

Austin High School
Orchestra

Student Handbook

2009-2010



Artwork provided by Eva Wilson, Cello, Class of 2008



Vandiver's Voice

2009-2010



Dear Orchestra Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I am excited to be starting this school year with such great kids and music. Orchestra offers many things to students, and most importantly I know it will offer them the chance to express themselves. I want orchestra to be a place where students can be challenged to the fullest in a musical, intellectual, physical, social, and aesthetic way. I urge parents, to get involved and support orchestra through their student's practice, through volunteering and just exposing your student to all things musical. This is the 15th year that AHS has been open and we finally have a 4th orchestra period. We are planning a trip for all orchestra students this year to Boston in April and more details will follow. Students and parents are welcome to travel with us, the projected dates are April 1 to 5.

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.

12:45 – 01:35 Conference Period

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

Carolyn Vandiver

Director of Orchestras

Stephen F. Austin High School



Austin High School Orchestra

Contact Information

Austin High School
3434 Pheasant Creek Dr
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Mr. Mike Leach, Principal
281-634-2000

Orchestra Director:	Carolyn Vandiver	281-634-2072
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Student Officers

Presidents:	Joy Le	713-363-0018
	Adrian Tabula	832-244-7234
Vice President:	Jennifer Lin	281-217-7923
Secretary:	Taylor Payne	713-906-3207
Treasurer:	Katherine Coleman	832-771-2749
Historians:	Amy Chen	832-248-8595
	MiMi Nguyen	832-293-5799
Head Librarian	Vy Trang	832-231-4587
Librarians:	Kevin Han	832-766-0460
	Melissa Frake	713-898-6908
	Abhi Rangarajan	832-638-0785
	Michael Tsang	281-725-3365
Equipment Manager:	Alex Panciewicz	281-804-2890
Student Conductor:	Eddie Sumner	281-725-3686
Directors Assistants:	Michael Pham	281-638-4212



Austin High School Orchestra

2009/2010 Principals/Counselors Alpha List

PRINCIPALS ALPHA LIST

Bob Yoh	F-K	107	Patricia Holloway	L-P	108
Pam Britton	Q-Z	201	Tim Ramsey	A-E	200

COUNSELORS ALPHA LIST

Elisha Carter	A, T-Z	201	Kellie Yoh	B-E	200
Dawn Thorton	F-J, O	107	Christina Stewart	K-N	108
Patti Flowe	P-S	201			

SECRETARIES

Martha Lemmond (Britton)	201	Anne Jacobs (Yoh)	107
Krista Smith (Ramsey)	200	Noemi Soler (Holloway)	108



2009-2010 Austin High Orchestra Calendar

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sat, Aug 15	Car Wash Fundraiser at Chase Bank		
Mon, Aug 24	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES	AHS	
Wed, Aug 26	Cookie Day		
Thu, Sep 03	AOBA Parent Meeting	J-2	6:30 PM
Sun, Sep 06	Baylor All-State Clinic	Baylor U	1:00-4:00 PM
Mon, Sep 07	Labor Day Holiday		
Tue, Sep 08	Symphony Clinic	J-2	3:00-5:30 PM
Wed, Sep 09	Cookie Day		
Sat, Sep 12	Car Wash Fundraiser		
Sat, Sep 12	HASSA All-State Clinic	Westbury Baptist – Houston	8:30 – 12:30
Tue, Sep 22	Open House	AHS	
Wed, Sep 23	Cookie Day		
Sat, Sept 26	All-State Clinic at SHSU	SHSU – Huntsville	9:00 – 4:00
Tue, Oct 06	AHSO Fall Dinner and Concert	AHS	5:30 Dinner 7:00 Concert
Wed, Oct 07	Cookie Day		
Wed, Oct 14	PSAT Exam		
Sat, Oct 17	HS Region Auditions	Sartartia MS	TBA
Wed, Oct 21	Cookie Day		
Fri, Oct 30	Pre – Area, Violins and Piano ONLY	CHS	5:30PM +
Sat, Oct 31	Homecoming	AHS	
Sat, Oct 31	Area Auditions and All State Taping	CHS	All Day
Tue, Nov 03	Election Day		
Wed, Nov 04	Cookie Day		
Fri, Nov 06	Orchestra Fall Party	TBD	TBD
Sat, Nov 07	1 st Round All State Judging		All Day
Sun, Nov 08	2 nd Round All State Judging		All Day
Sun, Nov 08	Houston Youth Symphony Concert	Rice Univ	4:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	MS Region String Auditions	AHS	TBA
Wed, Nov 18	Cookie Day		
Nov 25 – Nov 27	Thanksgiving Break: Wed-Fri		
Tue Dec 01	MS Orchestra Region Chairing	DMS	TBA
Thu, Dec 03	Winter Concert	AHS	7:00 PM



