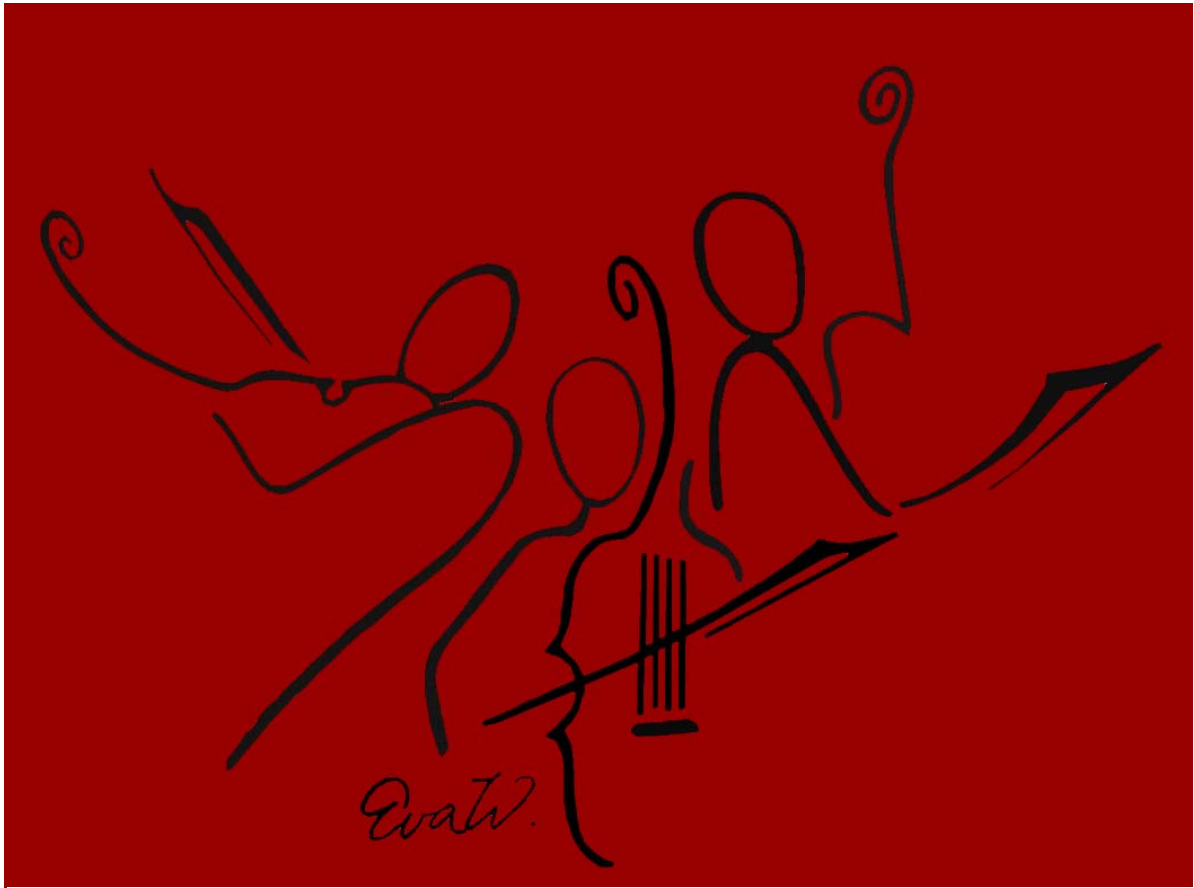




STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

Student Handbook
2011-2012



Artwork provided by Eva Wilson, Cello, Class of 2008



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

Vandiver's Voice
2011-2012

Dear Orchestra Parents and Students,

It is going to be exciting year for Austin High School Orchestra. I am so proud to be a part of this wonderful success.

We currently have a record enrollment of 193 and expect that to hold steady or even go higher. This will be a formidable challenge since current budget constraints mean that we will not have an assistant director this year. With the concentration of the students and the help of the parents, we will succeed once again to have the most successful year in the history of Austin High School Orchestra.

I offer my full help and support and I can be reached by phone (281-634-2072) or email (Carolyn.Vandiver@fortbend.k12.tx.us). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the orchestra program.

My Class Schedule:

1st Period - Chamber Orchestra
2nd Period - Philharmonic Orchestra
3rd Period - Sinfonia Orchestra
4th Period - Beginning Orchestra
5th Period - Symphony Orchestra
6th Period - Conference Period
7th Period - Campus Control

I look forward to sharing a wonderful, musical year with students and parents.

Carolyn Vandiver

Director of Orchestras
Stephen F. Austin High School



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

Austin High School Orchestra

Contact Information

Austin High School
3434 Pheasant Creek Dr
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Ms. MaryEllen Edge, Principal
281-634-2000

Carolyn Vandiver, Director of Orchestras
Carolyn.Vandiver@fortbend.k12.tx.us
281-634-2072

Student Officers:

