

6th Grade Orchestra Handbook



Welcome to 6th Grade Orchestra!

<u>Contact Information</u>	
A-Days	B-Days
Asa Low Intermediate School	Della Icenhower Intermediate School
1526 N. Walnut Creek Drive Mansfield, TX 76063	8100 Webb Ferrell Road Arlington, TX 76002
Room 143	Room 121
Phone: (817) 299 - 3640	Phone: (817) 299-2700
E-Mail: FrancescaWright@misdmail.org	

Do not hesitate to contact me! I am easy to work with as long as I have communication. I know life happens. Let me know how I can help. I am here to serve!

**Yours Truly,
Mrs. Wright**

RULES, EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Rules:

1. Stay quiet while the teacher is talking or playing.
2. Raise your hand to speak.
3. Take care of our instruments as if they were your own.
4. Be kind to others.

Expectations:

1. Parents and students will be responsible for any major damages to the instruments.
2. Be prepared and be on time to class with all of your supplies every day.
3. 100% focus and effort.
4. Respect that with your cooperation learning, fun and fairness will happen.
5. Extreme misbehavior will not be tolerated.
6. All school rules and policies will be upheld.
7. SHORT FINGERNAILS!

Consequences:

1. Classroom signing/verbal warning
2. Classroom signing/warning letter
3. Classroom signing, student conference, parent contact, recess detention
4. Classroom signing, parent contact, after school detention
5. Classroom signing, office referral
6. 2 officer referrals in orchestra is subject to removal from orchestra for the remainder of the year.
7. Extreme behavior will result in removal from orchestra for the remainder of the year.

Classroom Officers (changes daily):

Peace Keeper	Finding and reporting the positive things he/she sees in class. Affirmations
Time Lord	Starting/Stopping the timer. Calling out time reminders.
Rater	Rate our class time together.
Librarian	Not used often. Passing any materials to the class.
Pencil Keeper	Sharpening classroom pencils at the beginning of class after unpacking and preparing for class to start.

GRADING POLICY (See district handbook for Intermediate Schools)

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

Below 70 = Failing

I = Incomplete (“I” is not an academic grade, but indicates incomplete work)

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

Break Down:

50% Daily: Assignments/Quizzes

- Classroom skill mastery
- Quizzes
- Participation

40% Major Test/Projects

- Play tests
- Chair tests
- Concerts – *An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a 0 (zero)*

10% Homework

- Practice Reports
- Any worksheets on music theory

Late Work:

- 1 class day late – grade may be reduced up to a maximum of 15 points
- 2 class days late – grade may be reduced up to a maximum of 30 points
- 3 class days late – teacher discretion

Teachers will communicate the late work guidelines in class syllabus. This syllabus must be submitted to the principal’s office for approval, before the first day of school, and copy must be provided to each student/parent at the beginning of the school year.

Test Retakes:

Students who fail a major test/assignment (below 70%) will be allowed to retake or correct for a maximum grade of 70%. All retakes or corrections must be completed prior to the end of the grading period. Students are encouraged to attend tutorials.

Teachers will communicate routine requirements in the class syllabus that are precursors to any retakes. This must be submitted to the principal’s office for approval before the first day of school, and a copy must be provided to each student/parent at the beginning of the school year.

ELIGIBILITY

No Pass, no play. The state of Texas requires all students to pass all of their classes (academic or otherwise) with a grade of seventy (70) or above to participate in any event that is considered a contest or competition. This affects the orchestra when we participate in the Pride of Texas Music Festival.

PRIDE OF TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL ELIGIBILITY (individual contract and permission form will be sent later in the school year)

- Students must pass all classes in the 4th Six weeks (including Orchestra) with a 70 or above (Pre-AP Classes 60 or above)
- Students must pass all playing tests and chair tests with a 90 or above on all competition music.
- **No office referrals.**
- **ALL** practice records turned in.
- **Attend the Orchestra Spring Rehearsal and Concert.**
- Eligible students **must attend Pride of Texas rehearsals.**

ORCHESTRA FEES

There is an Orchestra fee of \$50 for each student. The Orchestra fee provides students with an Orchestra T-shirt and admission to the Pride of Texas Music Festival.

Fees are due:

ALIS Thursday, September 5th

DIIS Friday, September 6th

Fees are non-refundable if student becomes ineligible to participate in the Pride of Texas Music Festival.

SCHOOL-OWNED CELLOS AND DOUBLE BASSES

There is a maintenance fee of \$40 for each student playing the cello or double bass. Students who pay the fee, will receive 2 instruments: one that stays at home and one that stays at school. Each student checking out an instrument will need to return the check-out form. Payment must be received prior to the issue of any instrument. It is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian to return the instrument in the same condition as issued.

Any damages to a school instrument beyond normal wear not present upon checkout will be the financial responsibility of the student/parent/guardian. All school-owned instruments will be checked for damages. Any new damage to the instrument will need to be reported immediately.

If an instrument needs repair, parents must arrange a drop-off date and time with Mrs. Wright to ensure immediate attention from the music company repair shop at the most affordable rate.

