



**DMS Orchestra Handbook
2015 – 2016**

Sally Kirk, Director
Sally.kirk@fortbendisd.com
281-634-5767

Theo Talley, Director
Theodore.talley@fortbendisd.com
281-634-5772

500 Dulles Ave.
Sugar Land, TX 77478
www.dmsorchestra.com

THE 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 of 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.

•

Develop an appreciation for music from different cultures and styles.

Dulles Middle School Orchestra

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. We have many exciting events planned for the orchestra students. The Dulles Orchestras enjoyed tremendous success during the last few years. Our symphony Orchestra was invited to play in Chicago at the Midwest Clinic. Also, at U.I.L. the Sinfonietta and Philharmonic orchestras earned a division I in Sightreading and Symphony received superior ratings from all the judges at U.I.L. on stage and in sightreading! We had record numbers of students earn placements in All Region! I believe Dulles Orchestra Students will continue this tradition with hard work and support through the school, community, and most importantly parents.

I hope the orchestra offers to each student more than just rehearsals and concerts. The students will be challenged and given opportunities to develop to their highest potential intellectually, technically, aesthetically, and socially. I look forward to meeting and working closely with each of you.

Sincerely,
Sally Kirk and Theo Talley



Equipment

Students are expected to bring all materials to class each day as part of their daily grade.

Beginning Orchestra

- Instrument (perlon strings and 4 fine tuners) and bow with sturdy case
- Metronome/tuner (should have both functions)
- Folding music stand
- Rosin
- Pencil pouch and pencils (to put in binder)
- ½ inch Black Orchestra Binder
- Kun or Everest Shoulder Rest (violins and violas)
- Rock Stop (cellos)– Xeros Anchor work the best
- Cleaning Cloth
- Planner (provided by the school)
- Essential Elements 2000 for Strings Book 1 (1st semester) and Book 2 (around Dec)

Sinfonietta and Philharmonic Orchestra

- All the above
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 and Essential Technique (Book 3)
- Rubber mute

Symphony Orchestra

- All the above
- Essential Technique and Advanced Technique for Strings
- Rubber mute

Other recommended supplies

- Set of perlon strings – for violins and violas to keep on hand, should be changed every 6 months (ideal) to a year
- Mirror at home for practicing – inexpensive wall mirrors work well

String Replacement

The student is responsible to replace strings on home and school instruments whether or not they were present when the string broke or tuned false. Strings are a consumable item that wears out due to use, as well as to atmospheric and other conditions. The school allows for the student's grades to be withheld for all students not paying for their strings when purchased at school.

Classroom Behavior

Orchestra is a team effort. It is very important that each and every Orchestra member conduct themselves within the classroom and all Orchestra functions in a manner which reflects common courtesy, consideration for others, and in accordance with district, school and Orchestra rules.

- ❑ Bring your instrument and supplies to school everyday and be in your seat ready to rehearse before the tardy bell
- ❑ Raise hand for permission to talk or leave seat
- ❑ Play instrument only when asked by the director
- ❑ Respect others students and adults
- ❑ Respect school and private property
- ❑ Please remain in your seat until dismissed by the director – The director dismisses the class, not the bell
- ❑ Practice your music until it is mastered
- ❑ Handling or playing any instrument or equipment other than your own is not permitted. The student is responsible for his or her own orchestra instrument, equipment, and music.
- ❑ Please do not lean on music stands. They are built to hold music, not musicians!
- ❑ Keeping locker locked at all times, including when it is empty
- ❑ All school rules in the DMS student code of conduct apply
- ❑ No backpacks or large number of books allowed in lockers.

Practicing

The keys 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, and insufficient practice repetitions. It takes some students more repetitions than others to master a certain technique. Practice records are required to assist in the student's development of a regular practice habit.

Students are expected to take their instrument home each day. Meaningful home practice is essential to the student's continued progress in orchestra. The practice of home practice is so important, that it is a consideration on orchestra placement for future years.

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 time into smaller segments to help busy schedules/fatigue.
- Isolate sections of music that are difficult and carefully practice them. Use practice techniques discussed in class for efficient practicing. Playing pieces over and over does not accomplish much and may in fact be harmful to your growth as a musician. Using a metronome at a slower tempo and gradually increase in speed is very useful in many practice situations.

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 auditions or solo material. Many aspects of music technique can only be addressed one on one. A list of recommended private teachers is available from the director.