Presidents:	Amy Chen	itsamychen@gmail.com	832-248-8595
	Ankit Shah	ankit.shah2151@gmail.com	281-995-9567
Vice President:	Yasmeen Abacan	yabacan@gmail.com	832-287-8790
Secretary:	Adelina Leong	adelina.leong@gmail.com	832-628-8818
Treasurer:	John Yu	john.yu95@gmail.com	832-790-8850
Historians:	Matthew Cabral	matthewdavidsc@yahoo.com	281-773-8012
	Vincent Pham	pham_vincent@hotmail.com	281-841-2856
Head Librarians:	Hilario Lumbreras	hilario.lumbreras@gmail.com	832-265-2601
Librarians:	Jessica Lin	jlin6363@yahoo.com	281-799-9752
	Kruti Mehta	krutmehta@gmail.com	713-505-5303
	Patrick Pham	phapatrik@gmail.com	281-638-2543
	Melanie Ruzicka	mruczicka1019@gmail.com	281-277-7089
Equipment Mgrs:	Eric Yeung	ericyeung281@yahoo.com	713-517-7757
	Alistair Longshaw	Longshaw19@gmail.com	281-705-3155
Events Coordinator:	Alex Pankiewicz	pankiewiczalex@gmail.com	281-804-2890
	Christine Yu	Christineyu10@gmail.com	281-745-4755
Student Conductors:	Aditya Srivatsan	Aditsri93@gmail.com	832-659-1458
	Travis Yeh	Travis.j.yeh@gmail.com	832-572-7667
Directors Assists:	Elise Palacios	Bhlmis_elise@yahoo.com	281-352-4123
	Tiffany Tso	tiffanyyyy@gmail.com	832-866-4555



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

2011-2012 Calendar

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as of 8/28/2011

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sat, Aug 13	Fall Region Meeting		TBD
Mon, Aug 22	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES	-----	---
Wed, Aug 24	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Tue, Aug 30	AOBA Meeting	Orchestra Hall	5:30 PM
Tue, Aug 30	Open House	AHS Auditorium	6:00 PM
Thu, Sep 01	Austria Trip Meeting	Orchestra Hall	7:00 PM
Mon, Sep 05	Labor Day Holiday	-----	---
Wed, Sep 07	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Sat, Sep 10	ACT Exam		
Wed, Sep 14	Mission Burrito Give Back Night		4:00-9:00 PM
Thu, Sep 15	HS String Honor Letter of Intent	-----	---
Wed, Sep 21	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Fri, Sep 23	Tenative Astro's Game Performance	Minute Maid Stadium	TBD
Sat, Oct 01	SAT Exam		
Sat, Oct 01	HS Region Auditions	Sugar Land MS	TBD
Wed, Oct 05	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Thu, Oct 06	Fall Concert	AHS Auditorium	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	PSAT Exam		
Sun, Oct 16	HS String Honor Entry Deadline	-----	-----
Wed, Oct 19	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Sat, Oct 22	HS Honor Orchestra Judging	Reagan HS, San Antonio	-----
Sat, Oct 22	ACT Exam		
Fri, Oct 28	Area Elim for Violins, Harp, Piano ONLY	Clements HS	TBD
Sat, Oct 29	Harp and Piano Taping	Dowling Music	
Sat, Oct 29	Area Elim for Viola, Cello, Bass and All State Taping	Clements HS	TBD
Wed, Nov 02	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Nov 05	MS Region String Auditions	Baines MS	TBD
Sat, Nov 05	SAT Exam		
Sun, Nov 06	Houston Youth Symphony Concert	Stude Auditorium	
Sat, Nov 12	1 st Round All State Judging	Austin HS	TBD
Sun, Nov 13	2 nd Round All State Judging	Austin HS	TBD
Nov 15	MS/HS Region Orchestra Chairing	Hodges Bend MS	TBD
Wed, Nov 16	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Fri, Nov 18 – Sat Nov 19	MS/HS Region Clinic and Concert		TBD
Mon, Nov 01	Messiah Choral Rehearsal	AHS Music Rooms	3:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23 – Fri, Nov 25	Thanksgiving Break	-----	---
Tue, Nov 29	FBISD Choir and AHS Orchestra Handel's Messaiah	AHS Auditorium	TBD
	Progressive Dinner		
Sat, Dec 03	SAT Exam		
Sat, Dec 03	Virtuosi of Houston Concert	Hobby Center	TBA
Tue, Dec 06	Winter Concert	AHS Auditorium	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 07	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Sat, Dec 10	ACT Exam		
Dec 13 – Dec 16	Exams	TBD	TBD
Dec 19 – Jan 02	Winter Break	-----	---
Mon, Jan 02	Teacher Work Day, Student Holiday	-----	---
Wed, Jan 11	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Mon, Jan 16	ML King Holiday	-----	---
Wed, Jan 25	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Sat, Jan 28	SAT Exam		
	Musical: TBD		
Sat, Feb 04	Virtuosi Concerto Competition	TBA	TBA
Sun, Feb 05	Houston Youth Symphony Concert		
Wed, Feb 08	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

