

Barbara Bush Middle School Orchestra Handbook 2017-2018

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Director

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MISSION STATEMENT:

The Bush Orchestra Program will offer students the opportunity to explore, display, test, evaluate, and refine their musical talents based on their individual development. The orchestra will also provide opportunities for successful student self-expression and personal growth as artists, citizens, life-long learners, and foster community-parental support through school and district-wide performances.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- I. Music literacy in elements of rhythmic values, notation, music symbols, dynamics, key signatures, and terminology.
- II. The ability to work cooperatively with others for the success of the ensemble.
- III. Knowledge of a wide variety of orchestral literature.
- IV. Respect for and proper use of equipment.
- V. Personal discipline and confidence in the student's abilities, as well as responsible and dependable behavior.
- VI. Respect for others, loyalty to the ensemble, and a proud representative of the organization.

STUDENT CONDUCT/EXPECTATIONS:

Orchestra members will observe all policies set forth by Barbara Bush Middle School. Any policy violation occurring during an orchestra activity will follow punishment procedures as outlined in the Bush Student Handbook. In addition, students must observe the following:

1. Enter the orchestra room calmly, quietly and courteously.
 2. All books and binders not needed for rehearsal should be left underneath the student's assigned seat.
 3. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in their proper chair and ready to rehearse when it is the designated time to start the class period.
 4. Students need to check the daily agenda written on the board each day so they can get their materials in order.
 5. Students will not play instruments while Ms. Phillips is giving instructions, nor will they play on other students' instruments.
 6. The following materials are necessary every day: instrument, music binder, and a pencil.
 7. Absolutely no gum, food, or drinks will be allowed in the orchestra room.
 8. If your instrument is in the repair shop, please bring a note from home. Be sure to bring your music binder and a pencil because there may be a school instrument you can borrow. **Attendance at sectionals and rehearsals is still mandatory.**
 9. Respect the teacher, equipment, and furnishings in the orchestra room – leave the orchestra room neater than you found it.
 10. Use common sense, maintain a positive attitude always, and be proud of the Bush Orchestra.
- **Please remember, any behavior or discipline violation in orchestra class or **other classes** could result in losing the privilege of participation in fun activities!!!

2017-2018 Orchestra Calendar

Please mark your calendar for the following Orchestra Dates. Dates and times are subject to change. All changes and updates will be communicated by email, Remind101, and webpage.

A revised calendar will be sent out in January with any changes or additions to the second semester. You will be notified at least two weeks in advance for any changes in the calendar that have mandatory attendance.

Date	Time	Event	Location
August			
9/5/17		Orchestra Materials Due	Bush MS
9/5/17		Handbook Forms and Fees Due Bush Fine Arts Party Fee Due	Bush MS
September			
9/7/17	4:00-6:00 pm	Bush MS Fine Arts Party	Main Event
October			
10/13/17		Region Entry Form Due	Bush MS
10/16/17	6:30pm	Fall Orchestra Concert (All students)	Bush MS Cafeteria
10/20/17	5:00pm	Bush Bulldog Festival	Bush MS
November			
11/4/17	12:30pm	Bravo (6 th) Region Auditions	Lopez MS
11/10/17	8:30am	Veteran's Day Concerts (Honors only)	Bush MS
11/11/17	8:00am	Con Brio (7 th) Region Auditions	Tejeda MS
11/11/17	12:30pm	Concertino (8 th) Region Auditions	Tejeda MS
December			
12/1/17 and 12/2/17	TBA	Region Orchestra Clinic and Concert <i>For students who advanced past the region auditions in November</i>	Bush MS and Johnson HS
12/11/17	6:00pm	PTA Holiday Concert (Honors only)	Bush MS Gym
12/18/17	6:30pm	Holiday Orchestra Concert (all students)	Bush MS Cafeteria
12/20/17	6:30pm	Bush Cluster 5th Grade Strings Holiday Concert	Bush MS Gym
January			
1/22/18	TBA	Tour of Campuses (Honors only)	
1/23/18	TBA	Electives Fair (Honors only)	Bush MS
1/27/18	8:00am – 12:00pm	Fifth Grade Solo Contest	TBD
February			
2/23/18 and 2/24/18	TBA	MS Orchestra Pre-UIL Tape Clinic <i>For Symphony and Honor Orchestras ONLY</i>	Roosevelt HS
March			
3/1/18	7:00 pm	Orchestra Pre-UIL Concert <i>For Symphony and Honor Orchestras ONLY</i>	Bush MS

