

Orchestra Student/Parent Handbook

2020-2021



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League City Intermediate Orchestra Student/Parent Handbook 2019-2020

PREFACE

This handbook has been compiled for the parents and students of the orchestra program at League City Intermediate School. It is designed to acquaint the orchestra members and the orchestra parents with the requirements, expectations, and procedures that will be used in orchestra. In order to avoid conflicts with the stated policies, all orchestra members and parents are urged to read this handbook carefully so that the student and parent expectations are understood. When the handbook has been read entirely, please fill out and return the student information form and the orchestra contract. This will indicate a basic understanding of the material presented in this handbook.

To The Students: Welcome to the League City Intermediate Orchestra! We are very excited to be here and we hope you are ready for a successful year. We know that you will enjoy the experience of being involved in a group that includes students who have come from different backgrounds and share an outstanding citizenship and a passion for musical excellence. We hope that you will all keep a positive attitude toward your music and never give up. “Can’t” is a word letter word that has no place in your vocabulary! Your best effort will bring you great rewards.

To The Parents: As the directors, We are here not only to help the student, but also to work with each of you in achieving a quality education in music for your child. If it were not for your support, encouragement, and approval, the quality of your child's education would suffer. For more information on your role in your child’s education, see the section of this handbook entitled *Parent Involvement*.

This handbook, and lots of other useful information will be available on the orchestra website at www.lcisorchestra.com

If we can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact us. If we are not available, please leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible. We know it is a different and challenging school year for everyone but we feel confident that we can still provide quality music education for your student.

We are looking forward to a successful and energetic school year! We will overcome all challenges together as an Orchestra family.

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I. Course Scopes and Goals

A. ORCHESTRA ENSEMBLES:

The League City Beginning Orchestra (1st year players) is open to students who are at the beginning level. The objective of this class is to develop basic fundamental skills in characteristic tone production, performance techniques, musical literacy and music appreciation and introduce the student to the orchestra program. Students are required to participate in activities, rehearsals and performances that extend beyond the regular school day.

The League City Philharmonic Orchestra is the intermediate school's middle orchestra. The content of this course includes instruction in performance techniques with emphasis placed on technical and musical skills through the study of string orchestra repertoire. Individual practice outside of class time is necessary for successful mastery of performance standards. Students will also participate in some outside of class rehearsals, competitions and festivals at this level, but not as frequently as higher performing ensembles. Prerequisite: previous orchestra experience or teacher recommendation.

The League City Symphony Orchestra is the intermediate school's middle orchestra. The content of this course includes more advanced performance techniques and more in depth study of technical and musical skills through the study of string orchestra repertoire. Individual practice outside of class time is required for successful mastery of performance standards in this course. Students will also participate in several outside of class rehearsals, competitions and festivals at this level. Prerequisite: previous orchestra experience or teacher recommendation.

The League City Chamber Orchestra is a group of advanced musicians who are looking for a challenge beyond the material required in Symphony Orchestra. Students enrolled in this course are required to take private lessons and participate in Region Orchestra auditions. The content of this course includes more advanced performance techniques and more in depth study of technical and musical skills through the study of a wide scope of string orchestra repertoire. Individual practice outside of class time is expected for successful mastery of performance standards in this course. Students will also be required at many outside of class rehearsals, community events, competitions and festivals at this level. Prerequisite: Audition only; previous orchestra experience or teacher recommendation.

Note: Students must demonstrate that they can uphold their standing in their respective orchestra class both musically and behaviorally. If the student is not successful, the student may be removed from the orchestra or placed in a different orchestra class at the director's discretion.

B. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

The orchestra program is open to all students demonstrating the desire, ability, and proper attitude to be a member of the group. Each student will have an equal and fair opportunity for participation in the orchestra program. Students desiring placement in advanced ensembles must audition. Students will be placed in an orchestral ensemble at the discretion of the directors based upon audition results.

C. GOALS OF THE ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

1. To participate in the actual performance of music and learn the skills of playing an instrument, which will result in the feeling of doing something well.
2. To attain a mastery of the instrument and feel the satisfaction of achieving something worthwhile

through concentrated effort.