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2011-2012 Calendar

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Feb 08 – Feb 11	TMEA All-State Clinic/Convention		
Sat, Feb 11	ACT Exam		
Thu, Feb 16	String Fling	Wheeler Field House?	
Feb 17 & 18	MS & HS UIL Solo/Ensemble	Dulles MS/HS	TBD
Mon, Feb 20	President's Day Holiday	-----	---
	AHS Fine Arts Showcase		
Wed, Feb 22	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Thu, Feb 23	Full Orchestra Concert	AHS Auditorium	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	2 nd Annual AHSO-THSO Picnic	George Bush Park	12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Thu, Mar 01	UIL MS/HS Full Orchestra Concert and Sightreading	Travis HS	TBD
Mar 09 – Mar 16	Spring Trip: Austria and Czech Republic		
Sat, Mar 10	SAT Exam		
Mar 12 – Mar 16	Spring Break		
Wed, Mar 07	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Wed, Mar 07	TAKS – Gr 10, Exit ELA	-----	---
	Middle School Pre-UIL		
Wed, Mar 28	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Sun, Apr 01	State Solo & Ens Entry Deadline	-----	---
Fri, Apr 06	Good Friday Holiday	-----	---
Mon, Apr 09	Virtuosi of Houston Concert	Hobby Center	TBA
Wed, Apr 11	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Sat, Apr 14	ACT Exam		
Apr 17 - Apr 19	UIL MS & HS String Concert and Sightreading	Bush HS	
Tue, Apr 24	TAKS Gr 10 Math	-----	---
Wed, Apr 25	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Wed, Apr 25	TAKS Exit Math	-----	---
Thu, Apr 26	TAKS Gr 10, Exit Science	-----	---



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

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Fri Apr 27	Orchestra Spring Banquet	Safari Texas	6:30 PM
	Spring Region Meeting		
Fri, Apr 27	Taks Gr 10, Exit Soc Studies	-----	---
	Angelica		
Sat, May 05	Virtuosi of Houston Concert	TBD	TBD
Sat, May 05	SAT Exam		
	Prom		
Mon, May 07	STAAR Alg 1	TBD	TBD
Mon, May 07	Spring Concert	AHS Auditorium	7:00 PM
Tue, May 08	STAAR US Hist	TBD	TBD
Wed, May 09	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
Wed, May 09	Houston Youth Symphony Concert	Stude Auditorium	PM
Wed, May 09	STAAR Biology	TBD	TBD
Thu, May 10	STAAR Geometry	TBD	TBD
Fri, May 11	STAAR World Geo	TBD	TBD
Mon, May 14	STAAR Physics	TBD	TBD
Tue, May 15	STAAR World History	TBD	TBD
Wed, May 16	STAAR Algebra II	TBD	TBD
Thu, May 17	STAAR Chemistry	TBD	TBD
Wed, May 23	Cookie Day	AHS Commons	11:00 AM
	Senior Recital		
Fri, May 25	Final Exams	TBD	TBD
Mon, May 28	Memorial Day Holiday	-----	---
Mon, May 29 – Wed, May 31	Final Exams	TBD	TBD
	Senior Leap		
Fri, Jun 01	Teacher Workday	-----	---
Fri, Jun 01 or Sat, Jun 02	Graduation Ceremony	Toyota Center	---
Sat, Jun 02	SAT Exam		
Sat, Jun 09	ACT Exam		



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

Recommended Private Instructors

Cost of lessons vary depending on teacher's training and experience

VIOLIN AND VIOLA

Greg Abrell	Violin	832-978-0462	
Jennifer Algers	Viola	713-927-1454	
Johann Acuna	Violin	832 577 4862	Johann_acuna@hotmail.com
Lisa Burrell	Viola	713-540-7209	
Ms. Daming Li	Violin and Viola		daming.cello@gmail.com
Glenda Cisler	Violin	281-415-2060	
James Dunham (adv only)	Viola	713-838-7188	
		713-527-7730/ 713-344-3125	
Lorento Golofeev	Viola	713-344-3125	
Andrezj Grabiec (adv only)	Violin	281-565-5324	
Eric Halen (advanced only)	Violin	713-466-1108	
Mika Hasler	Violin and Viola	281-480-3404	
Sophia Hsieh	Violin and Viola	281-634-3184	Dulles MS
Shu-ting Hsu	Violin	812-219-8725	maggihsu1217@gmail.com
Lilan Huang	Violin	Number doesn't work	
Rosemary Jodeit	Violin and Viola	832-483-8001	
Alija Izaks	Violin	832-363-1618	aizaks@comcast.net
Quan Jiang	Violin	713-871-0226	gothamquan@msn.com
Yuli Jiang	Violin	281-395-8408	
		281-809-3228/ 713-907-0172	Michelejones79@yahoo.com
Michele Jones	Violin and Viola	713-907-0172	
Nadia Lesinska	Violin	949-680-9731	nadiasviolino@yahoo.com
		281-265-3254/ 713-306-8831	
Jack Yong Li	Violin	713-306-8831	
Andrew Ling	Violin and Viola	812-361-4592	andrewhyling@gmail.com
Sarah Ludwig	Violin		sarahmludwig@hotmail.com
Priscilla McGar	Viola	281-634-2639	Garcia MS
Penny Meitz	Viola	281-468-2593	
Mauricio Oliveros	Violin	817-991-0860	maomusik@hotmail.com
Charles Qiao	Violin and Viola	281-565-4663	
Henry or Cindy Rubin	Violin	713-981-9608	
Caroline Slack	Violin	512-470-4714	cviolinplay@gmail.com
Mike Willer	Viola	281-379-1144	
Connie Xian	Violin	281-565-4663	
Chunfeng Zhang	Violin and Viola	832-798-5523	



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

Recommended Private Instructors (continued)