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 auditions or solo material. Many aspects of music technique can only be addressed one on one. While Dulles MS offers a private lesson program through the school, if you wish to look into other options offered outside the school building, please see your orchestra director for a list of private instructors in the area.

DMS Orchestra students may participate in the private lesson program offered after school. Students who choose to participate must do the following to enroll in this program:

1. Carefully read the information from both FBISD and Dulles MS about the private lesson program.
2. Fill out and return the Parent Permission Form for the Individual Music Instruction Program.
3. The teacher will contact the parent to schedule the lessons. All lessons will take place after school at Dulles Middle School.

In a continued effort to make DMS a safe and secure campus for our students and staff, please observe the following while participating in the DMS Private Lesson Program:

1. Instructors will pick students up and drop them off at the front entrance to the building. No student will be left unattended.
2. All outside doors will be locked at all times. No doors will be “propped” open and no person will be unescorted in the hallway at any time.
3. All students will use the front entrance/exit only.
4. Parents who wish to enter the building with their child will sit in the orchestra room. No adults will be allowed in any other area of the building while their child is receiving private lessons.
5. If a parent is not present to pick up their child at the conclusion of the scheduled lesson, that student will return to the classroom with the instructor and will not be able to be picked up until the end of the next scheduled lesson. Because of the instructor’s lesson schedule, this may interfere with the parent’s schedule of other student’s lessons. Please be prompt and thank you for helping us keep Dulles MS a safe place to teach and learn!



Use of School Instruments

A limited number of school-owned cellos and basses are available as a courtesy to students during their orchestra class period.

These students must adhere to the following rules:

- ✚ The student must use the instrument assigned by the director.
- ✚ Students using school instruments must provide their own rosin and soft cloth to clean the instrument and treat the instrument properly.
- ✚ Any student not following rules or teacher instruction of the instrument will lose privilege to use any school instrument and is wholly responsible for providing their own.
- ✚ Students must replace strings on the instrument they are assigned if worn, false, or broken.

Uniforms

■ **For formal occasions (concerts, competitions, etc.)**

■ **Boys:** **Black dress slacks**

- **White tuxedo shirt with wing tip collars**
- **Black dress shoes and socks**

■ **Girls:** **Black dress slacks or skirt (must be floor length, no slits)**

- **White tuxedo shirt with wing tip collars**
- **Close-toe black dress shoes and hose**

■ **Information about purchasing uniforms will be sent home during the first month of school. Students will be required to purchase a cummerbund and bow tie from the school. Packages will be sold with or without tuxedo shirts.**

■ **Students will also need an orchestra shirt for some performances and all field trips. It greatly helps chaperones and staff in identifying students.**

Thank you with your help with our uniforms.

Grades

Six week grades will consist of 50% major and 50% minor grades.

Minor Grades

Practice records may be collected every week as a minor grade. A parent signature is required on that weeks practice record to be graded. Practice records will be accepted until the end of the week that particular record is due, with standard deduction per day. **Failure to turn in the practice record before the end of the week will result in a zero.** 210 minutes practiced per week will result in a score of 100. This is based on an average of 30 minutes practice per day.

Weekly Sectionals – Students in Philharmonic and Symphony orchestra will have a weekly sectional mandatory grade.

Maintenance/Supply – Weekly grades will be taken on maintenance of school instruments and lockers. Violin and viola students must take their instruments home daily. 25 points will be deducted for each infraction of this rule.

- Participation will receive a minor grade each week. This grade reflects a student's contribution to classroom activities and having supplies required for class (see equipment).
- Rehearsals as an extension of classroom activities such as section rehearsals will equal 2 minor grades. **A weeks notice of absence in a normal circumstance and approved by the director will be excused. Unexcused absences will result in a zero.**
- Pop playing quizzes will constitute one minor grade. As in other classes, students in orchestra practice as their homework. A playing quiz is a means of checking their homework.

Major Grades

- Performances as an extension of classroom activities will equal a double major grade. **Students/parents must notify as soon as possible about an absence (at very least one weeks notice is necessary). Only absences that are approved by the director prior to a concert will be excused. Unexcused absences will result in a zero.**
- Written tests/papers/playing tests/ sectional test will receive a major grade. Playing tests must be memorized. Retests are optional.