2009-2010 Austin High Orchestra Calendar

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Fri, Dec 04	Progressive Dinner	TBD	TBA
Fri, Dec 04 Sat Dec 05	Middle School Region Clinic and Concert	EHS	TBA
Sat, Dec 05	SAT Exam		
Sun, Dec 06	Virtuosi of Houston Concert	Hobby Center	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 08	Region Orchestra Chairing	KHS	TBA
Wed, Dec 09	Cookie Day		
Fri, Dec 11 Sat, Dec 12	HS Region Clinic and Concert - HS Clinic - Concerts	CHS	
Sat, Dec 12	ACT Exam		
Dec 15 - Dec 18	Exams	AHS	
Dec 21 – Jan 01	Winter Break		
Mon, Jan 04	Teacher Work Day, Student Holiday		
Wed, Jan 13	Cookie Day		
Mon, Jan 18	ML King Holiday		
Sat, Jan 23	SAT Exam		
	Musical: TBD Selected members for orchestra pit	AHS	TBA
Wed, Jan 27	Cookie Day		
Thu, Feb 04	String Fling	Wheeler Field Hse	
Sat, Feb 06	ACT Exam		
Sat, Feb 06	Virtuosi Concerto Competition		9:00 – 4:00
Sun, Feb 07	Houston Youth Symphony Concert	Rice U	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 10	Cookie Day		
Feb 10- Feb 13	TMEA All-State Clinic/Convention	San Antonio	TBA
Mon, Feb 15	President's Day Holiday		
Fr-Sa, Feb 19, 20	MS & HS UIL Solo/Ensemble	DHS	TBA
Wed, Feb 24	Cookie Day		
Thu, Mar 04	UIL MS/HS Full Orchestra Concert and Sightreading	THS	TBA
Tue, Mar 09	Austin HS Open House (Showcase?) (Symphony + selected Phil)	Austin HS	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 10	Cookie Day		
Sat, Mar 13	SAT Exam		



2009-2010 Austin High Orchestra Calendar

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Mar 15- Mar 19	Spring Break		
Sat, Mar 27	Middle School Pre-UIL		TBA
Wed, Mar 31	Cookie Day		
Apr 01 – Apr 05	Boston Trip – All Orchestras		
Fri, Apr 02	Good Friday Holiday		
Mon, Apr 05	Virtuosi of Houston Concert	Hobby Center	TBA
Sat, Apr 10	ACT Exam		
Wed, Apr 14	Cookie Day		
Apr 13 - Apr 15	UIL MS & HS String Concert and Sightreading	Bush HS	TBA
Apr 27 – Apr 30	TAKS Testing	Austin HS	TBA
Wed, Apr 28	Cookie Day		
Fri, Apr 30	Orchestra Banquet	FBCC	6:30 – 10:30 PM
Sat, May 01	SAT Exam		
Fri, Sat, May 07-08	Angelica	Austin HS	TBA
Wed, May 12	Houston Youth Symphony Concert	Rice U	7:00 PM
Sun, May 16	Spring Region Meeting	George MS	2:00 PM
Sat, May 08	Virtuosi of Houston Concert	Hotel Inter	7:30 PM
Wed, May 12	Cookie Day		
Mon, May 10	Spring Concert	Austin HS	7:00 PM
Sat, May 15	Prom	TBD	TBA
Fri, May 21	Senior Recital		
Wed, May 26	Cookie Day		
Mon, May 31	Memorial Day Holiday		
Jun 01 – Jun 03	Exams		
Thu, Jun 03	Senior Leap	TBD	
Fri, Jun 04	Graduation Ceremony	Toyota Center	6:0 PM
Sat, Jun 05	SAT Exam		
Sat, Jun 12	ACT Exam		



Austin High School Orchestra

Recommended Private Instructors

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

	<u>VIOLIN AND VIOLA</u>		
Jennifer Algers	Viola	713-927-1454	
Johann Acuna	Violin	832 577 4862	Johann_acuna@hotmail.com
Lisa Burrell	Viola	713-540-7209	
James Dunham (adv only)	Viola	713-838-7188	
		713-527-7730/	
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	
Nadia Lesinska	Violin	949-680-9731	nadiasviolino@yahoo.com
		281-265-3254/	
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	
Christine Wisch	Violin	281-543-0676	
Connie Xian	Violin	281-565-4663	
Chunfeng Zhang	Violin and Viola	832-798-5523	



Austin High School Orchestra
Recommended Private Instructors (continued)
Cost of lessons vary depending on teacher's training and experience