Cost of lessons vary depending on teacher's training and experience

CELLO

John Bell	281-491-6371	mdbell@alltel.net
Cathy Chang	713-271-1841	
Olive Chen	281-499-7104	
Christopher French	713-880-8270	
Melody Kelley	832-222-2015	Melody@harmony strings.com
Lan Jiang	832-798-5286	jlcello@yahoo.com
Haeri Ju	832-474-3951	juhaeri@hotmail.com
Chrissy Kim	205-807-4108	
Daming Li	713-777-1882	daming.cello@gmail.com
Kristen Logan	832-868-7167	stringteacher@gmail.com
Cassity Rausher	832-316-1611	
Donna Rogers	713-468-6170	
Ann Victor (studio full)	281-634-6333	
Cornelia Watkins	713-895-7758	
Judy Wu	281-455-9897	wuchingfang@gmail.com

BASS

Sabrina Behrens	281-633-6300	
Curry Duffy	713-826-6605	
Deborah Dunham	713-838-7188	
Andy Moritz	281-216-3696	
Dennis Whitaker	713-973-7278	
Ron White	281-353-4058	rweylin@swbell.net

HARP

Donna Allen	713-932-1714	
Jackie Carpenter	713-995-0251	
Bonnie Goodrich	713-526-8856	
Yanzi Pratt	281-499-8166	
Lyn Yantze	281-413-1805	

PIANO

Zola Golofeev	713-366-3201	
Qi Lei	281-857-7926	
John Weems (advanced only)	281-494-3326	

Cornelia Watkins-713-895-7758
Cassity Rausher 832-316-1611



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

Recommended Accompanists

Home

Cell

Susan Archibald	713-592-5980	
Paulina Chiu ppchui@gmail.com	281-302-6851	281-919-9663
Natalie Covrighina	832-566-6995	
Donald Doucet	281-890-0055	
Yumik Friedman	281-990-0270	832-452-6403
Timothy Kilgore		713-289-4430
Qi Lei (from Yuli)	281-857-7926	
Alisa Pederson	281-879-0501	832-275-9535
Lisa Overstreet	832-595-1282	
Chia-Wen W. Bonbright	281-859-8989	cwbpiano@aol.com
Winnie Wing	281-491-3218	Zeng_baobao@hotmail.com



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

String Instrument and Supply Stores

Amati Violin Shop

2315 University Blvd
Houston, TX 77005
713-666-6461

Wayne Burak & Assoc, Inc.

1939 Stadium Oaks Ct, Ste 108
Arlington, TX 76011
817-801-6700

Gold Violin Shop

7010 Mapleridge St
Houston, TX 77081
713-729-2231

Lisle Violin Shop

2450 Bissonnet
Houston, TX 77005
713-526-4005

Fishburn Violin Shop

11435 Spring Cypress Rd.
Suite C. Tomball Texas 77377
Tel: 281 290-4580
Fax: 281 290-4585
Educational School Representative:
dfishburn@fishburnviolin.com
Repair:
mwiller@fishburnviolin.com
Customer Service:
ltarver@fishburnviolin.com

Dowling Music Company

2615 Southwest Freeway #220
Houston, Texas 77098
713-529-2676

Robertson & Sons Violin Shop

3201 Carlisle NE
Albuquerque, NM
505-889-2999
800-284-6546
robertsonviolins.com

Music & Arts

Market at Town Center
(281)980-5777
2567 Town Center Boulevard
Sugar Land, TX 77479

LaCenterra Shopping Center
(281)391-1933
23501 Cinco Ranch Boulevard
Suite H100
Katy, TX 77494

(713)996-7993
8600 Jameel Rd Ste 100
Houston, TX 77040

Classical CD Shop (CD's only)

713-665-0954



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA

Austin High School Orchestra

The Year to Come

a review of what to expect

Stephen F. Austin High School Orchestra
Sugar Land, TX

♪ Orchestra Selection

The Orchestra program at Austin High School consists of five talented orchestras – Symphony, Philharmonic, Chamber, Sinfonia and Beginners. Selection for the first three orchestras is done by rigorous audition just before the end of the previous academic year. For the audition, all students are required to play the two etudes selected by the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) for the current year of competition. Students must also be prepared to play three octaves of all major and minor scales. Results and orchestra placement from the auditions are usually announced prior to the end of the school year shortly after auditions. For the Beginner group, AHSO welcomes any student of any grade level who needs a fine arts credit and is interested in learning a stringed instrument.

♪ Orchestra Website

The Austin High School Orchestra's official website is <http://ahsorch.org/>. For the latest news and information, students and parents should regularly check this website. The Booster Association (AOBA) maintains an e-mail roster for students and parents so that critical info can be sent via e-mail throughout the year. The website has calendars, exciting activities, trip reports, the latest info and words of wisdom from Mrs. Vandiver.

Another source for critical information is CharmsOffice.com, logon:AustinHSOrch. This will be the location of the dynamic calendar and the ultimate source of real time info.

The officers will also be maintaining a Facebook page. Students and parents are encouraged to join that group, which will serve as a supplement to emails. Periodically, the officers will send out messages, update calendars and dates, inform students of social and other upcoming events, and post interesting tidbits for all to enjoy. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=120205344682392>

♪ Orchestra Concerts

The Orchestra schedules three concerts every school year, one in Fall, Winter, and Spring. Most concerts are held in the Stephen F. Austin High School Auditorium and begin at 7:00 PM. Rehearsals for concerts vary, depending upon the preparation level prior to the concert. Each of these three concerts range from 1 ½ -2 hours, and students are required to stay for the entire concert. AHS orchestras perform at these concerts. Also, orchestras from Sartartia Middle School and/or Garcia Middle School may perform. Information for each concert will be provided in advance.