Your child's conduct grade will be based on the following criteria and will appear on all progress reports and report cards as follows:

1. E = few warnings if any for disruptive behavior
2. S = occasional warnings for disruptive behavior
3. I = frequent warnings for disruptive behavior
4. U = severe disruption, repeated removals from class



Dulles Middle School Orchestra
Contact Information
2015-2016 School Year



Student Name: _____

Male: ___ Female: ___ Student ID: _____

Instrument: _____ Grade (2012-2013): _____ Birthday: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____

Student Lives With: Both _____ Mom _____ Dad _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

T-shirt size (circle one): YL, AS, AM, AL, XL, 2XL

Home _____ Student Cell _____

Mom Cell _____ Dad Cell _____

Mom Work _____ Dad Work _____

Parent E-mail Address: _____

Parent E-mail Address: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Private Lesson Teacher Name: _____

Teacher Home Phone: _____ Teacher Cell Phone: _____

Do you need a private teacher? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have weekly access to internet and a printer? Yes _____ No _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Phone: _____ Emergency Cell: _____

Date _____ Parent Signature _____

Become an Orchestra Parent Volunteer!

If you are available and willing to assist orchestra activities during the school year, please indicate your interest on the form below. If you have a special talent, not listed on the form, please let us know. To Chaperone you must go to fortbendisd.com and click on the Volunteer tab and fill out a criminal background check. When you are approved, please let me know.

Fundraising (Fall and Spring)

- Collecting and imputing orders (may be picked up and done at home)
- Distributing orders
- Chaperoning Spring Fundraiser Concert

Orchestra shirts (Aug and Sept)

- Collecting and imputing orders (tallying shirt sizes)
- Distributing orders

Chaperone

- Chaperone during Field trips and concerts

Uniforms (Sept)

- Collecting and imputing orders (company sizes)
- Distributing orders (comes prepackaged)

Receptions for concerts (Oct, Dec, May)

- Pick up beverages and food (from funds in the activity account)
- Set up and serving

String Fling

- Collecting money
- Tallying shirt sizes and collecting forms

Solo and Ensemble

- Collecting money

Spring Trip

- Organization
- payment collection
- Chaperone

Technology

- Setting up e-mail list
- Website Designer
- Orchestra phone/address book

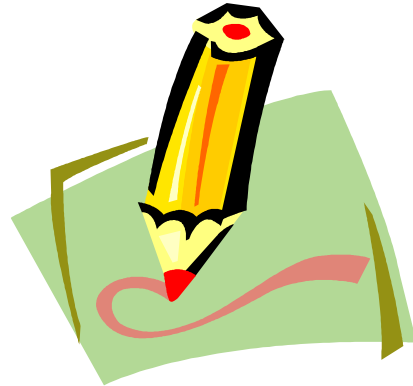
Whenever needed

Other Talent or ways to volunteer _____

Parent Name _____ Student Name _____

Phone _____

Parent Email _____



Symphony Contract

Congratulations for being selected to be in the Dulles Symphony Orchestra! Being a member is both an honor and privilege. Students in Symphony have certain responsibilities. Please be aware of the following, as you will be held responsible. Consequences may include loss of membership and placement in another orchestra.

- ◆ Symphony members are required to be prepared for and attend all weekly sectionals, rehearsals, and clinics determined by the orchestra director.
- ◆ As an extension of Symphony Orchestra, students will prepare and audition for All-Region Orchestra and will sign the student agreement for Region Orchestra.
- ◆ Prepare and participate in all performances.
- ◆ Prepare and participate in solo and ensemble.
- ◆ Prepare and participate in District and Region UIL and maintain requirements for participation.
- ◆ Be a good example for other students in orchestra and the school.
- ◆ Remember that you represent Dulles and its fine orchestra program. Always show outstanding behavior, positive attitude, and good conduct.

I am aware of responsibilities as a Symphony member and will fulfill these responsibilities.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Printed Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Period_____

Notice of absence

Please use this form for absences to either before/after school rehearsals or performances. Provide at least a one week notice, unless there is an extreme emergency. The absence is not approved until the orchestra director has signed the form. Please see the Fort Bend ISD Extracurricular handbook for attendance policy.

Student Name_____

Date of Absence_____

Reason_____

Parent Signature_____

Date of Notice_____

Orchestra Director's Signature_____

Please keep this confirmation for records/attendance purposes

Orchestra Director's Signature_____

Date of Absence_____



DULLES MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

500 DULLES AVE

SUGAR LAND, TX 77478

281-634-5782

**PARENT PERMISSION FORM FOR THE
INDIVIDUAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

I give my permission for _____ to participate in the private music instruction program understanding that a fee of \$20.00 for individual lessons of thirty minutes will be charged by the instructor delivering the lessons. Hour lessons are also available for \$34.00.

