

# HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

*Mr. Smith & Dr. Kang, Orchestra Director*

**houstonorchestra.weebly.com**

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## Course Content

The orchestra curriculum is centered on learning to play a stringed instrument. The orchestra will study a varied repertoire of music: classical, folk, fiddle, movie theme, and popular styles. The course will also include composition, music theory, music history, and music appreciation.

## Required Supplies

1. Instrument
2. Black 1" three-ring binder
3. Pencil
4. Shoulder rest (violin & viola)  
Five points will be deducted from the class participation for each missing item.
5. 6<sup>th</sup> Graders: please bring a box of Kleenex to the orchestra room

## Orchestra Program Fee

Students will have an orchestra program fee of \$150.00. This fee will go to purchase the orchestra dresses, polo shirts, t-shirts, method books, orchestra sheet music, concert hall rental fee, WTSBOA and NAFME school membership fees, registration fees for the concert festival and All-West audition, school instrument repairs, outreach concerts and concert festival bus cost, substitute teacher cost for All-West, spring trip, and concert festival, and other miscellaneous materials. Please make a check payable to **Germantown Orchestra Parent Group**. The deadline for the orchestra program fee is **Monday, August 19, 2019**.

## Instrument

If a student needs to borrow an instrument for using at home, the suggested donation is \$60 for violin and viola, \$100 for cello, and \$150 for bass. (per year)

## Practice Record

Students are required to keep a daily practice record that is signed weekly by a parent or guardian. Failure to have the practice record signed or turn in the practice record late will receive a lower grade. Practice records will be checked every Monday.

1. A (100) - 60 or more minutes/week
2. B (90) - 40 minutes/week
3. C (80) - 20 minutes/week
4. D (70) - 10 minutes/week
5. F (50) - Less than 10 minutes/week

**Winter Concert**

Date: Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 6 pm

Location: Germantown Performing Arts Center

**Spring Concert**

Date: Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6 pm

Location: Germantown Performing Arts Center

**Students are required to participate in the Winter & Spring Concerts.**

**Students will receive grades for performing in the Winter & Spring Concerts.** Absence will only be excused if the absence is due to illness, death in the family, or any other reason approved by Dr. Kang, prior to the concert.

**Concert Attire**

Students are required to dress professionally for the concert.

1. Black orchestra dresses for girls
2. Black orchestra polo shirts and black trousers for boys (no jeans)
3. Black dress shoes (absolutely no tennis shoes, no open toe shoes)
4. Black socks for boys

*Students will NOT be able to perform without the proper concert attire.*

**Honors Orchestra**

Houston Honors Orchestra represents the Houston Middle School to participate in local and national competitions and perform at school related events and outreach concerts. Each year, the orchestra travel to different states for music festivals and competitions. Please encourage your child to sign up for the honors orchestra audition.

**All-West Junior Orchestra**

The West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association offers a wonderful opportunity for your child to play with the best middle school musicians in Tennessee. The clinic and concert will take place at the Memphis Convention Center on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The audition will be held at the Briarcrest Christian School on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It is an honor and a terrific learning experience to participate in the All-West Orchestra.

**Orchestra Rules**

1. Arrive to class on time and with all necessary materials
2. Unpack instruments and start to warm up
3. Follow directions first time given
4. Raise your hand and wait to be called on
5. **No individual practice during the rehearsal**
6. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self
7. Treat peers and staff with respect
8. Clean up the area around you before leaving the classroom

**Consequences:**

1. Verbal warning
2. Deduct 10 points from the class participation
3. Conduct mark & parent notification
4. Conduct mark & detention
5. Conduct mark & parent conference
6. Conduct mark & office referral

E=0-1 conduct marks

S=2-4 conduct marks

N=5-6 conduct marks

U=7 or more conduct marks.

**Rewards:**

Praise & Individual practice time

**Grades**

Grades will be based on class participations. The remaining portion of the grade is derived from practice records, individual playing tests, written quizzes, and the Winter & Spring Concerts. Separate conduct grades will be issued.

**Helpers Needed**

A successful orchestra program relies on parents' support. Please volunteer your time and talents in order to provide your kids with the best experience. We will need volunteers for chaperoning field trips and helping out with outreach and formal orchestra concerts.

**Germantown Orchestra Parent Group (Orchestra Boosters)**

The orchestra needs your support to make our program stronger. If you are interested in contributing your talents to the GMSD orchestra program, please consider joining the boosters.

*Please keep the first three pages in your orchestra binder and return this page to Mr. Smith or Dr. Kang by Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understood the orchestra policy.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understood the orchestra policy.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_