The spring concert has special significance. The concert may feature the concerto winners for both Austin High School and participating middle schools. Special recognition is given to those who earned membership in the TMEA All-State Orchestra. Also during the concert, the seniors are honored for their accomplishments.

All concerts are mandatory, as they are for a grade. If there is a conflict where a student cannot attend any or all of a concert, he or she must talk with Mrs. Vandiver (in person!) prior to the concert to work out an alternate grade. A parent note is always required in advance of the event and does not automatically excuse the student from the event.

♪ Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) - All-Region, All-Area, and All-State

One of the highest honors a high school musician can earn is selection in the TMEA All-State Orchestra. This is the culmination of the TMEA process which begins in May of the preceding school year when selected etudes are posted on the TMEA website (<http://www.tmea.org>). These etudes are used for selection into All-Region, All-Area and lastly, All-State Orchestras.

All Austin Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestra students are required to audition for All-Region, which is the first "step" to making All-State. Students from around our region compete for a select number of spots into two High School Region Orchestras. The highest scoring individuals become members of the

All-Region Orchestra. This group of students will attend a clinic and perform at the All-Region Concert.

In late July TMEA also posts, by instrument, four orchestral excerpts on their website. Shortly after Region auditions, students may audition on these excerpts, as well as the etudes, for a spot in the Area Orchestra. (Note: Because the audition material for Area consists of the same etudes for Region auditions plus the orchestra excerpts, students must re-audition to make Area. It is possible for a student who did NOT make Region to make Area.) If a student is selected for Area, he or she is then eligible to audition for the All-State Orchestra. The audition for All-State is done by tape recordings. Auditions are recorded immediately following the Area auditions. Recorded material will include both etudes and the 4 excerpts from performance material.

These recordings are sent to the central judging location where a panel of judges hears selected tracks of the tapes from the state. This is the first round of judging. Should the student's recording pass this first round, his/her recording is then reviewed for round two. For this second round, the rest of the tracks on the tapes are judged. The combined scores (from Rounds 1 and 2) determine who will be members of the All-State Orchestra for that academic year. AHS students who make All-State Orchestra are honored with a plaque placed on the Austin Orchestra's Wall of Fame.

The All-State event is part of the TMEA music convention held in San Antonio in February. The students who make All-State perform concerts at the end of the convention. Students who make All-State are eligible for many scholarships for music programs throughout the state.

♪ TMEA: Honor Orchestra Recordings

In conjunction with the All-State Orchestras, TMEA sponsors a competition for the Texas Honor Orchestra. There are two High School Honor Orchestras every year – a string orchestra and a full orchestra. The Austin Symphony Orchestra may make two recordings (a string orchestra recording and a full orchestra recording) to enter the TMEA Honor Orchestra competition. The string orchestra recording is usually made in the fall at the Fall Concert. The full orchestra tape is usually made at the Full Orchestra UIL performance in March.

♪ University Interscholastic League (UIL) Competitions

In addition to concerts, the AHS Orchestra participates in two competitions sponsored by the University Interscholastic League (UIL). Also, individual orchestra members compete in the UIL solo/ensemble competition.

The first UIL competition in which the AHS Orchestra participates is Full Orchestra UIL in March. Because of Austin's large size, there are two full orchestras. The Full Symphony Orchestra is comprised of Austin's Symphonic strings and the top wind players from Band. The Philharmonic Full Orchestra is comprised of Austin's Philharmonic Strings and the next tier of wind players. The second UIL competition is the String Orchestra Competition which is in April. This competition is much like the Full Orchestra UIL.

As with concerts, rehearsal attendance is graded, as are the competitions. Mrs. Vandiver must be told in advance and in person about any rehearsals that will be missed by a student. A parent note is required for any absence and must be turned in prior to the absence.

The third UIL competition is Solo and Ensemble in February. All students are required to participate in Solo/Ensemble. For UIL Solo and Ensemble, students may play a solo piece or be a member in a performing ensemble. Ensembles may be chosen by the students or by Mrs. Vandiver. Students are not restricted to playing one solo or one ensemble, but instead, students may play both solos and in ensembles. If a student plays a solo by memory and receives a "1" (the highest rating) on the piece, he or she is eligible to play the solo at UT-Austin where the student can earn a patch if he or she receives a "1" for their performance. All selections for these competitions must come from the UIL Prescribed Music List.

♪ Clinics and Sectionals

To help prepare students for both All-State and for UIL competitions, Mrs. Vandiver will periodically bring in professional musicians to "clinic" the students – to assist, coach, and prepare. Summer clinics are voluntary and may require a fee. Orchestral clinics are mandatory, but are of no charge to the student. There is typically at least one clinic before each UIL Orchestral competition. (Funding for the clinicians is provided by the orchestra funding and/or by orchestra fundraisers -e.g. Otis cookie sales.) Sectionals are very similar to clinics. Sectionals are rehearsal/practice sessions for a particular group of the orchestra. Sectionals are scheduled by Mrs. Vandiver when a particular section (e.g. cello) needs to work on a particular passages or pieces. Sectionals are conducted by Mrs. Vandiver or a person of her choosing.

♪ Musical

Some years, the music department joins the theatre department to perform a live musical. If there is a live orchestra for the musical, students may be chosen for the pit orchestra by the director and varies from year to year due to the individual parts needed for the particular musical. The orchestra begins rehearsals two weeks before performance. The rehearsals are often daily and last 2-3 hours. The pit orchestra can also watch the musical as there are TV monitors stationed in the pit. In a two-week period, the musical has six evening performances as well as one performance during school hours for the middle schools.