3. To awaken a sense of creativeness and provide an avenue for self-expression.
4. To develop performance skills necessary for independence as a string player.
5. To elevate students to achieve and surpass the National Music Standards and State Benchmarks set forth by the Music Educators National Conference and the State of Texas.
6. To identify and authentically perform the musical styles which developed throughout history.
7. To develop attitudes enabling one to continue participating in musical experiences throughout one's life.

II. GRADING PROCEDURES

A. GRADE CALCULATIONS: A student's nine weeks grade will be determined by a combination of points that they have earned during the grading period. Points will be given in the following four areas. Please note that each area is weighted differently.

Major Grades – 45%

Includes:

Playing Tests

- Each play test has a standard grading rubric. The students will receive specific feedback on areas needed for improvement on the next test. The opportunity to retake tests is offered if requested, but the retest will be performed either before or after school.
 - Some tests or quizzes may be played from memory.

Concerts & Performances

- Arrive to the dress rehearsal on time with required supplies and in required dress to receive full credit. * Due to COVID-19 concerts and performances may be virtual this school year.

Written Tests

- These tests will assess the knowledge of specific musical facts or other important information in the class. A study guide will be given in class and reviewed prior to taking the test.

Long-Term Projects

- These special projects will vary in topic and length. Detailed guidelines of expectations for the project will be given and reviewed in class. If possible, class time will be given to help students complete the assignments. Alternate assignments will be offered when applicable.

Daily Grades: 50%

Includes:

Music and Pencil Checks:

- *Class checks for proper materials needed for class.*

Attendance:

- Coming to class everyday, on time and ready to rehearse.

Home Practice Assignments:

- May include goal setting, journal reflection or self evaluations.
- Recording Checks- created on Flipgrid, Charms or through another assigned program on announced material.

Written Assignments

- Assigned written class work, written homework assignments, written quiz

- Any form or permission slip that must be signed and returned
- Any rehearsal slips that must be signed and returned

Class Participation

- preparation, participation and contribution.
 - The student's ability to follow directions and instructions
 - Any sight-reading drill or exercise or spot check (pop quiz)

Reading - 5%

-Literacy based assignments; vocabulary and other reading assignments.

B. PLAYING TESTS: Playing exams are designed to assess improvement of the skills and techniques that are taught in class and in preparation for performances. By the time of a given performance, any student who does not achieve the appropriate skill or performance level, as determined by the instructor, may be denied the privilege of performing. If this determination is made a make-up assignment will be given.

C. EXTRA HELP: Ms. Styskel and Mrs. McCoy are available to students in need of assistance. Peer tutoring may also be an option for students who would like extra instruction. Students are encouraged to ask for help or to request appointments for time before/after school in order to obtain any needed assistance.

D. HOME PRACTICE: Every student enrolled in the League City Intermediate Orchestra program is expected to practice all lessons, skills, techniques, concepts and concert music taught in class. The **minimum** acceptable time every student should devote to at-home practice is twenty to thirty minutes per day or about total of 2-5 hours per week. Of course more practice is always welcome!!! The skills every musician needs in order to be successful can only be presented in the classroom or in a private lesson. The individual then properly develops those skills by regular at-home practice. The musical success any performing ensemble achieves is directly related to the quality practice time the individual member brings to that ensemble.

E. OTHER NOTES: Students will be expected to maintain knowledge of previously learned music, information, and all performance skills and techniques. After learning is achieved in these areas, the student will be expected to use these skills as a necessary and essential foundation in order to enhance future learning. Extra credit assignments will be given at the discretion of the instructor.

F. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY: A student who receives a grade below a 70 at the end of any grading period (after the first nine weeks of the school year) in any academic class (other than an advanced class) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice or rehearse, however. The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determined that he or she has: (1) earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all academic classes, other than advanced placement classes and (2) completed the three weeks of ineligibility and the seven calendar day waiting period. (Please refer to the academic eligibility calendar for these grading periods.)

