.com
Lily Xiong	violin and viola	281-207-6883	
Mika Hasler	violin and viola	281-480-3404	
Chunfeng Zhang	violin and viola	713-371-6509	
Charles and Connie Xiao	violin and viola	281-565-4663	
Erika Lawson	violin and viola	713-526-6227	
Leilei Song	violin	281-207-6883	
Guangxun Hua	violin	281-851-8693	
Rodica Weber (advanced)	violin	713-726-0271	
Lilan Huang	violin	281-242-3292	
Henry or Cindy Rubin	violin	713-981-9608	
Rachel Shepard	violin	407- 579-0296	rachelshepard27@gmail.com
Wei Guo Yin	violin and viola	832 - 633 - 3684	
Dr. Lois Geertz	violin	720 - 320 - 4353	loisgeertz@gmail.com

Cello Teachers

Mark Yee	832-233-2517	markyee@me.com
Cindy Fu	832-782-3668	
Francisco Garay	713-998-5232	
Judy Wu	281-455-9897	cellomelody@gmail.com
Olive Chen	281-793-8526 / 281-499-7104	Olivechen.cello@gmail.com
Daming Li	713-777-1882	
Beth El Montgomery	813-205-2133	gomezgal@outlook.com
Corky Watkins	713-895-7758	
Melody Kelley	832.455.7865	melody@harmonystrings.com

Bass Teachers

Andy Moritz	832-483-5692/ 281-497-4598	info@thebassstudio.com
Dennis Whittaker (UH Professor)	713-973-7278	
Greg Garcia	713-802-9125	
Curry Duffy	713-826-6605	
Gabe Katz	607-425-0783	gabrielktz@yahoo.com

Uniforms

The District provides uniforms for high school music groups and these are mandatory for participation in performances. The individual student must provide uniform accessories. Students are responsible for repair or replacement of any damaged or unreturned uniform items. In May of 2024, Kempner High School received its first replacement set of uniforms in over 10 years. Please take care of these so we can keep them for another decade.

Some uniforms may require minor alterations such as adjusting the hem of the pants and dress length. *These alterations are the responsibility of each student*, and no other alterations should be made. **Do not cut any of the material, only raise or lower the hem to the appropriate length.** Temporary hems generally remain for the entire year.

Each student will be provided with a dress or tuxedo jacket with tie. If tuxedo pants are needed (and the student does not own any solid black dress slacks, these can be provided as well. The students are responsible for providing all other personal accessories for their uniform (i.e. black dress shoes, black socks, black long sleeve collared button down shirt.)

Option #1: We will provide a tuxedo blazer. You will need to provide a BLACK button-down/ long-sleeved shirt, black dress shoes, black slacks and solid ***black socks (no Michael Jackson.)*** If you do not have solid black slacks or socks and cannot obtain them, we will provide them for you.





Option #2: We will provide a formal, full length, black dress. You will provide black dress shoes (heels or flats, no open toes.)

Jewelry is limited to minimal silver/gold jewelry and should not be distracting to the audience. Watches are also not permitted as they reflect lights on stage. No bracelets should be worn.



Concert Black: In the professional music world, concert black is a standard. Below are the "concert black" guidelines for your reference. Many students chose to use these guidelines for solo and ensemble and other competitions/auditions.




- Matching "dark" black outfit made of a "formal" material—not cotton.
- Long sleeve shirt or blouse, (or short sleeve with a dress jacket)—no T-shirts or spaghetti straps
- Long skirt/dress or slacks—preferably a skirt/dress (no high slits)
    - Skirts/dresses need to be mid leg between the knee and ankle when sitting down
- Black dress shoes (no open toes)

Casual Uniform - Informal attire is required of all students in the Kempner Orchestra program. The informal uniform consists of our orchestra t-shirt and jeans or khakis, depending on the situation. T-shirts will be ordered at the beginning of each year.

Each student is responsible for replacing any uniform part that is damaged or lost. The replacement costs for marching uniforms and concert uniforms are listed as follows.

Concert Uniform

Garment Item	*Replacement Cost*
Tux Pants	$90.00
Jacket	$120.00
Dress	$85.00

Please ensure that your student has these necessary items PRIOR to performances. You may need to purchase items in advance. If a student comes to a performance out of appropriate dress, they will not be able to perform and this may negatively affect their grade. If you are unable to provide your child with the necessary materials, please alert Mrs. Franklin well in advance, so we can attempt to find alternative arrangements.

Orchestra Officers

Elections are held for Orchestra Officers at the end of each school year in May. All orchestra students will have the opportunity to run for office, as well as cast a ballot for each position. Individuals who are officers will meet at least once a month and plan parties, gatherings, fundraisers, and trips throughout the year. Please consider serving your orchestra community and assisting these officers throughout the year. There is also an opportunity for members to serve on the orchestra counsel as representatives.

