


Beckendorff Orchestras

Mr. Butz, Head Director
Ms. Clement, Assistant Director



Orchestra Handbook
2019-2020

www.beckendorfforchestras.org

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Welcome!

Welcome to an exciting year of making music at Beckendorff Junior High School! As you read through this handbook, you will learn about classroom procedures, expectations, concert performances, grading, and other important information contributing to a successful year in orchestra. Whatever your musical taste and regardless your ability level, there is a place here for you. Let's have an awesome year of creating music together!

The Katy ISD is proud to offer a comprehensive music program that includes string instruction from grades 6-12. Beckendorff Orchestras are a vital segment of the music curriculum. It is expected that members of the Beckendorff Junior High Orchestras will exhibit the highest possible standards in the following areas:

- 1) Responsibility 2) Commitment 3) Dependability 4) Music Excellence

The Beckendorff orchestral program is recognized at the national and international level having been named the Texas State Honor Orchestra Finalists, National Honor Orchestra Winners, 2012 TMEA Full Orchestra State Champions, 2019 TMEA String Orchestra State Champions, and performing at the prestigious 2011 & 2015 Midwest Clinic in Chicago. Our standard of excellence is extremely high and we are proud of all our accomplishments!

Philosophy

What Beckendorff offers in Orchestra

As a member of the Beckendorff Junior High Orchestras, you will receive unique and special opportunities to improve and learn new string playing skills along with friends. Participation in the orchestra program allows you to grow musically, socially, and culturally. You will work hard in class so that your orchestra can be rewarded with positive concert experiences. Throughout the year, you will participate in several exciting performances that will allow you as musician to say something to an audience—to communicate with emotions! In addition to performing at concerts and UIL (University Interscholastic League) Contests, you have the exciting opportunity to study privately with an expert string teacher, play solo and chamber music, perform at music festivals, receive specific instruction during sectionals, learn some music theory, and develop listening skills. Throughout the year, we will have some fun orchestra socials, too.

What the Student brings to Orchestra

The success of our orchestra program is dependent upon the contributions of each member. Make every effort to do your best in orchestra! There will be a non-judgmental atmosphere in class—meaning that musical mistakes are treated as pieces of neutral information. Compete only with yourself. All members are here to learn. Support your fellow students with encouragement and a positive attitude!

What the Parent brings to Orchestra

Parents play an integral role in the success of our orchestral program as well. Parents can be sure that everyone understands the expectations and important dates by reading through the orchestra handbook, discussing it with the orchestra member, and reviewing it during the school year. Concert attendance in the listening audience encourages a student's success. Children enjoy showing their musical skills by performing for parents and friends, and parents enjoy listening to improving musical performances where they can notice improvement and admire their child's hard work knowing that their investment in quality instruments and private lessons is beneficial.

School Orchestras

Students are placed in the ability-based orchestras during elective periods. Attendance at outside-of-the-school-day rehearsals and performances are requirements of many of these classes. Specific calendars of rehearsal and performance are available from the orchestra director for each level of orchestra. Calendars are distributed at the beginning of the school year and updated as needed. Placement is by performance criteria established by the director on each campus and may include an audition.

First Year Orchestra (FYO): Beginning level. Grade 6-8. Full year.

No previous experience is required for entry into beginning strings. Students are taught the basic skills of playing an instrument and music reading. Instrument care is also emphasized. Students are placed on instruments by recommendation of the director. A personal interview of the student and parents is conducted. Every effort is made to honor the request of the student. Each director tries to place students on instruments that provide the best opportunity for the individual success of the student and to balance the instrumentation of the orchestra program. The students perform 3-4 concerts per year. Some after school rehearsals are required to prepare the concerts. Students also participate in the FYO Solo Recitals during spring semester.

Camerata Orchestra: Sub Non-Varsity B. Grades 6-8. Full year.

Camerata may compete at the UIL Contest. Solo/Ensemble participation is strongly encouraged. The students perform 3-4 concerts per year. Camerata students are encouraged to take part in the Spring trip. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. Before school sectionals are required.

Philharmonia Orchestra: Sub Non-Varsity A. Grades 6-8. Full year.

Philharmonia competes at the UIL Contest. Solo/Ensemble participation is strongly encouraged. The students perform 3-4 concerts per year. Philharmonia students are encouraged to take part in the Spring trip. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. Before school sectionals are required.

Sinfonia Orchestra: Non-Varsity. Grades 6-8. Full year.