III. CLASSROOM CONDUCT & OPERATING PROCEDURES

- A. CLASS BEHAVIOR:** Students will find that some of the rules in the orchestra handbook are similar to those in the school handbook. We have several orchestra room specific rules and consequences for any misbehavior. Severe offenses will be handled according to the LCIS Student Handbook.

- B. FOOD/DRINK/GUM:** Students are only allowed to have water bottles in the orchestra room. Special permission is required for other food or drink items.
- Chewing Gum in Orchestra class can damage instruments and other school property. It is also dangerous for the students who play violins/violas to be chewing while holding their instruments on their chins.
 - Chewing Gum is against school policy and students will receive the standard consequences for this offense.

Rules:

- 1.) Participate appropriately in class discussions and activities; refrain from talking while the teacher is working.
- 2.) Be in your seat with your instrument, music and supplies when the bell rings.
- 3.) Only play your instrument when instructed to do so.
- 4.) No electronics unless given permission.

Consequences

- 1.) Warning/ Mark in the Conduct Book
- 2.) Complete the Behavior Think Sheet; Take Home for Parents to Sign and Return
- 3.) Assigned Before School Detention
- 4.) Office Referral

B. DAILY CLASS PROCEDURE: With few exceptions, the daily class procedure will be as follows: *Please note that this procedure may be adapted to comply with COVID-19 Safety Protocols.*

1. Students enter class, quickly, unpack and set-up for class. A short written assignment (bell work) may be given.
2. Tuning procedure (varies by class)
3. Director, concertmaster or principal player leads the class warm-up
4. Class proceeds with the day's lesson
5. Conclusion & announcements
6. Pack-up instruments, put away music, straighten-up the classroom
7. Director dismisses the class

Note: The director may call extra/after school rehearsals/class sessions as is deemed necessary.

C. CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE: If you are unable to comply with the classroom rules, you will be asked to complete a Behavior Think Sheet and take it home to be signed and returned. Further offenses will result in a 30min before school detention or office referrals.

* **Note:** If a student severely disrupts class to the extent that the educational process is disrupted (e.g. fight, etc.), they will be sent to the office IMMEDIATELY and may automatically receive a discipline referral.

D. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Orchestra members are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances in order to maintain an exceptional performance standard. As a cocurricular course, rehearsals and performances are part of the educational process. Absences and tardiness affect not only the individual who is absent but also the entire ensemble. An absence necessitates repeating educational instruction when the student returns. **In person rehearsals and concerts will be minimized and will follow all COVID-19 Safety Protocols.*

Unexcused Absence: An unexcused absence from class, rehearsal or performance will count as zero for that particular day and may receive a lower weekly evaluation grade. Many unexcused

absences may also result in a lower performance grade, being placed further back in the section or not being allowed to perform a given concert. Unexcused absences include: Appointments, lack of transportation, baby-sitting, birthday celebrations, oversleeping, shopping, sports practices or games, meetings, work, and vacations will not be accepted as valid excuses for missing a rehearsal.

Excused Absence from Rehearsal: Absences are excused only in cases of extreme emergency. In the case of illness, parents or students should notify the director as early as possible. *If an unanticipated absence occurs, a written request for excuse from a parent or guardian is due within two days of the absence.* If an unavoidable absence from rehearsal is anticipated, please submit written request to the director prior to the intended absence. All absences affect the grade because of lost instruction time. A student's absence hampers the group's ability to progress as a unified performing ensemble. Therefore even if excused, one or more absences may result in a lower grade being assigned, the student being placed further back in the section or the student not being allowed to perform a given concert. Ms. Styskel and Mrs. McCoy may decide on appropriate make up work to help redeem lowered grades.

E. TARDY POLICY: Students must be on time for all assigned orchestra functions. Learning to be early will establish a lifelong habit that is critical to this organization's success. Being on time is defined as follows: At the requested time, the student is in his or her assigned seat with the instrument, bow, music and a pencil. Just being in the room or walking into the room and not in one's assigned seat is not "on time". For all performances a call time will be assigned. Any student who is not present, or in place, by the assigned call time will be counted as tardy. This tardy will result in a lowered grade for that performance. The tardy could also result in a change of seating assignment or the student not being allowed to perform. Tardiness will be handled in accordance to the policies listed in the League City Int. student handbook.

