

Santan JHS Orchestras



2023-24 Handbook

Welcome to the Santan JHS Orchestra program! You are to be congratulated for persisting on your instrument in elementary school and learning how to play music – a vital intelligence!

The following year-long Orchestra classes are offered at Santan Junior High School.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA:*

Most students entering the orchestra program in 7th grade will sign up for this class. The Concert Orchestra consists of violin, viola, cello, and string bass players entering their 3rd year on their instrument, as well as 2nd year students. Beginners are welcome, but it is recommended that they get additional help from a private teacher to “catch up” with the more experienced students.

In this class we will continue to develop string playing skills introduced in elementary orchestra classes including good playing position, note reading, bowing facility, and beautiful tone production. Concert Orchestra performs approximately three concerts per year plus a festival. No audition is necessary to sign up for Concert Orchestra.

There is a **\$30 class fee & a \$15 t-shirt fee.**

All students should plan to purchase Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 (Purple stripe at top) for your instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass). You can purchase this book online or at your local music store. Please have your method book by the end of the second week of school. [Here is the link](#) so you know what it looks like

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:*

This class is open to 8th grade students who played in the Concert Orchestra in 7th grade, or by audition for incoming 7th graders. Chamber Orchestra consists of violin, viola, cello, and string bass players that exhibit advanced skills and musical understanding and who excel on their instrument.

Skills we will pursue in this class include playing in 3rd position, advanced bowing techniques, advanced rhythm reading, and vibrato. This group will play approximately three concerts per year, plus at least one or two festival performance, and other field trip/performance opportunities that arise during the school year.

There is a **\$30 class fee & a \$15 t-shirt fee.**

All students should plan to purchase Essential Technique Book 3 (Green stripe at top) for your instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass). You can purchase this book online or at your local music store. Please have your method book by the end of the second week of school. [Here is the link](#) so you know what it looks like

TO AUDITION:

Please note for July 2023, all students are expected to play an audition for orchestra placement since all students are new to me. This is helpful for me to know the playing levels of all students, which orchestra should house which students, and what sort of music we are able to work on this year.

Auditions can be taped and emailed to Dr. H or performed live during the first week of school in the Santan JHS Orchestra room. For your Orchestra auditions prepare two scales in as many octaves as you can (choose among G Major, C Major, F Major, A Major, D Major, or Bb Major) as well as a song of your choice.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ORCHESTRA AND JUNIOR HIGH

What do I do with my instrument while I'm in other classes?

Orchestra has several instrument lockers & racks in the Orchestra room to store our instruments during the school day. Students can bring their instrument to the storage rack in the morning, use their instrument during Orchestra class, and then take their instrument home at night to practice. You do not need to carry your instrument from class to class.

Can I switch instruments in junior high?

It is highly recommended that you continue the instrument you have been playing since elementary school so we can build on your existing skills rather than starting over as a beginner. However, we may need more students on specific instruments to balance the orchestra.

Can I use a school instrument?

Payne has a limited inventory of string instruments for student use. There is a **\$80 annual fee to use a school instrument**. Students who play cello and bass are encouraged to rent/purchase an instrument to practice at home and use a school rental at school – so they do not need to carry large instruments back and forth from home. There are a limited number of violins and violas at Santan as well.

Is there a class fee to be in Orchestra?

All students are asked to pay a **\$30 activity fee for the year** (different than the instrument rental fee). & \$15 t-shirt fee. These fees cover the cost of the Orchestra t-shirt, transportation costs for field trips, and various music supplies used during the school year. Students are also asked to purchase a method book.

I want to keep playing my current string instrument, but I also want to learn a band instrument. Can I do both?

Please check with your electives counselor if you are interested in this option. Musical skills you already possess will help you learn a secondary instrument.

How is Junior High Orchestra different than 5th and 6th grade Orchestra?

Concert Orchestra (3rd year) and Chamber Orchestra (4th year) have many more musical opportunities than are available to elementary school students. As you improve on your instrument, your music gets more challenging and the songs get more complicated and more FUN. Junior High Orchestras take more field trips where we perform for judges, go to amusement parks, the Musical Instrument Museum, etc. The rewards of learning a musical instrument only increase the longer you stay involved!

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:

All Santan Jr. High general school policies for behavior and attendance from the Student Handbook are observed. In order to create a safe and secure learning and rehearsing environment, no profanity will be tolerated.

When the bell rings for class, the students will be in their seat with their instruments unpacked ready to tune. For each class period, each student will have the following:

1. Instrument
2. Music – **method book and sheet music rehearsal copies**
3. Pencil
4. Accessories (shoulder rest, cello/bass anchor, rosin, etc.)

If the student is not prepared, his/her rehearsal contribution grade will be affected:

1st infraction: Verbal warning.

Further infraction: Communication with parents and reduction of weekly rehearsal contribution grade.

Rehearsal Etiquette:

- Stay present in the rehearsal. Do not do homework or read.
- Do not talk during the rehearsal; listen to what the director is teaching, even if it is not specifically addressed to you. Many techniques are similar from instrument to instrument.
- Write reminders in your music: bowing, half step marks, fingerings, etc. However, you may not write in letter names of notes.
- Raise your hand if you have a question or need clarification.
- No cell phones during class, unless they are part of an assignment.
- Use the bathroom before class. The first minutes of class are for you to unpack, get your music and start practicing, not use the restroom.
- Mutual respect for peers, instructors, equipment, and self is expected.