Technology

Remind

Announcements, reminders and communication from director to orchestra members will be made through the Remind application. This is a great way to communicate directly with the teacher if necessary, and other orchestra members. Please use the codes below to join the group for your particular orchestra and class period.

Cadence - @khsonv26 (Non-Varsity - 2nd period)
Concert and Coda - @khsosnv26 (Sub-Non-Varsity - 1st and 3rd periods)
Chamber - @@khsv26 (Varsity - 4th period)

Schoology

Assignments, periodicals, music, and parent information will be posted in Schoology. Please make sure you are checking the orchestra course daily to make sure you are completing all necessary assignments. These are the access codes to join your particular orchestra course.

Concert (1) - HJ8P-5N3M-4PKWP
Cadence (2) - WRX8-RTGQ-SFBKT
Coda (3) - WQCS-J95P-DFH7B
Chamber (4) - P8M7-TMM4-TC7JG

TonalEnergy

This application will be used in class to reinforce rhythm, tempo, intonation, tone and pitch.

Please follow us: @kempnerorch

@kempnerorch

IMPORTANT!!! * Extra Credit Opportunity******

Bring in a **BOX OF KLEENEX:** or **LARGE HAND SANITIZER**:
Your lowest major grade will be dropped for the first 9 weeks.
(Make sure your item is labeled with your name!)

Appendix A – Orchestra Competition Guidelines

The following information details the many different U.I.L. and TMEA contests that are available to the orchestra students. There are also many other solo competitions and concerto competitions available in the area. The students are welcome to participate in those, but they are not controlled by the two organizations that are open to school programs.

TMEA vs. UIL
Texas Music Educators Association and the University Interscholastic League are two organizations that govern our extracurricular music activities. Region and State Orchestra is governed by TMEA and their website is www.tmea.org. U.I.L. governs all solo & ensemble contests and our orchestra contests. Their website is www.uil.utexas.edu/index.html.

ALL-REGION REQUIREMENTS
2 etudes—as listed on www.tmea.org Cuts to this music will be made available from your director after the beginning of the school year.

Chamber and Cadence Orchestras will learn these etudes regardless of audition status. They will be worked on in class.

ALL-STATE REQUIREMENTS
Students are responsible for the complete, uncut "region etudes" and six excerpts downloadable from www.tmea.org

SOLO & ENSEMBLE
General Rule: Only two events are allowed and may be the same type as long as they are two different categories—ex. Solo, one violin and one viola or Ensemble, quartet and a trio. Piano solos and medium ensembles do not affect this rule. Students purchase their own music and they must give an original, with all measures numbered to the judge.
https://www.uiltexas.org/music/pml

Chamber and Cadence Orchestras are required to participate with either a solo (on string instrument—piano may be done in addition) or an ensemble.

STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS
Solo—must have received a division I rating on a class I rating from a **memorized** performance
Ensemble-1 - 2 of the original members must participate in the ensemble at the State level

Appendix B – Handbook Consent and Fee Acknowledgement

KEMPNER ORCHESTRA

HANDBOOK CONSENT and FEES SIGNATURE FORM

*This form (NOT fees) are due by **Friday, August 14, 2026***

(Guardians, please initial each box acknowledging your consent of each item.)

Parent Initials in EACH Box

↓

Orchestra Handbook & FBISD Instrumental Code

☐ **I have read the FBISD High School Orchestra Handbook and Kempner Orchestra Addendum** and understand and support the policies and expectations of the Orchestra. (FBISD Handbook located in Schoology)

Orchestra Calendar (required)

☐ I have **reviewed the orchestra calendar (**which can also be viewed in google) and understand that while it rarely happens - all dates and times are subject to change. I trust that notice of such changes will be given well in advance.

Publications, Video, Internet Consent and Release Agreement

☐ Student and Parent/Guardian release to FBISD, Kempner HS and the KHS Orchestra department the student's name, picture, art, written work, voice, verbal statements, portraits (video or still) and consent for their professional use for publications. ***(If you do not wish for your child to be photographed, please DO NOT sign this box.)***

🔺 **Instrument Use** (ONLY required for CELLO, BASS players using school instruments- Optional)

☐ I would like to **use a school owned instrument** (cello, bass) either at home or during class. I understand and accept the responsibilities related to using a district owned instrument as outlined in the handbook and agree to pay the district one time yearly maintenance fee of **$100**. Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch may be exempt from this fee. Checks made out to "**Kempner High School"/ Orchestra IUF** for **$100.00**. All students with unpaid fees at the end of the year will go on a fine list. ***(Final date for this payment will be Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026)****