Sinfonia competes at the UIL Contest. Solo/Ensemble participation is required. Students in Sinfonia may audition to become a member of the Symphony Orchestra. Students are encouraged to learn All-Region etudes. The students perform 3-4 concerts per year. Sinfonia students are encouraged to take part in the Spring trip. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. Before school sectionals are required.

Honor Orchestra: Varsity. Grade 6-8. Full year.

Honor Orchestra is the top-performing string ensemble and competes at the UIL Contest. Symphony Orchestra participation (full orchestra) is required. Solo/Ensemble participation is required. Students are required to learn All-Region etudes and expected to participate in the All-Region auditions. The students perform 4-6 concerts per year. Honor Orchestra students are encouraged to take part in the Spring trip. Honor Orchestra regularly competes in the State & National Honor Orchestra competition in addition to other festivals. Private lesson enrollment is expected. Before school sectionals are required. This orchestra regularly travels to perform around the state and nation.

Symphony (Full Orchestra): By Audition Only. Grade 6-8. Full year.

The Symphony Orchestra is our full orchestra. Weekly rehearsals and sectionals are required in order to prepare for concerts. Honor Orchestra members are automatically in the Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Butz may audition or invite students in other performing orchestras to participate in the Symphony Orchestra.

Auditions and Placement

Every orchestra player is an important team member! All students will rotate seating during preparation for a concert. Students should expect to change seating and sections (violins are divided into two sections) throughout the course of the year. Once concert time approaches, principal players and section seating will be determined based on several factors including audition, classroom behavior, orchestra grades, and leadership ability. Where a player sits does not determine his/her personal worth. Region Honor Orchestra placement does not determine Beckendorff orchestra placement. No complaints about seating or orchestra placement will be entertained by the directors.

Auditions for next year's placement in the performing orchestras formally occur during spring semester. Orchestra placement is based on the following: playing ability, student behavior, orchestra grades, sectional and concert attendance, and the director's recommendation. **In short, a student's musical ability, behavior, and class participation demonstrated throughout the year serves as his or her audition for next year's placement.** Orchestra placement is at the sole discretion of the orchestra director. Placement results are final. Complaining about results and/or bullying the director about orchestra placement will not be tolerated or entertained at any time.

Equipment

The following will be expected of all orchestra members:

- 1) Personal instruments (violins/violas) and binders should be placed in your storage area. After class, all instruments should be completely packed (end pins in and bows loosened) and stored in their assigned areas for safekeeping.
- 2) All instruments are to be in good playing condition. Proper maintenance is required. Leaving your instrument at the repair shop is not a valid reason for lack of an instrument. Most shops will provide a "loaner" instrument while yours is being repaired.
- 3) Students are expected to have rosin, shoulder rests, rock-stops, cloths, sharpened pencils, good strings, etc. Cellos and basses should always have rock-stops.
- 4) All instruments kept in the orchestra room during the day **MUST** have the student's name clearly printed on a name badge on the outside of the case.
- 5) Students are to purchase replacement strings immediately following a string breaking. In an emergency, strings may be bought at school but must be paid for within 24 hours after receiving one. **Lisle Violin, Sam's Strings, and Katy Violin shops can arrange to bring supplies (like strings) you purchase to school for no extra charge.** We highly encourage this practice as it saves time.

Instrument Information

PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS: It is highly recommended that all instruments be covered by the parent's homeowner's or renter's insurance. If coverage of the instrument on the policy proves to be cost prohibitive, there is a specific insurance available for a very reasonable premium.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS: All students using Katy ISD owned cellos, basses, and harp must pay a \$80 maintenance fee. Payments will be made online through a Katy ISD computer system. **More information about this process will be given at the start of the year.** This fee is minimal but necessary in order to keep the district's instruments in proper playing condition for many years to come. Students who do not pay this mandatory instrument fee will NOT be allowed to use school district equipment.

Repairs

String instruments are fragile. Keep your instrument in good repair. Carry extra strings in your case. Have your bow rehaired at least once a year. Instruments should not be put in repair without first being inspected by the directors. Typically, minor adjustments can be made by the director which may eliminate a trip to the repair shop. The choice of the repairman for school owned instruments is at the discretion of the director. Please do not attempt to repair the instrument yourself. Realize that neglecting a repair may lead to long term damage and depreciation in the value of your instrument.

