



2025-2026 Bowie Orchestra Syllabus and Expectations

Instructor: Nikesha Hailey

School: Bowie Fine Arts Academy

District: MISD – Fine Arts Department

Program Mission

The mission of the MISD strings program is to create a community of learners who grow in their musical knowledge, skills, and appreciation. We believe all music students deserve a comprehensive, sequential curriculum that fosters their success and love of music.

Instrument Selection

Students in Elementary Orchestra may choose from the following instruments:

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- String Bass (6th grade only)

Students will learn:

- Characteristics and differences of each string instrument
 - Proper care and maintenance of their chosen instrument
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Use of School-Owned Instruments

Students may check out a school-owned instrument for use during the school year.

- Families are financially responsible for any **damage, loss, or necessary repairs** while the instrument is in the student's care.
- Even if an instrument is used only during the school day and not taken home, students are still responsible for its proper care.

Common Repairs and Damages include:

1. Broken strings
 2. Broken bows
 3. Cracks or breaks in the instrument
 4. Open seams
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Daily Supplies

Students are expected to bring the following to class every day:

- Instrument (Violin, Viola, Cello)
 - Music Folder
 - Essential Elements Book and/or other assigned music
 - Pencil
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Concerts and Performances

Students will perform at multiple concerts throughout the year. These performances are **mandatory** and are part of the Fine Arts Contract.

Attendance is graded for each concert.

- If a student must miss a performance, an **alternative assignment** will be provided and must be completed within **one week** of the missed performance.
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Required Performances

- Spooky Strings Concert
- Veterans Day Show (5th and 6th Grade only)
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Tour (6th Grade only)
- Spring Concert

Additional MISD Performances:

- MISD Solo and Ensemble Evaluation
 - MISD Honor Orchestra Auditions and Concert (6th Grade only)
 - MISD String Festival Concert
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Grading System

Student grades are based on:

- Daily attendance and participation
- Positive behavior and respectful attitude
- Rehearsal etiquette and engagement
- Instrumental skills, including:
 - Proper posture and position
 - Bow hold and tone production

- Note and rhythm reading
- Solo and ensemble performance skills

Home practice is highly encouraged to support classroom success.

Classroom Goals and Objectives

Instrument Posture & Position

- Learn to sit properly with the instrument
- Develop correct bow hold and instrument hand placement

Note Reading

- Identify note names on the staff
- Match notes to correct finger positions on all four strings

Tone Production

- Produce clean, accurate sound using pizzicato and bowing techniques

Rhythm & Counting

- Accurately read and perform rhythmic patterns in music

Performance Skills

- Develop confidence and stage presence during performances
 - Perform solo pieces at the Solo and Ensemble Evaluation
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Instrument Care & Responsibility

Students are expected to:

- Maintain their instruments in good condition
 - Report any damage or problems to the orchestra director immediately
 - Show respect to instruments, classmates, the teacher, and the classroom environment
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Contact Information

For questions or concerns, please contact:

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