F. PERFORMANCE POLICY: **Concert events may be virtual this school year due to COVID-19.* Students must attend all performances that are scheduled for the orchestra. Full credit is extended only to students who arrive no later than the assigned call time, are in the proper uniform, perform at the required performance standard, remain polite and courteous to all who are designated as chaperones/leadership and who remain in attendance for the entire performance.

G. ABSENCE FROM PERFORMANCE: Performances are mandatory in regard to attendance. Performances are classified as major exam grades. Any absence that is not brought to the director's attention for approval prior to the performance will be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences from performances will be counted as zeros. Requests for consideration to be excused from performance must be turned in to the director, in writing from the parent or guardian, at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled performance date.

H. CONFLICTS WITH ORCHESTRA: Rehearsal and performance calendars are normally given out in advance. Every effort has been made to eliminate conflicts with other major school activities. It is the policy of the orchestra to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of orchestra policy. Conflicts should be brought to the director's attention IN WRITING as soon as the student is aware of a discrepancy. Students should not expect to automatically be excused because of conflicts. Students are reminded that orchestra is a demanding activity and does require a commitment of time inside and outside of the school day. All orchestra concerts will take top priority over school sport and other extra-curricular activities because orchestra is a *co-curricular academic* class.

I. SEATING ASSIGNMENTS: The goal of this orchestra is to work together to achieve musical goals. While the major determining process for seating will be playing tests, the director reserves the right to change seating assignments at any time deemed appropriate within the course of the year. To assign seating, the director may choose from several different processes. Students begin their audition the first day of class by being prepared for class, showing outstanding class participation, and showing competency on their instrument. Principal players need to exemplify positive leadership behavior. Principal players and section leaders will be responsible for helping the director with marking student music and keeping their section in line both musically and behaviorally.

****Please remember that it is not as important where an individual sits. It is more important to have a positive attitude and to give your best at all times. ****

J. AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE: Being a courteous audience member is as important as being a good performer. Proper audience etiquette shows respect for the performers and their work. Talking is not acceptable during a concert. It is very distracting for the performers on stage, and is also distracting to other audience members who are trying to enjoy the concert. If parents or other guests come to a concert late, please enter between pieces so that you do not interrupt the performance.

K. MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS: In the event a student is excused from a performance, class or rehearsal, and only if the excuse has been requested in the prescribed fashion, will a make-up assignment will be issued. The make-up assignment will consist of all repertoire from the missed performance plus additional material, which may include, but not be limited to scales, etudes or written work as may be deemed necessary by the director.

L. COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES: * *Community Performances may be limited this year due to CO-VID 19* As a means of making a positive contribution to the communities of League City, Seabrook, Clear Lake and greater Houston area, the orchestra is called upon to give community performances from time to time. These performances could be during the school day, after school, evenings or weekends. As these performances are essential to maintaining a positive relationship with these supportive communities, all orchestra students are required to take an active part in community performances. The directors will make assignments for musicians for extra performances as may be necessary. Every effort will be made to give at least two weeks notice for extra performances.

M. STUDENT LEADERS: The everyday operation of the orchestra will be assisted by the concertmaster, principal players and section leaders. These positions are very important because the everyday rehearsals are what determine the success of the orchestra. Any student assigned as principal player of his or her section must remember that this position comes with a great deal of responsibility. He or she must show a strong sense of reliability by displaying respectful behavior, marking bowings and fingerings, assisting section members who need help, leading class warm-ups when assigned and communicating effectively with the director regarding any questions in the section.

The **concertmaster** is the first chair in the first violin section. This person will be appointed after the seating auditions are completed. Concertmasters are the student leaders of the orchestra. They may be held responsible for daily tuning and warm-up procedure and to help keep all of the rehearsals progressing by communicating with the members of the 1st violins and all of the other section leaders as well. A good-strong concertmaster displays a positive attitude at all times. They may also run sectionals and possibly full rehearsals, if necessary in the directors' absence.