Activity Fee (required) ***

☐ The activity fee is outlined on page 8 of the addendum. This fee is **$100.00 per member**. All students with unpaid fees at the end of the year will go on a fine list. Checks made out to "**Kempner High School"/ Orchestra- Activity**

(Final date for this payment will be Friday. Sept. 11, 2026) If you would like to do installment payments (fee outlined above - check the box below and Mrs. Franklin will contact y

☐ ← *CHECK FOR INSTALLMENTS*

Required Materials (required)

☐ I understand that certain materials are required for success as outlined in the handbook, including the regular replacement of strings, a tuner/tuner and rosin may not be included, and these must be purchased in addition to the aforementioned fees.

_____

Student Name Printed: Student Signature: Date:

Parent Name Printed: Parent Signature: Date:

Appendix C - Fine Arts Program Handbook Signature Form

EXHIBIT A – Handbook Signature Form

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE FORM

Return this form to your campus program director

STUDENT

- I have read the FBISD Fine Arts Program Handbook and Campus Addenda.
- I have read the rules and expectations for the course and I agree to abide by them.
- I realize that my failure to abide by the regulations or to carry out my responsibilities may result in my suspension or immediate dismissal from the course.
- I also understand by not signing the handbook, I am waiving my rights to any and all participation with the instructional program including any after-school activities and may forfeit enrollment in the course.

Student Name: _____
(Print)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I acknowledge receiving and reviewing the rules, regulations, guidelines and procedures governing my student's participation in the Fine Arts instructional program. I also realize that my student consequently will need my assistance in time management and scheduling. I hereby give consent for my student to participate in rehearsals, practices, and performances for this FBISD Fine Arts program, and I realize their behavior will be setting the example for their school, our community, and my family.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home/Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check below if you would like to be a parent volunteer:

_____ I would be willing to help chaperone events and trips.

_____ I would be willing to help in other ways (e.g., uniform fitting, props, painting, snacks, etc.)

PERMISSION TO USE PHOTOS FOR PROGRAM SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Sometimes we like to feature our student members participating in rehearsals, performances, and other activities on Social Media sites for purpose of promoting the program. This may include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the program website. Signing this will give us your consent to use your student's photo on those particular sites.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix D - Fort Bend ISD Emergency Contact Form

Fort Bend ISD
Emergency Contact Form
Fine Arts Department

PLEASE PRINT

Student's Name: _____ Campus: _____
Last First Middle

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____ Grade: _____ Gender: M F Student ID#: _____
(Circle One)

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone Number: (_____) _____-_____

Name of Physician: _____ Physician's Telephone: (_____) _____-_____

Allergies:
Yes ☐ No ☐ List: _____

Current Medications:
Yes ☐ No ☐ List: _____

Medical Health Insurance Coverage:
Yes ☐ No ☐

Insurer: _____ Group #: _____ ID #: _____ Phone #: _____

Parent/Guardian 1 Work #: _____ Parent/Guardian 1 Cell #: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Work #: _____ Parent/Guardian 2 Cell #: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Email Address: _____

Medical History:	Yes	No		Yes	No
Allergies to medication	☐	☐	High Blood Pressure	☐	☐
Asthma	☐	☐	Hepatitis	☐	☐
Bleeding tendencies	☐	☐	Kidney Disease and/or injury	☐	☐
Bone and/or joint injury or disease	☐	☐	Neck injury	☐	☐
Contact Lenses/Glasses/Vision impairment	☐	☐	Rheumatic Fever	☐	☐
Diabetes	☐	☐	Seizures	☐	☐
Eye, Kidney, Lung removed/nonfunctioning	☐	☐	Sickle Cell Anemia	☐	☐
Head injury, concussion, loss of consciousness	☐	☐	Skin Problems	☐	☐
Heart-Related illness	☐	☐	Surgeries	☐	☐
Hernia	☐	☐	Tuberculosis	☐	☐
Hospitalizations in the last year?	☐	☐	Is student currently under a physician's care?	☐	☐

Explain all "Yes" answers here: _____
(Attach another sheet if necessary)

Date of your last tetanus shot: _____

Parent/Guardian Permit Waiver:
If, in the judgement of any representative of the schools, the said student should need immediate care and treatment as a result of an injury or sickness, I do hereby request, authorize, and consent to such care and treatment as may be given said student by any physician, athletic trainer, nurse, or school representative, and I do hereby agree to indemnify and save harmless the school and any school representative from any claim by any person whomever on account of such care and treatment of said student.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to your child's teacher of record. ***This form must accompany the student on all school trips.***