Checklist of Course Materials

1. INSTRUMENT

- Correctly sized
- Good Condition
- Brazil wood bow recommended
- Rosin
- **Good quality strings on instrument:
*Red Label strings are not allowed. Pro Arte or better for Camerata/Philharmonia violin/viola.
Dominant or better for Sinfonia/Honor violin/viola*

2. BINDER

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

3. MUSIC BOOKS

First Year Orchestra (FYO)	Master Theory Book 1 Suzuki Book 1 (for correct instrument) Essential Elements 2000, Book 1
Camerata	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1, 2 & 3
Philharmonia & Sinfonia	Essential Elements 2000, Books 2 & 3 Advanced Technique for Strings
Honor Orchestra	Essential Elements 2000, Book 3 Advanced Technique for Strings

4. TUNER & CLIP

Korg TM-50 with tuning clip, other models must be approved by Mr. Butz.

5. SHOULDER PAD FOR VIOLINS and VIOLAS

"Loft" brand recommended. Sponge/foam pads are encouraged for all students.

6. A SOFT CLOTH

Cleaning cloth to wipe off rosin dust on instrument.

7. WIRE STAND

Collapsible wire music stand used for practicing at home.

8. ROCK STOP (for cello and bass only)

Cellos should use straps for their endpin. Basses should use Xeros endpin strap or "donut" model.

9. CONCERT DRESS

See Concert Dress section.

10. BECKENDORFF ORCHESTRA T-SHIRT

Informal Concert Performances (order form in early fall semester)

Concert Dress

Please adhere to these concert dress guidelines. **Please do not wear black athletic shoes or sandals/flip-flops. Please do not wear jewelry. Students who do not wear the appropriate concert attire will receive a grade letter reduction on their performance grade (Ex: 100% (A) would be lowered to an 85% (B)).**

Formal concert wear measurements will occur during school in August.

FORMAL CONCERT DRESS:

GIRLS: <i>FYO Orchestra</i>	BOYS: <i>FYO Orchestra</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long black skirt• White long-sleeved blouse• Black hose• Black dress shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black dress pants• White long-sleeved button up shirt• Black socks• Black dress shoes
GIRLS: <i>Camerata / Philharmonia / Sinfonia / Honor</i>	BOYS: <i>Camerata / Philharmonia / Sinfonia / Honor</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black formal dress• Black hose• Black dress shoes (closed toe, conservative heel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black Mandarin dress shirt• Black tuxedo pants• Black dress socks• Black dress shoes

INFORMAL CONCERT DRESS:

Beckendorff Orchestra T-shirt with blue jeans (no holes), tennis shoes. Orchestra T-shirts order forms will be available at the start of fall semester.

Behavior and Attitude Expectations

Participating in the Beckendorff orchestra program requires a high level of commitment and dedication from all participants. Orchestra members will follow these guidelines:

- They will show respect for one another by putting others first.
- They will think of themselves as artists and not only as students.
- They will avoid horseplay, gossip, and unnecessary socializing. Inappropriate social media groups regarding the orchestra members and/or directors will not be tolerated.
- They will carry themselves with pride by showing respect for their school and families that they represent and for one another socially and musically.
- They arrive to orchestra with spirits calmed and ready to make music. Low energy and apathy are not allowed in orchestra!
- They think positively and support their fellow orchestra members.
- They do not bring food, candy, gum, or beverages into our classroom to keep the room and valuable instruments clean and safe.
- They listen and respect the directors/conductors, or whomever is on the podium always. No cell phones during rehearsals and/or sectionals.
- They will wear the correct concert attire to performances. In addition, students will not talk during concerts or use cell phones during concerts.

Consequences for Misbehavior

- Receive a verbal warning & loss of daily participation points. Begin "Discipline Long Form".
- See the teacher after class.
- Talk to parents.
- Send to assistant principal.

Attendance

Orchestras are considered curricular performing groups, therefore its members are required to attend all rehearsals, after school sectionals/rehearsals, contests, and concerts. Apart from extreme cases (sickness, death in the family, etc.), students will not be excused from school concerts, events, and other performance venues. Students who do not attend a concert but are present during regular school hours on the day of and the day after the concert will receive a failing grade for the concert. Examples of unexcused absences among other things include birthday parties, lack of transportation, headache, attending a non-school sponsored activity, "forgetting", or try-outs for a non-graded extracurricular activity. Students must fill out and return the Orchestra Absence Form to Mr. Butz at least two weeks prior to a conflict. The Absence Form does not guarantee an excused absence. Notifying the director of a conflict on the day of a concert and/or scheduled rehearsal is unacceptable and will result in grade penalty. **NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED activities, teams, and organizations must not conflict in any way with the practice or performance schedule of the orchestra. Good communication between teacher, student, coach, and/or parents can prevent misunderstandings.**

Rehearsals

Each rehearsal will review learned material and introduce new learning. In order to make the most of rehearsal time, it is important that each student be in his/her seat with instrument, music, and pencil by time the tardy bell rings. Any student not prepared for rehearsal at the start of class will lose points from their daily participation grade.

