



Jordan High School Orchestra

“Excellence Lives Here”

27500 Fulshear Bend Dr., Fulshear, Texas 77441

www.jordanorchestra.org



MONTHLY MUSIC NOTES

September 2020

REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION*

Please remember the following requirements as you prepare to return to in-person orchestra classes:

- 1) **Violin & Viola players must purchase and bring their own combination padlock for their locker.**
- 2) **Violin & Viola players must carry their instrument to and from school each day. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- 3) **Cello & Bass players must pay \$80 instrument usage fee. Please make check payable to 'Katy ISD'.**
- 4) All students must bring their **three ring 1-inch black orchestra binder, 3-ring pencil bag, pencils, and required method books** to and from class each day.
- 5) **Please download the Tonal Energy app on your iPhone or Android device** to use as tuner/metronome.
- 6) **No gum, food, or drink in the orchestra room.**
- 7) **Social distancing and masks are required.**
- 8) Students must **wipe down their chair and music stand before and after class.**
- 9) Please make sure that you have **spare set of strings in your violin and viola case.**
- 10) Bring your own **rosin, shoulder rest, rock stop, and cleaning cloth** to wipe down your instrument.
- 11) **Please label all your belongings. Have a travel tag on your instrument case.**

**Students will earn daily participation points (as outlined in the orchestra handbook) for adhering to these guidelines as well as bringing the correct supplies and materials to class every day.*

KVA

Because of scheduling issues, KVA students will NOT receive live Zoom instruction from Mr. Butz during the school day. **KVA orchestra students are taught asynchronously.** I will continue to provide KVA students weekly lesson modules and practice materials via Canvas. KVA students will still receive regular assignments for grades. KVA students are responsible for submitting all assignments and playing tests on time.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Grading procedures are listed in our orchestra handbook which is posted at www.jordanorchestra.org

Please double-check that you have all the required supplies (listed below) and method books (listed below) in order to achieve success in orchestra.

Grades are updated frequently in Home Access Center. Please bear in mind that grades do not automatically sync with Canvas so there will always be a slight delay in HAC grade reporting.

Any student who is earning less than a 90% average in orchestra on the September 8th progress report is most likely...

- 1) ...Failing to meet assignment deadlines and/or not properly reading directions; and/or
- 2) ...“Ghosting” the class: (Teacher can see that the student looks at Canvas requirements but the student does not turn in any homework or routinely turns in assignments late); and/or
- 3) ...Without the correct materials and therefore unable to participate in class; and/or
- 4) ...Not practicing correctly as outlined in the Canvas module; and/or
- 5) ...Unable to meet the playing level expectations for their current level orchestra and, therefore, will need to practice smarter at home, work on orchestra material with a private teacher (if not already doing so), and/or perhaps move down an orchestra level that is more musically appropriate for the student if the student continues to demonstrate major struggle with playing exams.

If students find themselves in any of the above situations, the good news is that they can get back on track and do better with participating correctly going forward! Let's all commit to staying on top of our practice obligations and submitting online assignments on-time!

ORCHESTRA \$150 ACTIVITY FEE DUE

The Jordan Orchestra course activity fee is \$150. This fee is for every student regardless whether the student is in-person or KVA. As stated in our orchestra handbook, this fee helps pay for the course materials, music, and sectional coaches that will work with our students throughout the year. **Every student who is enrolled in Jordan Orchestra must pay this fee. You will pay this fee in the Katy ISD PayNGo system.** Please email Mr. Butz if you need to arrange a payment plan: kareltbutz@katyisd.org

ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK

The Jordan Orchestra Handbook is posted on our website: www.jordanorchestra.org Please read it to familiarize yourself with the policies, procedures, grading, and expectations for the year.

GOT PRIVATE LESSONS?

Private lessons allow one-on-one attention to musical detail and technique. Jordan musicians to are strongly encouraged to please actively pursue private lessons (most are offering virtual lessons) in order to receive guidance at the individual level. Mr. Butz will send a separate email with recommended private teachers in the greater Houston area for your convenience.

CALENDAR UPDATE

All in-person Jordan after-school rehearsals and concerts are postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.

REGION & ALL-STATE

TMEA Region and All-State auditions will occur this year in a virtual setting. Students who earn a position in either orchestra will receive recognition and receive their Region/State patch. However, in-person rehearsals and concerts for both Region and All-State are canceled this year due to COVID-19.

