



Paetow High School Orchestra

2023-2024

Mr. Tavilson, Orchestra Director

Dr. Kim, Assistant Orchestra Director

Office hours: Monday 3-5pm, Tuesday 7-8am, Thursday 2:30-3:30

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Course Description :

Each student in the orchestra is evaluated throughout the year utilizing the orchestra rubric based on the National Standards for Music Education. The rubric evaluates areas such as posture, bow control, vibrato, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, music knowledge, intonation, pitch accuracy, sight reading, and classroom preparation. These areas are used to help determine how to best group students by similar needs and ability as well as determining what areas of technique each student needs to improve to meet national standards.

Grading System

Each student will be awarded points based upon the following scale as per Katy ISD Fine Arts grading policy:

Each 6 weeks grade will be determined by the students' performance in:

| 50%: Major Grades |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written Tests• Playing Tests• Public Performances (including attire, punctuality, etiquette)• Performance Projects |

| 35%: Minor Grades |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written/playing quizzes• Rehearsal Etiquette• Concert preparation grades• Six weeks daily grade• Weekly Practice Journal |

| 15%: Other Grades |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supply Checks• Worksheets/Homework• Crew Requirement• Daily Participation |

Quizzes may be written or performance grades and are generally assigned 3-5 days before the due date. However, some quizzes may be unannounced (i.e. pop quiz in class).

Tests and exams will consist of an assigned excerpt from the orchestra repertoire or music assigned by the director. Graded evaluations will generally be given every other week and may be written, or performance based. In some cases, a playing quiz or exam may be assigned through Canvas/Charms for which you will submit a recording online. All other playing tests and exams will be in-class live performances. At the director's discretion, students will be asked to memorize excerpts and perform for a grade as well.

Concert performances will also be counted as Major grades. This grade encompasses the student's musical performance, as well as demonstration of proper concert etiquette (punctuality, proper uniform, audience behavior). Students who are not signed in by concert all time will lose three points per minute late. Students who are missing parts of their uniform will lose points from their grade for each missing component. Please note that no mobile devices are allowed in the concert space. Cellphones should be turned off and kept in instrument cases or in the orchestra room

with other belongings. If students are found in possession of mobile devices during a concert performance, thirty points will be deducted from their Concert grade. Excessive talking or inattentiveness to the performers on stage will also result in major point deduction from the Concert performance grade.

All quizzes, tests, and exams are announced well in advance. Last minute technical problems with online graded assignments will not be excused. Tests can be made up according to the following procedures:

Late Tests: For each day an assignment is late, 20 points will be deducted from the total score (out of a possible 100). If a student neglects to submit their test on time, they will be required to perform their test in front of the class on the following school day with a minimum deduction of 20 points. Students that choose not to complete an online evaluation (test, quiz, etc.) will receive an "I" for incomplete on their six weeks report card until the assignment is completed.

Retesting: For any performance-based exam, a student may schedule up to two retests if they score below a 90 (100-point scale). All retests will occur outside of the regular school day or during Power Hour if Mr. Tavilson is available. Retest sign-up sheets will be posted outside of the orchestra office. You must sign up on the sheet in order to retest. If a student signs up and does not show up or cancels their sign-up within 24 hours of their original time, they will forfeit their right to retest for that test. The maximum grade for a retest is 90. Late tests can only earn a maximum of 80 points out of 100. All retesting for each playing test will be completed by either the concert performance date for that repertoire, or the end of the six weeks (whichever comes first).

Written tests can be made up in accordance with the school make-up procedures. Please note that having an instrument in repair will not excuse students from submitting playing tests on time. If your instrument is in repair, be sure to ask for a loaner instrument from the shop to use until yours is in good order. If you have questions about this, please see Mr. Tavilson.

UNIFORMS

For all concerts, students will wear the appropriate uniform. Part of each performance grade will be based upon how you wear your uniform- neatness, alterations, cleanliness, etc. If there are any alterations needed to make your uniform look better, you may have them done if they are temporary alterations, and no fabric is cut AT ALL! If any fabric is cut, the student is responsible for the cost of replacing the uniform. The formal uniforms are provided by the school district, except for tuxedo shirt, socks, hose, and shoes. Under no circumstance is anyone allowed to wear boots, tennis shoes, or sandals of any kind with their formal uniform. Informal uniform shirts will be covered in the orchestra fee.

Informal Uniform: Orchestra t-shirt, solid white undershirt (when appropriate), well-kept blue jeans with no holes or rips, close-toed tennis shoes.

Formal Uniform Option 1: Black dress, close-toed black dress shoes. Any jewelry worn must be simple, elegant, and silver or gold in color.

Formal Uniform Option 2: Black tuxedo, tie, vest, black dress shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes. Any jewelry worn must be simple, elegant, and silver or gold in color.

All undergarments must be black and appropriate for formal wear with formal uniform: no sports bras, racerback style, bralettes, etc.; All undershirts must be black in color

** Excessive rings and large jewelry are not allowed as they will hinder performance abilities. **

Performances

The orchestra is a performing ensemble to which every student must contribute. Each student is expected to attend all the performances of the orchestra. In the event of a personal illness and/or death in the family, the student may be excused from the performance without penalty provided that a note signed by the parent/guardian is given to the director the following day. All other conflicts must be approved by the orchestra director at least one month BEFORE the performance. Extra-curricular activities such as sports, cheerleading, dance, etc. are **not** excusable absences for an announced performance. Dates of performances will be announced 2 to 4 weeks in advance.