Gum, food, or drink is not allowed in the orchestra room. The use of mobile phones or any other device of electronic communication is not considered acceptable rehearsal etiquette.

Students should focus all their attention on orchestra when rehearsals start. No outside class material may be used during our orchestra rehearsal time. When the director works with another section individually, the time may be used to review orchestra materials, play along with shadow bowing, or listen and help critique another section's improvement. Most of the suggestions made to one section of the orchestra apply to all players as well. So, using the opportunity to carefully listen to another section of the orchestra being rehearsed, and applying it to one's own playing, improves the total group.

Talking or displaying poor playing posture will not be tolerated during any rehearsal and will result in the loss of daily participation points.

Remember:

To be early is on time,
To be on time is late,
To be late is unacceptable.

Absences

Every before or after school rehearsal and performance is graded. Promptness is part of the grade as well. Your rehearsal grade will be lowered if you arrive late for rehearsal or concert.

- **Written notices from parents are required for all absences.** Verbal or written excuses from students are not acceptable. **Students must fill out the Absence Form which is available online or in class.**
- Advance notices are required for all prior commitments. A prior commitment is defined as an event already committed to before the orchestra time schedule is announced. **A notice of such a commitment should be sent to the director the next school day after a scheduled rehearsal or concert date is announced.** In the case of an unscheduled or extra rehearsal being called, each student is expected to make every attempt to attend. Conflicts with extra rehearsals are easily resolved with good communication.
- In the case of illness and/or family emergency, the parents should send a written notice or email to the orchestra director as soon as they are aware that such a situation exists. If it is an emergency it may be impossible to get in touch with anyone. In this case, please follow-up with a written note within four days after the fact. This is the only category where absences will be excused the same day, or after the event.
- Religious holidays or conflicts with individual religious beliefs are considered excused if the director is notified in writing by a parent before the scheduled date.
- All absences in the above categories, verified by parent note and Absence Form, will be considered excused.
- **Non-school sponsored activities will not be excused for any reason.**

Please communicate directly with Mr. Butz if there are individual, or unusual circumstances that pose a problem. Unexcused absences and tardiness affect the morale of the entire orchestra.

In order to encourage regular attendance at scheduled events, the following policies will take place.

- Any absence from rehearsal without a note from the parent/guardian as well as the student Absence Form will be considered unexcused, unless prior arrangements have been made with the director.
- Any unexcused absence will result in an immediate loss of chair rank within the section.
- Two unexcused absences for a series of rehearsals will result in the loss of performance privileges for the next performance event.
- Attendance at all scheduled performances for the year is mandatory – no exceptions.
- Failure to meet the attendance requirements for orchestra can result in a student losing the privilege of traveling with the orchestra on any extracurricular trips. Furthermore, a student may be demoted an orchestra level based on poor attendance record.
- Unexcused tardiness will result in the lowered grade for that rehearsal.

Sectionals

Sectionals are rehearsal times for specific groupings of students. Because the group is small, individual help is given to challenges in the music. Sectionals develop student confidence and contribute to better sounding music. Significant progress is made during sectionals. Sectionals are required for students in the performing orchestras. At times, playing tests will occur during sectional times. If a student is absent during a playing test during sectional time, he/she will perform the test before the entire orchestra during regular class time.

Students missing a sectional must fill-out the Absence Form prior to the sectional and/or after school rehearsal that they miss. In addition, students missing a sectional rehearsal for any reason will be required to bring their director a 40-minute recording of their practice time the next school day (day after the absence) to replace the missing grade. A late make-up sectional recording will result in a grade deduction per Katy ISD late homework policy guidelines. Advanced notice will be given via email and class website when a sectional day/time change is needed.

Sectional times/dates are posted on our class website and will be announced at least one week prior to rehearsals.

Private Lessons

All students are highly encouraged to study privately during the school year. Private lessons are essential in taking the steps to become a better and more solid musician. With private study, students receive individual attention that will help him/her with string techniques such as vibrato, shifting, intonation, tone production, and advanced bowings. Plus, private lessons are extremely fun as well since there is time to work on outside solos that can be performed for friends and family! Please contact Mr. Butz for further information regarding private lessons in Katy and the greater Houston area.