JORDAN ORCHESTRA REQUIRED METHOD BOOKS

You can order these method books online or by visiting one of the local string specialist shops (Lisle Violin, Sam's Strings, Katy Violin). By now, every student should have their own method book.

<i>Camerata</i>	<i>Essential Elements Book 2, (Hal Leonard)</i> <i>Essential Technique for Strings, (Hal Leonard)</i> <i>Habits of a Successful Middle Level String Musician, (GIA Publications)</i>
<i>Philharmonia</i>	<i>Essential Technique for Strings, (Hal Leonard)</i> <i>Habits of a Successful Middle Level String Musician, (GIA Publications)</i> <i>Essential Elements Advanced Technique for Strings, (Hal Leonard)</i>
<i>Lyrice</i>	<i>Essential Technique for Strings, (Hal Leonard)</i> <i>Essential Elements Advanced Technique for Strings, (Hal Leonard)</i> <i>Habits of Successful String Musician, (GIA Publications)</i>
<i>Sinfonia</i>	<i>Essential Elements Advanced Technique for Strings, (Hal Leonard)</i> <i>Habits of Successful String Musician, (GIA Publications)</i>

JORDAN ORCHESTRA REQUIRED COURSE SUPPLIES

Please visit shops that specialize in string repair and maintenance. Lisle Violin Shop, Sam's Strings, and Katy Violin Shop are local stores that can assist with new strings and bow repairs.

INSTRUMENT

Correctly sized

Good condition

Wood bow or Coda bow recommended

Mute

Rosin

Good quality strings on instrument: Red Label or generic label strings are not allowed. Higher quality string brands such as Dominant, Pirastro, Evah Pirazzi, Larsen, etc. are preferred.

BINDER

1" Black Binder (with pockets)
Three Ring Pencil Bag (pouch)
#2 Pencils

TUNER & METRONOME

KORG TM-60 with tuner clip
Download the for-purchase App "Tonal Energy" (for Android and iOS)

SHOULDER REST

For violin and viola students only

ROCK STOP & BASS STOOL

For cello and double bass players only

COMBINATION PADLOCK

Violin and viola students must provide their own combination padlock in order to secure their instrument in their locker at school. Be prepared to provide Mr. Butz with your padlock combination on the first day of class.

SOFT CLEANING CLOTH

Cleaning cloth to wipe off rosin dust and human sweat on instrument.

FOLDING MUSIC STAND

Collapsible wire or Manhasset-style music stand used for practicing at home.

REGION & ALL-STATE AUDITION MATERIALS

All-Region and All-State etudes are now available via the Texas Music Educators Association website:
<https://www.tmea.org/divisions-regions/orchestra/audition-material/etudes>

For your convenience, there is a link to the Region and All-State audition information on Jordan orchestra's website as well. Students are responsible for purchasing the etude books (you can purchase these etude books at local string stores or online). Please begin to work slowly and carefully on these etudes with your private lesson teacher. The Region and All-State auditions are competitive, so begin to work on these audition requirements now. In general, I am more concerned about the learning process than the outcome of the audition. I want students to pursue these auditions with a positive mindset and learn to become a better musician rather than focus solely on competition.

All TMEA auditions will be virtual this year because of COVID-19. Mr. Butz will provide more information about the specific deadlines for submitting auditions.

REMIND TEXT ALERT

Find your orchestra code (@...) and then text the code in your message to 81010:

Camerata: @jhcamerata

Philharmonia: @jhphil

Lyrical: @jhlyrica

Sinfonia: @jhsinfonia

FOLLOW JORDAN ORCHESTRA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: *@jordanorchestra*

Instagram: *@jordanhsorch*

Twitter: *@jordanhsorch*

JORDAN ORCHESTRA WEBSITE

www.jordanorchestra.org

JORDAN ORCHESTRA'S MANTRA & VISION

Mantra

"Excellence Lives Here" is Jordan High School Orchestra's mantra. Jordan musicians will always exhibit excellent work ethic, character, responsibility, integrity, and musicianship.

Vision

Our vision for every Jordan orchestra musician is to create a lifelong love and enjoyment in creating music. All Jordan orchestra musicians will receive a string education that covers a solid foundation in music theory, aural skills, music history, and diverse orchestral repertoire. Jordan High School will serve as a model of an exemplary orchestral program as evidenced by its superb musicianship and excellent character among its musicians and director.

EXCELLENCE LIVES HERE