♪ AHS Showcase

During spring, the Symphony Orchestra performs in the AHS Showcase, a one night event featuring the Theater, Orchestra, Dance, Band, Art, and Choir departments. At this event, each of the Fine Arts areas has a chance to feature students to inform and impress the audiences and possibly gain new recruits for the following year. This event is like a mini concert.

♪ Concert/Formal Uniforms

Austin High School provides uniforms for all Orchestra students. These uniforms are required for all concerts. The school provides formal dresses for girls and tuxedos (jacket, pants, vest, and bow tie) for guys. Each guy must supply his own white pleated tuxedo shirt. At the beginning of the school year, each new student is fitted for a uniform. Students keep their assigned uniforms for as long as they are enrolled in orchestra. If a new size is needed, students should return the uniform for a better-fitting uniform. All dresses, jackets and pants are individually numbered. Girls are required to wear their assigned dress, black hose, and black dress shoes. The dress must be hemmed and must be one inch off the floor. Guys are required to wear a white tuxedo shirt, their assigned tuxedo jacket, pants, vest and black tie, as well as black socks, and black dress shoes. This formal uniform is mandatory for all formal school concerts and formal competitions. Students are responsible for replacement costs of any damaged, lost or unreturned issued uniform items.

♪ Letter Jackets

Each student enrolled in Orchestra is given the opportunity earn a letter jacket with an Orchestra letter by participating in various Orchestra activities. A minimum of 15 points is needed to receive a letter jacket. In addition to the points earned by simply enrolling in Orchestra, students can earn letter jacket points by participating in TMEA Region Events and State Events, UIL Events, and other orchestral youth groups such as HYS (Houston Youth Symphony), GHYO (Greater Houston Youth Orchestra), and Virtuosi of Houston.

For information regarding youth orchestras, please contact Mrs. Vandiver. A full list of point opportunities is provided at the end of these notes. Students are required to keep track of their own points and must verify the points with Mrs. Vandiver before a letter jacket is ordered. Letter jackets can be ordered in the fall and in the spring. Students typically earn their letter jackets for orchestra in the spring of their sophomore year or the fall of their junior year. One stipulation of the Austin High School Fine Arts Department is that no freshman can earn a letter jacket unless he or she makes the TMEA All-State Orchestra. If a student makes All-State, he or she is automatically given a letter jacket. Students must pay for the jacket and all patches other than the orchestra letter for which they earned the jacket.

♪ Annual Trip

Each year the orchestra takes one out-of-town trip. FBISD states that an orchestra is allowed one out of state trip every three years, unless the orchestra is invited to an out of state location. For the years when AHS Orchestra is not able to go on an out of state trip, an in state trip is taken. Depending upon the nature of the trip, students may be required to participate. Parents are invited on all trips, and generally, may be included in the student activities, but must pay their own way. For these trips, students may choose their roommates unless there is a conflict. Typically there are four students per room. All students pay the same price for the trip, regardless of the instrument the student plays. Students are allowed one suitcase and one carry on. (Violins and violas are considered carry on items.) Students playing cello have the option of taking a school instrument or their own instrument. Bases may be taken or they may be rented at the destination – depending on whether there is an instrument truck being driven from school to the out of town location. Additional information on traveling varies depending on the trip. Payments for the trip are usually due monthly up until the trip. To help offset the cost, fundraisers are available to orchestra members and to booster club members.

♪ Orchestra Fundraisers and AOBA

According to FBISD regulations, the orchestra, as an organization is allowed to do two (2) fundraisers per school year. These two orchestra fundraisers are open to all students enrolled in orchestra. Currently, one of these fundraisers is the baking and sale of Otis Spunkmeyer cookies at school. This fundraiser is done on Wednesdays, every other week, from 8 am to 1:30 pm, by parent volunteers. Proceeds from these cookie sales become part of the general orchestra fund – used for clinicians, equipment, etc. Currently, the second orchestra fundraiser is the sale of Entertainment (coupon) books. Each student has the option to sell as many books as possible. All other fundraising must be done through the Austin Orchestra Booster Association (AOBA). Membership in AOBA is not mandatory, but students/families must be members in order to participate in all fundraisers sponsored by AOBA. Some AOBA fundraisers provide profit to individual accounts, while other profits go directly to AOBA. The booster club uses its funds for providing additional materials and equipment for orchestra.

♪ Non-Musical Activities:

♪ Big Brother/Big Sister –The purpose of Big Brother/Big Sister is so the upperclassmen can get to know the new students and freshmen and make them feel welcome. Anyone wishing to participate

may do so. The upper classmen are assigned a “fish” to give gifts to. This lasts an entire week and it is something every freshman should enjoy! At the end of that week, there will be a Fish Camp, a fun-filled day where the fish can meet their big sibling. Here, all the orchestra members have a fine opportunity to see new faces, make new friends, and compete in teams in games and competitions.

♪ **Fall Party** – The Fall Party may take place at Austin HS, a student’s house, or a rented facility. Everyone shows up to hang out, play games, eat snacks, and dress up in costumes. There is a prize for the best costume. The purpose of The Fall Party is to unwind after Area auditions and State tapings.