Private lessons are offered by the Katy ISD Fine Arts Program to instrumental music students that are interested. Most of the lessons run through a nearby high school. These teachers' dedication and service to our orchestra program is exemplary and worthy of your consideration. The Katy ISD private lesson rate is \$17 per 30-minute lesson to be paid directly to their teacher.

Contests

Only students in non-FYO orchestras can perform in an adjudicated contest during the year. The Katy ISD Solo Contest (which occurs in February) allows students to perform solos receive comments from a judge. Those who perform well, receive a medal of recognition.

The UIL (University Interscholastic League) Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation occurs in the latter part of the year and involves the performing orchestras. Additional after school rehearsals may be required in order to fully prepare for this important event.

All contest situations challenge students to prepare to the best of their musical ability. Contests are a wonderful way to work towards a long-term goal and receive additional guidance from music clinicians and adjudicators.

Region Honor Orchestra

Students may audition for the Region 23 Honor Orchestra which is made up of select junior high school musicians. Top players from area junior high schools rehearse and work with special guest conductors before the concert. This is an extreme honor and privilege for students who participate in this orchestra! Students in the performing orchestras wishing to audition will receive audition packets in August. Honor Orchestra students are required to learn the audition material as well as take the audition in October. Students who are not in the Honor Orchestra may request permission from Mr. Butz to audition for Region. The Region audition is not recommended for students in the FYO and Camerata orchestras. Students who audition for Region must commit to attending all scheduled Region rehearsals and performances.

Student Responsibilities

Let's have an awesome year of making music! Participating in the Beckendorff orchestras is an exciting and rewarding experience! Student loyalty and cooperation in orchestra are essential to having a successful and fun orchestra year. Student responsibilities include:

- Honoring commitments by paying attention to important dates and deadlines.
- Attending all rehearsals and concerts. Being early is the same as being on time.
- Doing his/her best always by coming to rehearsals and concerts with a mind focused on learning and making music.
- Being in his/her seat at the start of rehearsal (when the tardy bell rings) with music, pencil, and instrument ready.
- Practicing every day. This requires instruments to be taken home after school daily.
- Taking proper care of the instrument by wiping off rosin and loosening the bow after playing.
- Being courteous and supportive of fellow musicians by offering praise and uplifting comments or being silent rather than criticizing another's mistakes.
- Representing the school and community proudly with their best behavior when on field trips or at contests.
- Taking pride in our beautiful facilities by not bringing food, gum, or drink into the orchestra room.
- Communicating all conflicts in advance with the director, ***not*** on the day of the conflict.

Parent Responsibilities

The involvement of orchestra parents is crucial to the success of the orchestral program. These suggestions to parents will help the orchestra program to grow!

- Attend every concert to see your child's progress (The orchestra loves hearing parent applause!).
- Help your child find a quiet space in the house where he/she can practice every day for an uninterrupted period (typically 30 minutes a day).
- Help your child find the appropriate concert dress for performances.
- Help your child arrive on time to all orchestra concerts and events.
- Encourage your child with daily at-home practice.
- Volunteer and assist with orchestra activities throughout the year.
- Help your child care for his/her instrument. Strings may need replacement; a bow may need to be re-haired; etc. Quality instruments make string playing more enjoyable!
- Take time to read this handbook and any orchestra newsletters with your students noting all events.
- Create a personal calendar along with your child that will help anticipate future events and avoid schedule problems.
- Regularly check our class website and Remind alerts for announcements and updates.

Academic Eligibility

A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored/sanctioned by the school district during the six-weeks period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than 70% in any class on their report card. This ineligibility begins seven days after the end of the six-week period. Events affected by this state law would include orchestra contests, solo/ensemble contests, region orchestra, and any field trip performance where admission is charged. Ineligible students are required to participate in on-campus concerts where no admission is charged.

An ineligible student may regain eligibility seven days after the grading period ends or after the three-week evaluation period if all classes are passing with a grade of 70% or higher.