Practice

Each student is responsible for home practice. Home practice plays a huge role in how successful your student will be on their instrument. **180 minutes per week is the requirement.** Weekly playing tests and in-class check-ups will be done to ensure that home practice is happening. These will be graded and averaged into Test grades and Participation grades. I encourage you to set up a schedule for home practice, so it becomes part of the homework routine. Arts event program the next school day. A student may only get extra credit once every six weeks.

SUPPLIES & REPAIRS

1. Personal Instrument
 - a. Correctly sized
 - b. Good condition
 - c. Carbon Fiber or wood bow strongly encouraged.
 - d. Good quality rosin
 - e. Good quality strings on instrument- Red Label or wire strings are not allowed.
 - f. Extra set of strings in your case (violins & violas only)
2. Binder
 - a. 1" black three ring binder (provided by orchestra once upon entry into program)
 - b. Three ringed pencil bags to fit into binder (holds pencils and tuner; provided by orchestra once upon entry into program)
 - c. #2 pencils with eraser
 - d. Highlighter to make special marks in music.
3. Tuner & Clip
 - a. Korg CA 40 with a tuning clip, OR Korg TM-40, 50, or 60 with a tuning clip; other models must be approved by the PHS orchestra director
4. Technique Book
 - a. Camerata- *Essential Elements for Strings- Book 2*
 - b. Philharmonia, Sinfonietta- *Essential Technique for Strings- Book 3*
 - c. Chamber- *Advanced Technique for Strings*
5. Shoulder Rest (required for violins & violas)
 - a. Kun brand shoulder rest is highly recommended.
6. Soft cloth
 - a. Cleaning cloth or piece of an old t-shirt to wipe off rosin dust.
7. Wire stand
 - a. Collapsible wire music stand used for home practice, off-campus concerts, etc.
8. Roc Stop (cello/bass only)

***You must purchase your own tuner and clip and bring it to class every day.** PHS has a class set of tuners and clips that can be loaned out to students. If you need assistance, please contact Mr. Tavilson. Please note that students who use a PHS tuner & clip will be responsible for replacing equipment if damage occurs to it*

String instruments are fragile. Keep your instrument in good condition. **Violins & violas must carry extra strings in their cases.** Have your bow re-haired at least once a year. Instruments should not be taken for repair without first being inspected by the director. Many times, minor adjustments can be made by the director which may eliminate a trip to the repair shop. The choice of 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.

High school is a great time to consider upgrading your instrument. If you would like to upgrade your instrument or are considering purchasing an instrument, PLEASE see Mr. Tavilson first. It is difficult to make a decision about an instrument without the input of a professionally trained musician, and I want you to get the best value for your investment. **DO NOT purchase instruments online (amazon, eBay etc.).** These instruments are not good quality and are more difficult to play because they are not set up correctly. Please see Mr. Tavilson for recommendations on quality instrument vendors in the area.

FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEERING

In order to help fund the orchestra program's many needs throughout the year; the Paetow Orchestra Booster Organization (POBO) organizes fundraising activities for the students. It is orchestra policy that all students participate in some manner in these fundraisers. Participation in said events will include a participation grade for each member of the Paetow Orchestra Program. Students will receive volunteer hours for events that require time outside of school hours.

FEES

FAIR-SHARE FEE due September 1st - All students that participate in the Paetow HS Orchestras are required to pay a fair-share fee of \$40 to our booster organization Online at <https://paetow-orchestra-booster-organization.square.site/>

This payment covers supplemental needs throughout the school year, hiring special clinicians, providing private lessons, scholarship opportunities, orchestra materials, social event supplies and much more.

COURSE FEE due September 1st - The district assesses a standard \$100 orchestra course fee that is payable through the [Pay N' Go system](#)

Please note that Pay N' Go system will not automatically generate this fee in your dashboard, you must follow the steps below to complete payment:

1. Login to District [Pay N' Go](#) or Create an account
2. Click on Student Course Fee
3. Select Orchestra Fee (\$100)

This course fee covers bus transportation for field trips, uniforms, alterations, masterclasses, contest and group entries, music supplies, sheet music, instrument purchases and repairs.

REGION FEE – TMEA Region Orchestra Auditions (Payable to Katy ISD via Check or Cash)

These auditions are optional, however highly encouraged for students in the PHS Orchestra Program.

Participation allows students the opportunity to compete against other amazing musicians in the top region of the State

of Texas. Private lessons are necessary to assist the student in preparing for the audition. Students that make Region will then participate in the Region Clinic and Concert held in October.

ALL-STATE FEE – TMEA All-State Orchestra Audition Fee (Payable to Katy ISD via Check or Cash)

Students who made Region may qualify to audition and is optional, however highly encouraged for students in the PHS Orchestra Program. Participation allows students the opportunity to compete against other competitive musicians in the of the State of Texas. Private lessons are necessary to assist the student in preparing for the audition. Students that make All-State will then participate in the TMEA All-State Clinic and Concert held in February, San Antonio, Texas.

SOLO/ENSEMBLE FEE – Solo and Ensemble Entry and Accompanist Fee (Payable to Katy ISD via Check or Cash)

All students will prepare a solo or ensemble for UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest; entry is highly encouraged for every member of the Paetow Orchestra. Payment for this event is due prior to entry in February.

In Closing

I am so thankful every day that I get to teach your children. PHS is such a wonderful school, and the community is awesome. I am looking forward to teaching your student this year and getting to know them. Together I know we are going to accomplish wonderful things. Please take the opportunity to go over this material with your child as I have during class. Orchestra is such an awesome way to learn music and I hope to see your student grow and succeed in the PHS Orchestra Program.

Preferred Contact Information:

I am so much better at getting to emails than phone calls. But please feel free to contact me. MattTavilson@Katyisd.org