♪ **Homecoming Week** – The orchestra chooses a beau (a guy senior) and a sweetheart (a girl senior) to represent the orchestra in the homecoming football game. Orchestra students decorate a banner that is carried during halftime by the beau and sweetheart while they walk on the field with the beaus and sweethearts from other AHS organizations. In addition to the banner, the orchestra also creates a door cover in order to compete in the school’s door decorating competition. Students are needed to help create both the door cover and the banner.

♪ **Secret Santa** – Secret Santa is an optional holiday activity in December, where each participating student is randomly assigned to another student (from any class period). Then, for 4 or 5 days, each student prepares and gives a small gift to this person. The gifts gradually get better, day by day. Secret Santas are revealed on the last day of gift exchanges.

♪ **Progressive Dinner** - The Progressive Dinner usually occurs one Friday or Saturday evening in December. Three orchestra members need to volunteer their houses for this dinner! Each house hosts one course of the dinner- appetizers, entrée, and dessert. All students attending must bring either an appetizer, main course, dessert, or volunteer his or her house. Orchestra officers provide the other items for the dinner. At each house the particular dinner course is served and students socialize. At the last house, where dessert is served, “White Elephant” gifts are exchanged. The “White Elephant” gift is a traditional event where each student attending must bring a gift, but the student has the option of bringing a “nice” gift or a gag gift. Gifts are exchanged randomly.

- In November, a sign up sheet will go out to each student with options for hosting and bringing food. If a student and parent(s) are interested in hosting, the student will need to complete the form with a parent signature. An officer will contact the parent to verify the signature and let the parent know if they have been selected to host. (We try to keep the progressive dinner within one subdivision, e.g. Pecan Grove, New Territory, etc).
- Students drive to each of the houses. Carpools may be arranged.

♪ **Officer Election/Selection** – In May, anyone wishing to be an officer for the upcoming school year may create a poster and choose to run. There must be two presidents, 2 historians, one vice-president, one secretary, one treasurer, one equipment manager, and four librarians (with one “head” librarian). Of the two presidents running, at least one must be a senior. Then, everyone gets to vote, including the seniors. Also, at the end of the year, Mrs. Vandiver may choose student conductors to fulfill her duties when she is not present. The officers must be prepared to make commitments and prove their leadership skills.

♪ **Orchestra Banquet** - In May of each year, the orchestra holds a banquet to celebrate the entire year and to bid farewell to the seniors. The location is voted upon by all the members of the orchestra. For the banquet, all seniors prepare a “Senior Will” in which they bequeath whatever they wish to the underclassmen. Parents are welcome to attend the banquet and all students are allowed one guest. Each student pays for himself/herself for the banquet and for his/her guest and parents who attend. Special presentations are made at the banquet.

♪ **Senior Leap** – Traditionally, on the last day of school, all orchestra students are invited to this gathering. A student who has a pool at his/her house must volunteer to host. Parental approval is a must! Typically, students need to bring \$5 to cover the cost of food and drinks. The highlight of the party is when the Seniors and Mrs. Vandiver “leap” into the pool together; symbolizing the “leap” the seniors are taking as they complete high school and enter adulthood.

♪ Other Activities

Other activities may be organized and promoted by the orchestra and/or AOBA through the course of the year. Information will be provided as the events are organized. Information on these activities and on all important information regarding orchestra may be found at AHSorch.org.



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

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Goals of the Orchestra Program

- Develop a sense of the importance of music in the life of each student.
- Develop self-confidence and self discipline in each student through positive interaction with teachers and peers.
- Develop the musical potential of each student to the fullest.
- Develop student understanding of stylistic traits of different periods of music.
- Develop self-expression and creativity through practice and performance.
- Develop the highest possible standards of performance for each student in the program.
- Learn proper care of a stringed instrument.
- Learn proper concert etiquette through participation in and attendance at live performances.
- Develop the ability to work in a group as a team for a common goal.
- Represent our school and community in a positive manner.

Attendance

Attendance at all concerts, rehearsals and sectionals is **REQUIRED**. These activities are considered co-curricular because they are extensions of what we do in the classroom each day. **GRADES WILL BE GIVEN FOR THESE ACTIVITIES.**

Any type of contest is considered Extra-Curricular, therefore all students who participate must be passing all classes. This includes any activity in which the orchestra participates. Eligibility rules apply to students who choose to participate. For more information about eligibility, see the Extra Curricular Handbook included at the back of this Orchestra Handbook.

Academically ineligible students may practice or rehearse with other students, but may not participate in a competition or any UIL sponsored events. Involvement of academically ineligible students in rehearsals or sectionals will be left up to the director's discretion.

Students should make every effort to schedule health care appointments at times that will not interfere with school or any required orchestra events that are outside the school day. If a conflict is unavoidable, the student will need to use the Notice of Absence form to have it count as an excused absence.