Section leaders are the people who lead the individual string sections. Students are selected through an application process by the directors at the end of the previous school year and hold the position throughout the school year. Responsibilities of the section leader include: communicating ideas and questions of the section to the director, coordinating any additional rehearsals within their section, running small group sectionals, keeping attendance at sectionals and assisting the orchestra directors with administrative responsibilities related to the operation of the section and the orchestra. If the section leader is not holding up the responsibility, the instructor has the right to reassign this position to another orchestra member. A good-strong section leader displays a positive attitude at all times. Communication between all section leaders, concertmaster and director is vital.

IV. MATERIALS

A. INSTRUMENTS: Stringed instruments and bows are very delicate. Always be mindful of this fact when handling your personal instrument or any other instrument. When not in use, always place the instrument and bow securely in the case. Remember, your case is not 100% protection. Even if the instrument is stored securely, damage may occur if the case is not latched or jarred. Always loosen the bow before returning it to the case. Never over-tighten the bow. Using a lint-free cloth, always wipe the instrument clean of dust and rosin build-up. Be careful not to bump the pegs or bridge of the instrument.

One should never touch the hair of the bow. Oils from the skin will ruin the horsehair. Do your best to wash your hands before you play your instrument. **Keep instruments away from extreme heat, cold and humidity. Never leave your instrument in a car. Heat damage can begin within ten minutes of doing so.**

The instrument is also more susceptible to being stolen. Do not allow others to play your personal instrument. Only allow qualified technicians to attempt repairs.

B. REQUIRED INSTRUMENT ACCESSORIES:

- **ALL STUDENTS** need rosin, a polishing cloth, a spare set of strings, a metronome, and a music stand.
- **Violin and viola students** must use a shoulder rest.
- **Cello and bass students** need a rockstop when playing on wood or tile surfaces.
- **Fresh, High Quality Strings** ** – It is recommended that students plan for the worst by keeping an extra set of quality strings on-hand. Students must change their strings at least once per school year. The beginning of the year is a good time to do this. The “change it when it breaks” method for changing strings is not acceptable since strings lose their pitch and vitality long before they actually break. Using old or low-quality strings will make your sound thin and weak and your intonation quiver.

C. SCHOOL INSTRUMENT USE: Orchestra students become eligible to use school-owned instruments in class, pending availability. While in his or her care, the student who uses a school-owned instrument is responsible for the proper and safe upkeep and replacement (if necessary), of the instrument. The directors will determine all fines.

D. INSTRUMENT STORAGE: Please do not store food, shoes, gym clothes or other items not related to orchestra in the storage areas. Note: CCISD does not provide insurance to cover lost or stolen property. Please check with your homeowner’s insurance company to inquire about personal instrument insurance.

E. MUSIC LIBRARY: The school's music library consists of arrangements, transcriptions, and original works. Here are some guidelines concerning the music library:

- Only the director is allowed to pull music from the orchestra library. Others are allowed only with the director's permission.
- Students may be assigned a folder for the use of storing music. The student will be responsible for returning all class orchestra music and folders that have been assigned.

F. UNIFORM & DRESS CODE: For the 2020-2021 School Year, no Orchestra student will have a Uniform or Formal Dress for performances. If a formal concert in person occurs, students will wear their issued Orchestra Tshirts. Please ask the director if you have any questions.

V. CITIZENSHIP

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF A POSITIVE ATTITUDE: The single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice. These practice sessions should include a warm-up regimen, as well as solos and the whittling of their parts. Ideally, the "right attitude" accompanies sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable. It is a privilege to belong to an orchestra. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE: Due to the nature of the organization, discipline within the orchestra must be firm. Orchestra students and their parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Orchestra members are constantly on display. Therefore, each member must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. Any misconduct casts a negative light on the orchestra, as well as League City Intermediate. This may very well undo the hard work and good effort of many loyal students. In addition, misconduct reflects on your community, and parents/guardians. Discipline yourself so you can be the best possible young man or woman.

C. THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIDE: We would like us to take pride in everything we do, not just in orchestra, but also in all of our classes and actions. If you are going to do something, do it with PRIDE!

D. THE IMPORTANCE OF COURTESY: Courtesy to teachers, school employees, parents, chaperones, other students, and guests is very important. Each of us should strive to be considerate of all others. Discourtesy and rudeness will result in disciplinary action as set forth in the League City Intermediate Student Handbook. Serious violations may result in dismissal from the orchestra.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS (BUT IMPORTANT) ITEMS

A. STUDENT PROPERTY/VALUABLES: Students are not to bring large amounts of money, radios, tape players, cameras, etc. to orchestra. If worn, glasses, watches, and any other jewelry, it is the students' responsibility to keep track of them. Students are responsible for their personal items in the rehearsal area. While not in their hands, instruments should be stored in the appropriate store room. Clear Creek Independent School District does not have insurance or any plan that will cover damage, theft, or loss of privately owned equipment. If that equipment is to be covered, it

must be through the parents' personal insurance, such as a homeowner's policy, etc. In addition, the director and the school are not responsible for missing or damaged property.

B. FINANCES and FUNDRAISING: Each year, the orchestra requires funding for new music, instruments, repairs, classroom supplies, and teaching aids. Only a portion of this budget is funded by the school. The remaining portion of our budget comes in the form of fund-raising and donations. For this reason, it is very essential that each of the members "pull their own weight" financially by participating in the fund-raising activities. Monetary donations are welcome and are fully tax deductible. When paying money to the orchestra, please write the student's name on each check or envelope.

Each year the orchestra will host a few fundraisers for our students and parents to take advantage of. These opportunities are designed to assist the orchestra to purchase new instruments, repair old instruments, purchase music and educational materials. This may also be used to raise money for special events and trips. Keep in mind that fundraising is not mandatory, but it is highly encouraged since everyone uses school equipment and supplies.

C. GROOMING: Student musicians who wear long or acrylic fingernails cannot be successful as musicians on a string instrument. Playing any of the string instruments requires the musician to use his or her fingertips on both hands. The end result is that the student with long fingernails or acrylic nails will not be able to progress properly and the student's technique will be severely hampered. Fingernails that are too long create a physical restriction to musical growth and development. Because of this, the student's weekly evaluation grade and any playing tests grades will be lowered. No student with long fingernails or acrylic nails will be allowed to perform under any circumstances. If there are questions about length, please contact Ms. Styskel. The parent of students who are involved in a special family gathering, special birthday, bat mitzvah, wedding, prom, homecoming or any such special function may request an exception to the above policy.

D. PRIVATE LESSONS: **This school year private lessons will be offered virtually through CCISD if desired.* Although not required, private lessons give students the opportunity to get more individualized attention on their instrument. With individualized instruction, a student can build the technical skills necessary to become a very proficient performer both soloistically and orchestrally. It's amazing to see what students can accomplish with private lessons! Every student in the League City Intermediate program is encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to study privately. You can obtain a list of teachers from the directors; please ask us for more information.

E. ORCHESTRA WEB SITE: Please visit www.lcisorchestra.com for any information about our program, including our updated events and Google Calendar.

F. ORCHESTRA TRIPS: These are fun opportunities for the top orchestras to enjoy both educational and recreational activities outside the classroom. ***These trips are considered a privilege and must be earned by the students.*** A trip will only be scheduled if the directors feel that the students have been working to their potential both musically and behaviorally for the entire year. Students who wish to participate in this activity must have a good academic and citizenship record in every class. **Students must earn passing grades and satisfactory behavior EVERY NINE WEEKS.** Students who do not meet these requirements, have shown a record of discipline problems, have missed any required orchestra activities or owe money to the orchestra will not be allowed to participate. **All decisions about the trip are at the discretion of the directors.** Trips are usually scheduled in the spring. Policies regarding travel will be given out prior to any trip.