PARENTS: PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW. THE PRIVATE LESSON TEACHER WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU DIRECTLY TO DISCUSS SCHEDULING LESSONS FOR YOUR CHILD.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION BELOW:

Parent Name (please print)

Student Name (please print)

Instrument (please print)

Home phone number

Cell phone number

When is the best time to reach you? Daytime _____ Evening _____

Would you prefer to have them contact you via e-mail? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, please write your e-mail address below:

(please print clearly!)

Parent Signature



Dulles Orchestra List of Recommended Private Teachers

Violin and Viola Teachers

Jennifer Alger	violin/viola	713-927-1454	jalger18@gmail.com
Hang-Chi Pham	violin	832-524-0483	hangchiviolin@gmail.com
Jack Li	violin	281-265-3254	
Amy Mathis	violin	281-491-8856	amysnotes@juno.com
Joe Garcia jose.garcia@fortbendis.com	violin	281- 634-6504	
Lauren Haley	violin	832-600-5338	
Sophia Hsieh	violin	281-381-2717	
Shinting Huang	violin	832-814-6000	
Daniette Shiu	violin/viola	281-277-9012	danette@dolcemusic.org
Lily Xiong	violin/viola	281-207-6883	
Mika Hasler	violin/viola	281-480-3404	
Mary Bell	violin	281-491-6371	
Erika Lawson	violin/viola	713-526-6227	
Rodica Weber	violin	713-726-0271	
Lilan Huang	violin	281-242-3292	
Yuli Jiang	violin	281-395-8408	
Henry or Cindy Rubin	violin	713-981-9608	
Quan Jiang (advanced)	violin	432-352-4946	
Andrej Grabiec (advanced)	violin	281-565-5324	
Eva Sheie	viola	832-788-9747	
Mike Willer	viola	281-379-1144	
Lisa Burell	viola	713-540-7209	
Tanya Simons		713-426-3318	
Jennifer Lewis		713-729-6462	

Cello Teachers

Kevin High		281-787-9148	
Mark Yee		832-233-2517	markyee@me.com
Judy Wu		281-455-9897	cellomelody@gmail.com
Olive Chen		281-793-8523	olivechen@clear.net
Leroy Cavazos		956-802-5174	leroy.cavazos@fortbendis.com
Beth El Montgomery		813-205-2133	gomezgal@outlook.com
Corky Watkins		713-895-7758	
Erika Johnson		281-242-9326	
Melody Kelley		832.455.7865	melody@harmonystings.com
Julie Xu		713-541-1545	
Dennis Bell		281-491-6371	
Ann Victor		281-634-6333	

Bass Teachers

Andy Moritz		832-483-5692/ 281-497-4598	info@thebassstudio.com
Joey Naegar		832-264-3367	
Marty Durlam		713-560-1277	
Dennis Whittaker (UH Professor)		713-973-7278	
Greg Garcia		713-802-9125	
Curry Duffy		713-826-6605	
Chris Burns		713-869-7758	
Gabe Katz		607-425-0783	gabrielktz@yahoo.com

Harp Teachers

Emily Klein		610-574-7886	kleinemilys@gmail.com
Susanna Campbell		281-341-1220/281-620-0742	
Yanzi Pratt		281-499-8166	

Sarah Oliver
Bonnie Goodrich
Jackie Carpenter
Sara Shute
Therese Honey
Terese Weber

SW Houston
Montrose area
Medical Center
Upper Kirby

713-309-0531
713-526-8856
713-818-1897
713-935-6460
713-598-4462
713-524-1101

houstonharpist@gmail.com
thoney@flash.net
trswbr@gmail.com

Piano Teachers

John Kirk

281-904-6055 johmmatthewkirk@gmail.com



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500 DULLES AVE.
SUGAR LAND, TX 77478
281.634.5782

Class period _____

DMS Orchestra Signature Page

I have read and understand the DMS Orchestra Handbook found on www.dmsorchestra.com and agree to abide by the principles contained in it. I am aware of all the dates and requirements to participate in the DMS Orchestra 2015-2016 program.

Student's Printed Name:

Student's Signature:

Parent(s) Printed Name:

Parent's Signature:

Date: _____