Music:

Students will be provided practice copies of our orchestra arrangements for rehearsal. They should be destroyed at the end of the year to comply with copyright laws. The original copies are in the orchestra room. Have your own music every class. Do not rely on your stand partner to bring the music—your music is your responsibility.

Students are responsible to bring their method book and rehearsal copies to class and to be prepared for the rehearsal as per the agenda items written on the board. Do not waste class time by not being prepared to play your part.

PRACTICE RECORDS

Students are required and expected to practice at home approximately 4 days a week. Regular practice will ensure consistent progress. Students will turn in a parent-signed practice record at the end of each month which will be a part of your grade. The teacher will evaluate your practice by doing music checks in addition to major chair tests right before a performance.

PERFORMANCES

School Concerts

There will be three evening performances this year, reflecting current student progress. These **performances are mandatory** and are equivalent to exams in other classes. **Please put these dates on your family calendar.** Concerts at Santan Elementary MPR will have a call time of 5:30p.m. and begin at 6:00 p.m.

If you are aware of a schedule conflict, please notify Dr. H in advance so we can arrange an alternate assignment. **Every person is vital to our orchestra** so be sure to attend and perform at all concert performances.

Adjudicated Festival Performances

Students in both STJH Orchestras will have an opportunity to perform for various clinicians at several orchestra festivals. Students will also get to listen to and evaluate other performing groups from different schools that day. STJH Orchestra students are required to participate in adjudicated festivals to receive full credit for classes.

Concert Dress - The performance uniform for both groups will be as follows:

Formal: Black pants or long skirt and white blouse (must have sleeves) or dress shirt. Boys will wear a dark tie. Black dress shoes and black socks are required. Formal wear can be checked from Dr. H for the school year. Must be returned washed and clean at the end of the school year.

Informal: Santan Jr. High Orchestra T-shirt, jeans, sneakers

CONCERT DATES FOR 2023-24

Thursday, Oct. 27 – Festival at Chandler Center for the Arts, 9am – 1:30pm (Chamber Orchestra Only)

Thursday, Dec. 14 – Winter Concert, 6:00pm, Santan Elem MPR (Concert & Chamber Orch)

Thursday, Feb 29 – Leap Year Concert, 6:00pm, Santan Elem MPR (Concert & Chamber Orch)

Monday, May 6 - CUSD Cadet Clinic, 9am – 1:30pm, Chandler Center Arts (Concert & Chamber Orch)

Wednesday, May 15 – End of the Year Concert, 6pm, Santan Elem MPR (Concert & Chamber Orch)

GRADING POLICIES

Updated 11/4/23 for Q2

Points Total for Each Quarter will be 800 - 1500 depending on the Quarter and the number of assignments given within the Quarter

Concerts = 100 - 200pts/concert event (Festivals 100 pts/Formal Concerts 200 pts)

Playing Check = 100 pts

Worksheets = 50 pts each worksheet

Practice Records = 100 pts/month

Sight Reading Factory Assignments = 50 pts each

Rehearsal/Attendance Contribution = 200 pts/Quarter

Final Exam (end of Q2 and Q4) = 200 pts.

Late assignments will deduct 5% of the grade

Playing tests will be either recorded or live, individual or two students playing together. Practice reflections require students to write how often they practiced at home, and what material they rehearsed. Parent/guardian must sign.

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to determine your grade for a particular quarter:

90-100% = A, 90-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, 50-59% = F

Field Trips

The orchestra may participate in various field trips that are not performance related. Details and itinerary will be provided. Class fees will help pay for transportation. Additional fees will apply for participation in social events such as Castles-n-Coasters

Orchestra Club

Orchestra Club helps promote leadership, fundraising opportunities, and dedication toward the orchestra ensemble. Participations is optional and is \$10 to join Orchestra Club

Parent Chaperones

Parent Chaperones are needed for field trips and festivals. I will send out a letter requesting assistance. Thanks in advance for chaperoning if you are available!

Instrument Check-Out

I strongly recommended that you rent/ own your own instrument. There are a few school instruments available, but they are reserved for students who have limited financial resources. Once these needs are met, the remaining instruments are available for use for the school year for a **\$80 district instrument rental fee**. Student cellos and basses may be rented to use at school – students should rent their own home cello or bass. School instruments should be safeguarded from damage. Students are responsible for

negligence or vandalism repairs performed only by a district approved luthier. Do not attempt to repair instruments yourself.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Email is the best way to get a hold of me due to my traveling schedule but we can always set up a time to chat.

Dr. H ~ hughes.samara@cusd80.com

Santan Jr. High School Orchestra

Receipt & Understanding of Policies for 2023-24 School Year

Complete the following information – please print legibly:

Instrument: Violin Viola Cello Bass

I will need to rent a school instrument: yes _____ no _____ size _____

I have read and understand the policies and consequences related to my enrollment and participation in orchestra:

Printed Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student email: _____

Student cell phone number: _____

Student T-Shirt Size (circle one):

Adult Small Adult Medium Adult Large Adult X Large Adult XXLarge

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent email: _____

Parent cell phone number: _____

[] Yes! I may be interested/available to chaperone daytime field trips.

Students are expected to come to class ready to participate in musical activities. Students should bring a pencil, their sheet music, and their musical instrument to every class. Behavior and Participation are part of the Orchestra grade.