Spring Trip

Towards the end of each school year the Beckendorff Orchestras participate in an optional Spring Trip. To participate in this trip, you simply must sign-up and make payments before all deadlines. In addition, each student must maintain a standard of citizenship to be eligible to travel with the orchestra. **A student that has received a red discipline card or ISS at any point during the year will not be allowed to travel and will not receive a refund for any payments made. Also, a student must remain academically eligible to travel on any trip off campus (as stated in 'Academic Eligibility' section above) and will not receive a refund for any payments made.**

Practice Charts

All orchestra members are expected to practice outside of the classroom, maintain an accurate record of this practice time and submit it to their music director on a weekly basis. Practice charts account for 15% of the six-weeks grade. Any individual practice time at home, school, or elsewhere may be included on the practice record. Each practice record will be given out on the first day of every school week and is due on the first school day of the following week. No practice records will be accepted later than the second day of the current school week (school policy). Every instrument (violin and violas) is **required** to go home every day. Never leave your instrument at school overnight. Students who leave their instrument at school overnight will receive a reduction in their participation grade (-20 points for each day an instrument is left at school). The practice time requirements are as follows:

Minutes Practiced	Grade
180	100%
150	95%
120	90%
90	85%
50	70%
0 or not turned in	0%

Beckendorff Late Work Policy

Other & Minor Grades	Major Grades
1 Day Late = -20 Points	1 Day Late = -20 Points
2 Days Late = 0 Points	2 Days Late = -40 Points
	3 Days Late = 0 Points

Grading

The Katy ISD prescribed grading scale will be followed.

A	90-100	Excellent
B	80-89	Above average
C	75-79	Average
D	70-74	Below average
F	Below 70	Failure to meet acceptable standards

The orchestra grade is weighted and based on the following activities.

Activity	Weighted Percent	Description
Performance Grade (Major Grade)	50%	<p><u>Playing Tests:</u> Performs a passage or technical skill for the teacher demonstrating skill and improvement.</p> <p><u>Performances:</u> Participating in each concert and contest during the school year; Arrives on-time at "concert call time"; Stays for the entire concert; Wears appropriate concert attire; Appropriate behavior.</p> <p><i>Each concert penalty will lower the student's grade by one letter. For example: talking will lower the grade from 100% (A) to 85% (B). If another problem arises with the same student such as cell phone use, his/her grade will then be lowered to 75% (C). Students with severe discipline problems, even after receiving verbal warnings, will receive a zero, attend a parent/student/director/administrator conference, and will be required to sit with their parent at all future school concerts for the remainder of the academic school year.</i></p> <p>Two points will be deducted from the concert grade for every minute that a student is late to warm-up. For example: if the call-time is 6:30 p.m., and the student arrives at 6:42 p.m., the highest concert grade that the student can earn is an 76% (C).</p>
Daily Grade (Minor Grade)	35%	<p><u>Participation:</u> 100 participation points possible each week (20 pts./day). Points will be earned by the following: On time to rehearsal; Seated with pencil, music, and instrument at the tardy bell; No gum, food, drink; Alert and on-task during class; Respectful and polite to others; Attends scheduled after school sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts.</p> <p><i>Each class infraction will lower the student daily participation grade by 10 points. Unexcused absences for before-school rehearsals will result in a zero in the gradebook without any opportunity for make-up.</i></p> <p><u>Written Materials:</u> Completes daily worksheets, written quizzes and tests covering music theory, ear training, and music history assignments.</p>
Practice Chart (Other Grade)	15%	Turns in weekly practice chart on Monday to receive full credit.

Extra credit is awarded to students who attend classical orchestra, choir, band concerts throughout the year. Students must turn-in a concert program to receive extra credit. Mr. Butz has the final say on whether the concert is appropriate for extra credit. For example, attending a Coldplay concert is not appropriate for class credit. However, attending the Houston Symphony or Seven Lakes High School Symphony concerts are appropriate examples of events acceptable for receiving additional class credit.

2019-2020 'REMIND' TEXT ALERTS

We highly encourage all students and parents to join *Remind!* This is a text alert system that allows fast communication and important reminders for students and families. Your phone number is hidden when using this service. Standard text message rates do apply.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Text this number: 81010**
- 2) Find your class below and enter the code as your message.**

FYO VIOLIN

@bdjhviolin

FYO VIOLA

@bdjhviola

FYO CELLO

@bdjhcello

FYO BASS

@bdjhbass

CAMERATA

@bdjhcamera

PHILHARMONIA

@bdjhphilha

SINFONIA

@bdjhsinfon

HONOR

@bdjhonor

Example:

If you are in the Philharmonia, you will text the message '@bdjhphilha' to the number '81010'. You will receive an automatic confirmation stating that you have joined Mr. Butz's class.