3/5/18 – 3/7/18	TBA	UIL Contest – Full Orchestra <i>Honor Orchestra Only</i>	Madison HS
3/12/18 – 3/16/18		Spring Break	
3/21/18 – 3/22/18	TBA	UIL Contest – String Orchestra <i>Symphony and Honor Orchestras ONLY</i>	San Marcos HS
April			
4/10/17		Solo and Ensemble Entry Forms Due	Bush MS
4/17/18	7:00pm	Evening With Strings (All students)	Blossom Athletic Center
4/27/18	TBA	Spring Trip to Fiesta Texas <i>Beginning/Adv. 6th Orchestras only</i>	
May			
5/3/18	6:30pm	Spring Orchestra Concert	Bush MS Cafeteria
5/6/17	All Day	MS Solo & Ensemble Contest	Driscoll MS
5/11/18 – 5/12/18	All Day	Spring Trip to DC Dallas Music Festival <i>Chamber/Symphony/Honors only</i>	
5/21/18 – 5/25/18	In class	Auditions for 2018-2019 school year!	Bush MS

ORCHESTRA CALENDAR/ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The 2016-2017 Bush Orchestra Calendar includes both required and optional performance opportunities. The required events are in bold print and will be for a grade. The events with a star (*) are extracurricular and students must be eligible to participate in these activities. Students in the Honors and Symphony Orchestras will be performing in the Pre-UIL Tape Clinic and the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest in March. It is essential that you be eligible for these events (see “Performance Policy and Eligibility.”)

Excused absences from required performances will be granted only in cases of genuine emergencies, illnesses, or a UIL event for another organization. If there is a scheduling conflict, a note from the parent must be submitted to Ms. Phillips in writing as soon as possible. “I did not have a ride” is NOT an excuse. Failure to attend a concert will result in a zero for a test grade. If a student has an unexcused absence for a performance, he or she will not be allowed in the Symphony or Honors orchestra for next year – in order for an ensemble to perform a higher level of music, every musician must show up!

Detailed information concerning rehearsals and concerts will be given out as an event approaches. Please mark these dates on your personal calendars and let Ms. Phillips know as soon as possible of any conflicts or concerns. Orchestra dates are subject to change and advance notice will be given of any changes.

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS:

If an unexcused absence has occurred, than the student has the opportunity to turn in a make-up assignment to supplement their missing grade. Please see Ms. Phillips for this assignment, and it must be completed and turned in within five school days.

PERFORMANCE POLICY AND ELIGIBILITY:

The orchestra performance year will include a Fall concert, a Winter concert, Evening with Strings, and a Spring concert. These concerts are considered by NEISD as **co-curricular** and a necessary culmination of the classroom activities and the TEKS for orchestra. **All students are required to attend these events regardless of academic standing.**

Students must remain eligible in **all** classes in order to participate in any **extracurricular** activities. (Students are eligible if all grades are 70 or above on report cards.) Extracurricular activities include: Region Orchestra, U.I.L Tape Clinic and Contest, NEISD Solo and Ensemble Contest, and Spring Trips. Under Texas Law, students who are failing one or more classes are ineligible to participate in extra-curricular events. This does not include co-curricular events. For example, a student failing a class would not be able to participate in an orchestra trip or UIL contest (extra-curricular), but would be required to participate in the Spring Concert (co-curricular).

It is very important that each student maintains passing grades in all classes in addition to orchestra! Failure to pass classes can have a negative effect on your section and the orchestra as a whole. Remember, we are a team, and we need everyone.

EXTRACURRICULAR PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

REGION ORCHESTRA

The Texas Music Educators Association sponsors an activity to honor outstanding middle school orchestra students from all of Region 12 which includes Alamo Heights ISD, North East ISD, Comal ISD, and San Marcos ISD. Members of the Region Orchestra are selected based on an audition of prepared music. There is a \$10.00 entry fee required to participate in the audition. This is an excellent performance opportunity.

NEISD SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

The NEISD sponsors a middle school Solo and Ensemble Contest each year. Students at this contest perform solo and/or ensembles for a judge and have the opportunity to earn medals for their performances. There is a \$5.00 fee for ensembles and a \$5.00 entry fee for solos. All solos will have a \$25 accompanist fee.