DAILY PRACTICE

All orchestra students are required to practice at home regularly every day. Students will receive a Training Record to keep up with the amount of time practiced. Parents/guardians will need to initial this form. The Training Record grade will be assessed upon the amount of time practiced (i.e.: 100 minutes = 100, 90 minutes = 90. Just like any activity, success is achieved through the individual's dedication to practice at home on a consistent basis.

Due to the A/B Schedule students are required to be responsible for bringing and taking their instruments home on the days that they have orchestra. **IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL STUDENTS ARE PRACTICING AT HOME EVEN IF THEY DID NOT HAVE ORCHESTRA THAT DAY.**

Please know that the orchestra door will be locked on the days Mrs. Wright is not on campus. Please see district A/B calendar.

“Leave it at the door, the night before.”

MISD Orchestra Supplies List

All supplies due for a grade on:

ALIS Thursday, September 5th

DIIS Friday, September 6th

<u>Violin</u>	<u>Viola</u>
Correct size of instrument	Correct size of instrument
Matching size bow	Matching size bow
Instrument case	Instrument case
Luggage tag	Luggage tag
Method Book: String Basics Book 1 *Make sure you get the correct book for your instrument!*	Method Book: String Basics Book 1 *Make sure you get the correct book for your instrument!*
Shoulder rest in same size as instrument (Everest preferred)	Shoulder rest in same size as instrument (Everest preferred)
Rosin (economy selection is fine)	Rosin (economy selection is fine)
Soft, clean cloth for cleaning strings off	Soft, clean cloth for cleaning strings off
Metronome/Tuner (Korg preferred)	Metronome/Tuner (Korg preferred)
Folding stand for home practice	Folding stand for home practice
Black 1" ring binder	Black 1" ring binder
Binder pencil bag	Binder pencil bag
Several pencils with good erasers	Several pencils with good erasers
5 dividers	5 dividers

<u>Cello</u>	<u>Double Bass</u>
If not using school Instrument: - Correct size of instrument - Matching bow size - Instrument case - Luggage tag	If not using school Instrument: - Correct size of instrument - Matching bow size - Instrument case - Luggage tag
Method Book: String Basics Book 1 *Make sure you get the correct book for your instrument!*	Method Book: String Basics Book 1 *Make sure you get the correct book for your instrument!*
Rosin (economy selection is fine)	Rosin (Nymann brand preferred)
Rock stop strap (Zeros brand preferred)	Rock stop strap (Zeros brand preferred)
Soft, clean cloth for cleaning strings off	Soft, clean cloth for cleaning strings off
Metronome/Tuner (Korg preferred)	Metronome/Tuner (Korg preferred)
Folding stand for home practice	Folding stand for home practice
Black 1" ring binder	Black 1" ring binder
Binder pencil bag	Binder pencil bag
Several pencils with good erasers	Several pencils with good erasers
5 dividers	5 dividers

CONCERT ATTIRE

Ladies:

Informal	Formal – Concert Black
Orchestra T-shirt	*You must be able to play your instrument with ease*
Jeans	Black blouse or polo shirt with discrete neckline and sleeves
Comfortable shoes	Slacks or darkest pair of jeans
	Black ankle length skirt or dress
	Black hosiery
	0 to minimal jewelry
	Black flats, please no heels above 1”

Gentlemen:

Informal	Formal – Concert Black
You must be able to play your instrument with ease	
Orchestra T-shirt	Black shirt, polo or button down shirt
Jeans	Black dress pants or darkest pair of jeans
Comfortable shoes	Black socks
	Black dress shoes, darkest pair of shoes
	Bow ties/ties optional

RENTING AND BUYING GUIDELINES

RULE #1: Ask Mrs. Wright or your private strings teacher for assistance

RULE #2: Please stay with the recommended shops for the best quality instrument investment

1. Instrument must be an appropriate size for your child. Consider renting an instrument. This will take care of the inevitable need to switch to a larger instrument. It will also take care of the possibility that your child may not want to continue in orchestra.
2. Instrument must be of quality in order to be helpful to your child’s ultimate education in orchestra. Look for things like the parts are cut correctly
 - a. No rough edges.
 - b. Bridge is cut to size: not too high or too low in relationship to the fingerboard and strings.
 - c. Pegs are not sticking out.
 - d. Varnish is traditional and not painted with unnatural colors. The varnish plays a huge part in the instrument’s sound production. A major part of your child’s training is learning how to use their listening skills. If the sound production is compromised, your child’s education will be compromised.
 - e. Fine tuners are easy to turn.
 - f. Instrument bow must be for the appropriate type of instrument and the appropriate size for your child.
 - g. Instrument bow screws must be easy to turn in order to tighten and loosen the bow hair, daily.
3. Some things to consider with renting an instrument:
 - a. Cost effective in the 5 years long-term.
 - b. Rent to own programs: rent it long enough and the instrument becomes your child’s property
 - c. Quality of the instrument is frequently appropriate for students. Takes the guess work out of trying to buy an instrument.
 - d. Hassle free experience when your child eventually outgrows their smaller instrument.
 - e. Rental store will help with repairs and sometimes they will provide your child with a temporary instrument while theirs is being repaired.
 - f. If your child doesn’t wish to continue in orchestra, you are not stuck with an instrument you have to re-sell.