VII. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Your decision to provide your child with a quality education in music is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity and achievement. Numerous studies indicate that parental attitude, support and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With strong support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

A. BENEFITS

For the student, music participation enhances: Problem solving, Goal-Setting, Physical Coordination, Self-confidence and esteem, Poise, Teamwork, Self-expression, Memory skills, Concentration, and much more!

For the family, music participation offers opportunities for shared family experiences, including: musical event attendance, family music making, performing for, and with, family and friends, learning about the lives of composers and the cultural heritage of many civilizations, a sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family.

B. HOW YOU FIT IN

Always keep in mind that your support is an essential element in your child's success with music study.

Schedule Practice Times

Music achievement requires effort *over a period of time*. The time in orchestra rehearsal is limited. New concepts learned at school need daily personal practice time by your child at home in order for these new skills to be developed. You can help your child by:

- Providing a quiet place in which to practice
- Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible
- Scheduling a consistent daily time for practice
- Praising your child's efforts and achievements.

C. WHAT TO DO

To give your child the best possible support, you should:

- Remind your child to bring instrument and music to orchestra class
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including concerts and recitals
- Encourage your child to talk with you about classes
- Make sure your child's instrument is always well maintained
- Listen to your child practice, and acknowledge improvement
- Help your child build a personal music library
- Make certain that your child is on time for all school rehearsals and performances
- Encourage your child to make a commitment to his or her music studies
- If at all possible, obtain private lessons with a qualified instructor
- Get to know your child's teachers

D. WHAT TO AVOID

- Using practice as a punishment

- Insisting your child play for others when he/she doesn't want to
- Ridiculing or making fun of mistakes of less-than-perfect playing

E. TO MAINTAIN YOUR CHILD'S INTEREST

- Talk with your child if his or her interest begins to decline
- Increase your enthusiasm and involvement in your child's playing

F. PARENT VOLUNTEERS and CHAPERONES: The orchestra is always looking for parents to help with fundraisers, concerts, receptions, uniforms, video taping, etc. If you are available to volunteer, please sign up for our new "String Squad" at Parent Night, or send us an email of interest. All parent volunteers all year must have cleared the CCISD volunteer database available at:

Important: Should there ever be any doubt in your mind about any phase of your child's participation in the orchestra program, we are always willing to talk with you. Feel free to call, set up a meeting, or e-mail anytime!

VIII. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>EVENT:</u>	<u>LOCATION:</u>
October	31	Sym/Chamber Region Recording Window begins online at 10am
November	4	Sym/Chamber Region Recording Window ends at 11:59pm
	7	Sym/Chamber- Region Recordings Judged (no student obligation)
December	8	Orchestra Winter Concert
	10	LCIS Elementary School Tour Sym/Cham
	12	Orchestra Winter Party @ Main Event
		LCIS at 7pm
		Field Trip during School
		Main Event 10am-2pm
January	11-25	Rock A Thon Fundraiser
	15	8 th Graders Visit the High School Orchestras
	21	WAVE 5 th Grade Visit Concert- Sym/Cham
	25	LCIS 5 th Grade Visit Concert- Sym/Cham
	29	Rock A Thon Party
February	6	Solo and Ensemble
	19	Philharmonic Workshop
	26	Symphony/Chamber Workshop
		Sym 4:30pm-6:30pm
		Chamber 2:35pm-4:20pm
March	6	PreUIL at CFHS for Phil/Sym/Chamber
	30	UIL Festival for Philharmonic during School
	31	UIL Festival for Symphony & Chamber during School
April	8	Orchestra Instrument Fitting Night for New Students
	12	Ice Cream Social Night
	17	Orchestra Spring Trip *Phil/Sym/Chamber
	20	CCISD Beginning Orch Festival* Tentative (Beg Orch Only) CSHS After School
	29	Orchestra Awards Night
May	3	Orchestra Spring Concert
	21	End of Year Party
	25	NEW Chamber Member Parent Meeting (Required)

Bolded Items are Graded Concerts

More events may be announced with as much warning as possible! Please be sure we have your email.

Questions? Directors: Sara Styskel sstyskel@ccisd.net 281-284-3494
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