U.I.L ORCHESTRA CONCERT AND SIGHTREADING CONTEST

This is not a competition with other orchestras, but our chance to show what our orchestra is capable of. Each group in attendance will prepare and perform three songs for the contest. Immediately following that performance the orchestra will be asked to sight read a piece of music. In each case 3 judges will assign the orchestra a rating of one through five with one being the highest. An overall rating will be assigned for each category according to the judges' individual rating. An orchestra that receives a one in both categories is awarded a "Sweepstakes" trophy. All schools in Region 12 are eligible to participate in this contest. Extra rehearsals and sectionals are necessary to prepare for this contest. Selected 7th, and 8th graders will be participating in this contest.

LONE STAR MUSIC SHOWCASE

The orchestra is currently planning the annual trip to Dallas to participate in the Lone Star Showcase of Music. This trip will take place in May pending all necessary approvals and funding. Please note that the trip may be cancelled at any time by the director, principal, or superintendent. Students in the Honors, Symphony, and Chamber orchestras will be allowed to go provided they meet the following requirements:

- The student maintains a 70 or above average in orchestra for each progress report and report card through the end of April.
- The student must meet eligibility requirements for the third nine weeks grading period.
- The student cannot be sent to the office by Ms. Phillips or substitute during the year.
- The student must not have an unexcused absence to any concert he or she is expected to perform.
- Any student suspended, sent to BMC, ISS, or SRC by any teacher or administrator during the year will not attend the trip.

FIESTA TEXAS

The students in Advance and Beginning Orchestras will be taking a trip to Fiesta Texas pending all necessary approvals and funding. Students in either of these orchestras will be allowed to go provided they meet the same requirements outlined for the Lone Star Showcase of music (see above).

GRADING POLICY:

Orchestra is a PERFORMING ARTS CLASS! I ask that parents take into consideration the sectional days, contest days, and extra rehearsal days when scheduling appointments, trips, etc. Grades will be determined by a combination of the following factor:

- I. Homework (20 %)
 - This includes practice records or written assignments.
 - *Practice records will be turned in each Friday unless the Friday is a holiday. In the preceding situation the Practice record will be due the Monday immediately following the Holiday. After the original due date there will be a 10 % deduction. **Practice records which do not have the students name, date and are not signed by a parent will not be accepted.***
- II. Concerts = (20%)
 - This includes concerts, contests, and other performances outside of class. We take attendance and punctuality into consideration.
 - *In the NEISD Manual of Instruction on page 6 it states that, “while performance is not the only consideration for a final grade, it is a legitimate part of the total grade. If a performance is the culminating activity based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills so stated in the lesson plans, a grade may be given for participation or non-participation as the case may be. Extenuating circumstances should be considered for missed performances.”*
- III. Sectionals and Rehearsals = (10%)
 - Students in Honors and Symphony may have rehearsals before or after school for clinics, or preparation for performances and competitions. Excused absences will be granted on an individual basis and only in the case of extreme circumstances. **Excused absences must be approved at least one day in advance.**
- IV. Playing Tests = (20%)
 - This will include live playing tests, written tests and completing objectives. Some specific after-school rehearsals may count as a test grade. The students will be informed well in advance of these specific rehearsals. Attendance to all co-curricular performances is mandatory. If a student is on time with their instrument, all other required materials, and in the correct uniform, a 100 will be given as a grade for the performance. A medical emergency or an extreme crisis will be excused with a note from a parent.
- V. Class Participation = (30%)
 - This includes having your instrument and supplies, being on time to class, and actively participating in rehearsal and student discussions. A positive attitude and a desire to learn are crucial to the success of our program! A grade will be given each week based on your participation in class.

PRACTICE CARDS:

Sinichi Suzuki once said that we only practice on the days we eat! Playing your instrument outside of school helps reinforce the concepts taught during class, and will help you improve both your left hand and right hand techniques.

Practice records will be turned in each Friday and a new one passed out. If the Friday is a holiday, the Practice record will be due the Monday immediately following the holiday (like Good Friday and Battle of Flowers Holiday). After the original due date there will be a 20 % deduction. **Practice records which do not have the students name, date and are not signed by a parent will not be accepted.**

Beginning, Advanced Beginning, and Chamber Orchestras will be required to practice 100 minutes a week, or 20 minutes a day for 5 days, to receive a 100 on your practice card. Symphony and Honors Orchestras will be required to practice 150 minutes a week, or 30 minutes a day for 5 days. Extra credit will be awarded to students who practice beyond the normal requirements. Students may also practice additional minutes to make up a late practice card grade. (Twenty extra minutes = twenty points, etc.)