INSTRUMENT AND SUPPLIES VENDORS

Music and Arts	
Arlington Highlands 5 Points Blvd #129 Arlington, TX 76018	
Store Hours:	
Monday – Friday	10am – 9pm
Saturday	10am – 6pm
Sunday	12pm – 5pm
Phone: (817) 466 – 8696	
Website: musicarts.com	

Brook Mays	
3801 S. Cooper St #117 Arlington, TX 76015	
Store Hours:	
Monday & Thursday	10am – 8pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	10am – 6pm
Saturday	10am – 4pm
Sunday	Closed
Phone: (817) 468 – 1500	
Website: www.brookmays.com/	

ABS (Affordable Beginner Strings)	
2425 W. Arkansas Ln Pantego, TX 76013	
Store Hours:	
Monday – Thursday	10am – 6:30pm
Friday	10am – 6pm
Saturday	10am – 4pm
Sunday	Closed
Phone: (817) 460 – 0345	
Website: NA	

The String Connection	
4303 S. Bowen Rd #139 Arlington, TX 76016	
Store Hours:	
Monday, Thursday	1pm – 7pm
Tuesday, Wednesday	11am – 7pm
Friday	11am – 6pm
Saturday	10am – 5pm
Sunday	Closed
Phone: (817) 561 – 2510	
Website: stringconnectionmusic.com	

Young Musicians, Inc.	
5901 Park Vista Cir #111 Keller, TX 76244	
Store Hours:	
Monday – Wednesday	10am – 6pm
Thursday	10am – 3pm
Friday	10am – 5pm
Saturday	10am – 1pm
Sunday	Closed
Phone: (817) 741 – 3838	
Website: young-musicians.com	

Williamson Music Co.	
701 E. Plano Pkwy #414 Plano, TX 75074	
Store Hours:	
Monday – Friday	9am – 6pm
Saturday	10am – 4pm
Sunday	Closed
Phone: (972) 633 – 8203	
Website: wm1st.com	

SHAR Music (online)	
Website: sharmusic.com	

Southwest Strings (online)	
Website: swstrings.com	

MISD ORCHESTRA CELLO or DOUBLE BASS CHECK-OUT
 (Violins/Violas may ignore this page)

Instrument:	Cello	Double Bass	
Maker/Brand:	_____		
Serial Number:	_____		
Model Number:	_____		
Accessories:	_____		
Condition at time of check out:	New Fair	Excellent Poor	Good Missing
Notes:	_____		

Students who play school-owned cello or double bass instruments will pay a non-refundable maintenance fee of \$40.00. The \$40 is for yearly upkeep for the instrument, not for any damage that may occur. Students and parents/guardians are responsible for paying for any damages and repair work (other than normal wear and tear or any condition listed above) done to school instruments or equipment during the school year. Students/Parents/Guardians must notify the orchestra director of any damage that has occurred to home instruments. All school-owned instruments must be returned to CTISO director at the end of the school year.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

- If you attend Asa Low: "Asa Low Orchestra"
- If you attend Della Icenhower: "Della Icenhower Orchestra"

Responsibilities of the individual using a school owned instrument are:

1. Purchase your own stool and rock stop for home use.
2. Purchase your own book, binder and pencils.
3. Keep the instrument and case in good condition.
4. Store the instrument zipped in the case when not in use.
5. Treat the instrument as though it belongs to you personally!

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Mrs. Wright's Use Only:

Date Paid:	Amount Cash:	Check #: Amount:

Orchestra Student and Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
Information Sheet and Contract

Student’s Name (first, last): _____
Student’s Team Name: _____
Student’s Homeroom Teacher: _____

Primary Parent/Guardian Name (first, last): _____
Relationship to Student: _____
Interested in volunteering? Yes No

Secondary Parent/Guardian Name (first, last): _____
Relationship to Student: _____
Interested in volunteering? Yes No

Emergency Contact Name (first, last): _____
Relationship to Student: _____
Emergency Contact Home Phone: _____
Emergency Contact Cell Phone: _____
Emergency Contact E-mail: _____

Please Initial the Following Statements

Parent	Student	
_____	_____	We know what the rules and expectations are and the student’s place in orchestra is a privilege that can be kept or taken away.
_____	_____	We know that we are responsible for any major damages that occur to the instruments.
_____	_____	We know how grades are obtained.
_____	_____	We know how eligibility works to participate in special events.
_____	_____	We know that there will be a required concerts and competitions.
_____	_____	We know that the student must practice daily in order to pass class and to sound professional.

Parent Signature: _____
Student Signature: _____
Date: _____

Detach and return this page to Mrs. Wright by:
ALIS September 5th
DIIS September 6th