CELLO

Cathy Chang	713-271-1841	
Olive Chen	281-499-7104	
Christopher French	713-880-8270	
Melody Kelley	832-222-2015	Melody@harmony strings.com
Ann Victor (studio full)	281-634-6333	
Judy Wu	281-455-9897	wuchingfang@gmail.com

BASS

Sabrina Behrens	734-775-4161	
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

Bonnie Goodrich	713-526-8856	
Yanzi Pratt	281-499-8166	

PIANO

Zola Golofeev	713-366-3201	
John Weems (advanced only)	281-494-3326	



Austin High School Orchestra

Recommended Accompanists

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>
Susan Archibald	713-592-5980	
Paulina Chiu ppchui@hotmail.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
Alisa Pederson	281-879-0501	832-275-9535
Lisa Overstreet	832-595-1282	



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

Classical CD Shop (CD's only)
713-665-0954

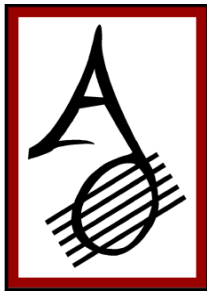
Gold Violin Shop
7010 Mapleridge St
Houston, TX 77081
713-729-2231

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



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 four talented orchestras – Symphony, Philharmonic, Chamber 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://www.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.

♪ 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

Every year, the music department joins the theatre department to perform a live musical. Students are chosen for the pit orchestra by the director. The number of students for the pit orchestra 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.

♪ Informal Uniforms

In addition to the concert/formal uniform, there is an informal uniform which is worn to more casual orchestra events. The casual uniform consists of an orchestra polo shirt, khaki pants or skirt, a belt, and shoes. All students are required to purchase the orchestra polo shirt. An orchestra T-shirt will also be available for purchase. This shirt can be worn with jeans to other informal orchestra events. No shorts can be worn. Mrs. Vandiver will announce what to wear to each event as it comes up throughout the year.

♪ 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. Basses 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!

♪ **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.



Austin High School Orchestra

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.



Austin High School Orchestra

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.



Austin High School Orchestra

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 ad 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.



Austin High School Orchestra

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.



Austin High School Orchestra
Notice of Absence Form

Period: _____

Notice of Absence Form

Please use this form for absences to either before/after school rehearsals or performances. The absence is not approved until the orchestra director has signed the form. Please see the AHSO Handbook for more details regarding the attendance policy.

Student Name: _____

Date of Absence: _____

Reason for absence: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Orchestra Director's Signature: _____

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Please keep this confirmation receipt in your binder for records/attendance purposes.

Student Name: _____

Date of Absence: _____

Orchestra Director's Signature: _____



Austin High School Orchestra

Instrument Checkout Form

Fill out this form in duplicate

Student: _____

Instrument: _____

Serial Number: _____

Condition of Instrument (Describe any existing damage):

Please read and sign:

I understand that I am solely responsible for the upkeep and condition of this instrument. I understand that I am responsible for providing director-approved strings for this instrument. As stated in the Fort Bend ISD Instrumental Code, I will pay for any damage to this instrument while it is checked out to me. I also understand that it is advisable to get insurance to cover such a loss.

If the instrument is mistreated in any way, I am responsible for repair, but the instrument may be taken away, and I will have to provide my own instrument.

Students using FBISD instruments must pay a \$30 use fee per semester made payable to AHS Orchestra. Students using the school instruments must provide their own rosin and soft cloth to clean the instrument and treat it properly. Students must replace strings on any instrument they are assigned if worn, false or broken.

Finally, I understand that any unpaid strings or fines relating to instrument damage will be turned into the assistant principal, and my grades will be held until the fines are paid.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



Austin High Orchestra

Tuxedo Policy

2009-2010

Tuxedos are issued by the school. Each jacket, vest and pants are individually numbered and each student will need to sign that he has received each piece.

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 fairly easily removed by the next person to use the uniform.

Bow ties will also be furnished. 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, student must pay the replacement cost as follows:

- Jacket \$71.00
- Pants \$43.00
- Vest \$30.00
- Bow Tie \$ 5.00

At the end of the year, items must be dry cleaned and in separate plastic dry-cleaning bags. Please mark the uniform number at the top and bottom of each dry-cleaning bag with a black Sharpie.



Austin High Orchestra

Ladies Dress Policy

2009-2010

Dresses are issued by the school. Each dress is numbered and each student will need to sign that she has received the dress. If the dress is not returned, the student is responsible for the replacement cost of \$55.00.

Please 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 fairly 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.

Remove the bows on the front of the dress per Ms. Vandiver.

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

At the end of the year, the dress must be dry cleaned and in a plastic dry-cleaning bags. Please mark the dress number at the top and bottom of each dry-cleaning bag with a black Sharpie.