Written or verbal notice from the parent is required to excuse a student from practice. Students will be excused only when the student is ill, the instrument is in the shop, there is a family emergency, or another unusual circumstance as approved by the director.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during orchestra class! If a student is seen playing on their phone during rehearsal, it will “go to jail” and remain in “phone jail” until the end of class. After this occurs three times, the student’s phone will be taken to the front office, where the parent will have to pick it up. Students will be allowed to use their phones in class only at the instruction of Ms. Phillips, for academic purposes.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

Instruments are available to rent from several music stores around San Antonio. Listed below are recommended stores to visit for quality instruments:

MUSIC STORES

Alamo City Strings

12255 West Avenue
210-341-0500

Antonio Strad Violins

10288 San Pedro, Suite 2
210-349-9788

Terra Nova Violins

6983 Blanco Road
210-349-4700

SUPPLIES:

Students will need the following supplies, which can also be purchased from the music stores listed above:

1. Pencils!!
2. Rosin
3. Shoulder rest (violin/viola)
4. Rock stop (cello/bass)
5. *Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1* (Beginning 6th/7th and Advanced 6th)
6. *Essential Elements for Strings, Book 2* (Chamber, Symphony)
7. *Essential Elements for Strings, Book 3* (Honors)

INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE FEE

Students who play the cello and bass do not need to bring their instrument to school for rehearsal! There are enough NEISD celli and basses in the Bush Orchestra Room to use. This will keep your nice instrument safe, and it will only be needed for concerts and contests. As a result, there is a mandatory **\$30 instrument maintenance fee for all cello and bass students.** This fee will pay for broken strings and other repairs the instruments might need.

UNIFORM

Every student in the Bush Orchestra program will pay a **\$20 uniform fee.** For Beginning and Advanced Orchestras, it will pay for an orchestra polo shirt. For Chamber, Symphony, and Honors, it will pay for the maintenance of your formal uniforms. There will be a uniform day in September for students to try on and pick up the correct uniform for the school year. After the Spring Concert, Chamber, Symphony, and Honors students will turn in their uniforms and Ms. Phillips will have them professionally dry cleaned.

BEGINNING AND 6th GRADE ADVANCED UNIFORM:

- Polo Orchestra Shirt (purchased from the Orchestra) \$20
- Black dress pants (NO JEANS)
- Black dress shoes (NO OPEN TOED SANDALS)
- Black socks, hose or knee highs

HONORS, SYMPHONY AND CHAMBER:

- Formal uniform (rented from the school) \$20
- White Tuxedo Shirt with bow tie (you can purchase these at Michael's or Hobby Lobby)
- Black Dress Shoes (NO OPEN TOED SANDALS)
- Black socks, hose or knee highs
- More specific information regarding this will be sent home at a later date.

ORCHESTRA PROGRAM FEE:

Most successful orchestra programs in other areas use an orchestra program fee to provide extra educational instruction/tools to support the musical growth of the orchestra program. The Bush orchestra program fee is **\$30.00 per student.** This fee is used to purchase new music, supplies, hire clinicians, cover some contest fees, and pay for the orchestra spirit t-shirt. This fee is mandatory for all members that are in the Bush Orchestra program; however, this fee will not be a deciding factor on whether a student will be in the orchestra program. If there is a financial concern about the orchestra program fee please contact the orchestra director in order to make payment arrangements.

BLACK BOX:

Please put checks and cash in a sealed envelope, and write the following on the front:

Student Name
Amount
What the money is for
Date

This envelope will be placed in the secure money box mounted on the wall, to the left of Ms. Phillips' door. It is labeled "THE BOX." Please do not put unlabeled money in Ms. Phillips' hand, she will not remember what it is for! ☺

A note from Ms. Phillips –

Welcome to another exciting year at Bush Middle School! I look forward to teaching you, practicing with you, and watching you grow as musicians, students, and leaders. You represent the best and the brightest, because you are willing to go above and beyond the normal school experience by taking the time to learn an instrument. Being a musician involves dedication and commitment, enthusiasm, patience, passion, and most importantly, love for what you do. I have tremendous respect for you and your membership in this program, and I am very proud to be your Orchestra Director!

Mallory Phillips
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Want to stay informed? Join the Orchestra Remind101!

Text the message @bushorc to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @bushorc to (856) 347-4161.



Bush Middle School Orchestra

Guidelines and Rules Acceptance Form
(Required by the N.E.I.S.D)

Parents, please return this form to Ms. Phillips during the first week of school. It will be placed in the student's orchestra permanent file for the school year.

I have read the Orchestra Handbook and understand the information and guidelines given.

Student Name (PRINT): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____