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Classroom Behavior

- Bring your instrument, music and supplies to school everyday and be in your seat ready to rehearse before the tardy bell
- Practice, practice, practice
- Play instruments only when asked by the director
- Respect other students, adults and instruments
- Please remain in your seats until dismissed by the director, not by the bell
- Practice, practice, practice
- Handling or playing any instrument or equipment other than your own is not permitted. The student is responsible for his/her own instrument.
- Please do not lean on the music stands. They are built to hold music, not musicians!
- Practice, practice, practice

Concert Etiquette

- Cell phone and pagers are to be turned off during all orchestra concerts, even if you are sitting in the audience.
- As an audience member, you should sit quietly without talking during a performance. NEVER leave or return to your seat while the performance is in progress.
- Orchestra students are expected to stay and hear ALL orchestras who are performing on the concert. If you need to leave early, a parent must contact the orchestra director PRIOR to the concert to make the needed arrangements.
- The appropriate way to show your gratitude for the performance is by clapping. No yelling and/or whistling.
- Do not bring books, homework, mp3 players, gameboys, etc. while watching a performance. The performers on stage have worked hard to prepare and should be acknowledged for their hard work.
- Students should stay in complete concert dress from the time they enter the warm-up at the beginning of the concert until they exit the school following the concert. This includes the time spent watching other performers.



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Supplies/Equipment

- Instrument (perlon strings and 4 fine tuners) and bow with sturdy case
- Metronome or Metronome/Tuner combo (the Intelli 5 Way is great)
- Folding music stand
- Rosin
- Pencil (NO PENS!)
- 1" black binder with sleeves
- Kun/Wolf shoulder rest for violins and violas
- Rock Stop for cellos and basses (Xeros Anchor works best)
- Cleaning cloth
- Tuner
- Mute

Practicing

The key to progress on a musical instrument include teacher instruction and correct repetitions of that instruction by the student. The most common hindrances from steady progress are lack of student practice, student practice with improper technique/posture, not thinking through practice techniques and insufficient practice repetitions. It takes some students more repetitions than others to master a certain technique. Students are expected to take their instruments home each day. Meaningful home practice is essential to the student's continued progress in orchestra.

Tips for successful home practice

- Practice in a quiet place
- Practice at the same time each day to create a routine
- Some students may want to break up their practice into smaller segments to help with busy schedules.
- Isolate sections of music that are difficult and carefully practice them. Playing pieces over and over does NOT accomplish much and in fact, may be harmful to your growth as a musician. Using a metronome at a slower tempo and gradually increasing the speed is very useful in many practice situations.
- Keep a positive attitude. Practicing is not always easy but it is a means to an end. With individual practice, the group will be able to perform at its full potential.

Private Lessons

Private lessons taught by a specialist of that instrument are highly encouraged and are invaluable for working on fundamentals of posture, building technique and preparing audition or solo material. Many aspects of music technique can only be addressed one on one. A list of recommended private teachers is included in this handbook.



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Absence Policy

If your student needs to miss an orchestra activity outside the normal class period, the parent must first fill out the Notice of Absence form that is located in this handbook and have the student turn it in to their teacher. In order for the absence to be approved, it must be signed by the teacher. The student will keep a confirmation receipt in their binder. Please realize that turning in a Notice of Absence form does not guarantee an approved absence and that it will be decided on an individual basis.

Unexcused reasons for absence:

1. Outside jobs
2. Too much homework
3. Test the next day, need to study
4. Can't get a ride
5. Have to babysit other siblings
6. Have to transport friends/siblings
7. I'm tired
8. I forgot
9. I didn't know about it (Hey, listen in class & check the website)

Excused absence:

1. Other extracurricular activities (but I still need to know in advance)
2. Emergency doctors appointment
3. Family emergency
4. Absent from school that day

Students receive a zero when they miss rehearsal without prior written notification.



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2011-2012

Ladies Dress Policy

Dresses are issued by the school. Each student will need to sign that she has received the dress.

Do not cut any part of the dress. Anything altered must be able to be let out. If you need to hem the dress, please leave the small hem intact and turn up the dress to the proper length of 1 inch from the floor with your proper dressy shoes. Hems should be easily removed by the next person to use the uniform. Each student will need to purchase her own black shoes and hosiery.

The facing of the neckline has a tendency to come out and show. This facing may be hand sewn to the seams to help stop this problem. Because of the open neckline, black undergarments are probably best. Undergarment straps need to be carefully pinned to the dress to prevent straps from showing.

Dresses may be washed in cold water on delicate setting and placed in the dryer on low setting.

If the dress is not returned or is damaged, the student is responsible for the replacement cost of \$60.00. Dresses that are damaged because they have not been hemmed will be charged full replacement price.

Your child's dress must be returned when she graduates or leaves orchestra. The dress must be dry cleaned and clearly labeled with her name when returned. Your child will not receive credit for the return and you will be charged the full replacement cost if it is not clearly labeled.

Gentlemen's Tuxedo Policy

Tuxedos are issued by the school. Each student will sign when he receives his Tuxedo.

Please do not cut any length from the pants or jackets. If the sleeves are too long, the cuffs can be folded under and hand basted. Proper length pants should end where the back of the shoe and shoe heel meet. Hems should be easily removed by the next person to use the uniform. Pants that are damaged because they have not been hemmed will be charged full replacement price.

Each student will need to purchase their own shoes, socks and **tuxedo shirts**. The criteria are as follows:

- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Dress Socks (No designs of other colors can be on the socks.)
- Tuxedo Shirt with Wing Tip Collar and Pleats

If any item of the uniform is lost or damaged, student must pay the replacement cost as follows:

\$60.00	Jacket
\$30.00	Pants
\$30.00	Vest
\$5.00	Bow Tie

Your child's Tuxedo must be returned when he graduates or leaves orchestra. Each piece must be dry cleaned and clearly labeled with his name when returned. Your child will not receive credit for the return and you will be charged the full replacement cost if it is not clearly labeled.

