

ROCKWALL HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK 2018-2019

In addition to the Rockwall ISD Student Handbook and the Rockwall Student Code of Conduct

Attendance and Absences:

Dates for all festivals, performances, and rehearsals will be given in advance on the orchestra calendar. All absences MUST be excused by the director. No Showing is unacceptable and will be an unexcused absence unless under extreme circumstances. If you are absent from school, the absence will be more than likely excused. The orchestra program understands that students may be involved in many extra-curricular activities, and we would like to work with our students/parents and other extracurricular sponsors to be sure that all our students achieve their goals in all activities. Every member of the orchestra is essential to our success, and this is why it is so important to communicate. We are team!

Concert Attire:

Formal concert attire is provided for our orchestra members. Students will need to purchase black closed-toe dress shoes. Male students will need to purchase a tuxedo shirt. Students who lose or damage their orchestra uniform will be charged a \$75.00 replacement fee. Uniforms are to be returned no later than Wednesday, May 22nd, which is the day after the Spring Concert. An obligation or hold will be placed on your account until the uniform is returned or the replacement fee is paid. Seniors may turn in your uniform early starting May 21st. Everyone will pay a \$25 uniform fee to cover the cost of dry cleaning and an orchestra t-shirt (casual uniform).

Daily Expectations:

A smooth rehearsal requires everyone to follow certain daily expectations.

1. Be in your chair uncasing when the tardy bell sounds. Any student not in their chair at bell, without the director's permission, will be counted tardy.
2. Students are expected to TUNE EVERYDAY. They are to provide their own tuner calibrated to 440.. Warm-ups will begin three minutes after the tardy bell and tuning must be finished by this time.
3. Students are expected to have their supplies every day.
4. Do not play, pizzicato, or make any other noise unless instructed to do so.
5. Cell phones and electronics are prohibited during rehearsal.
6. No chewing gum.
7. Respect your classmate's learning environment and time.
8. Clean up your area and put your chair and stand back where they should be.
9. Follow directions the first time and be prepared.
10. Only one person may be out of the room with the hall pass at a time for the restroom.

Although some infractions will be considered automatic office referrals, consequences for not following expectations are as follows:

1. Warning
2. Parent Contact
3. Detention
4. Referral

Dress Code:

You are expected to follow RISD dress code at all times as an RHS Orchestra member. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Eligibility:

Please take a moment to read the section in the RISD student handbook entitled to Extra/Co-Curricular activities, clubs, and organizations. RHS orchestra follows the no pass, no play policies set forth in these guidelines with no exceptions. RHS orchestra also follows all policies, rules, and regulations of UIL and TMEA for all of their sponsored events.

Extra Rehearsals and Events:

Rehearsals outside of school will be called when necessary. Occasionally, the orchestra is asked to perform at outside events. Plenty of advanced notice will be given by the director for any calendar changes.

Extra Help/Tutorials/Private lessons:

Extra help will be provided upon request. Retesting and Make-up will occur by appointment before school or after school. It is the student's responsibility to be there and make up the grade. Private lessons are a tool to receive extra attention for enhancement to your string playing. It is recommended that all students sign up for lessons. Private lessons during the school day will be first come, first serve with very limited space. They are \$18 per 30 minutes once a week. There are, however, many private lesson instructors that teach out of their homes and set their own rates. RISD orchestra keeps an updated list available upon request. Please contact for more information.

Additional costs:

Monies will be collected during the fall semester for materials such as: spirit wear, all-region, etc. Other fees may arise as the year progresses.

Using school instruments will include a \$30.00 bow re-hair/maintenance fee due September 15th.

The program will work hard to keep these costs as low as possible. All expenses are nonrefundable for any reason.

Grading Policies:

1. Students are expected to check their orchestra class's Google Classroom weekly.
2. You will have a minimum of **three summative grades in a six week period**. This is worth 70% of your grade. Summative grades include but are not limited to all Concerts and performances, Ensembles, Solos and playing tests including scales and arpeggios.

3. There will be a minimum of **6 daily grades/formative grades** in each grading period. This counts as 30% of your grade. Daily grades or informal assessments may include and are not limited to, Sight-reading, daily rehearsal grade, marking checks, and any other assignment the director may assign.
4. Sectionals or Additional Rehearsals:
Depending on your class, you may be assigned an additional rehearsal weekly. Sectionals will occur before or after school. Your attendance is mandatory and you must make up the ones you miss. Students must have a transportation home. Sectionals will count for a grade.
5. Concerts and Ensemble Performances:
Students who miss these events with an excused absence will have an alternate assignment to complete within one week of the event for full value. Students who miss these events and the absence is unexcused will have the option to complete an alternate assignment within one week of the event date for a grade no higher than 70%. Absences will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Please review absence policy above.
6. Chair Placement:
During class, students will use a rotating system of chair placement to better enhance the ensemble and its camaraderie. Placement in chairs for Pre-UIL, UIL or any event will be at the discretion of the director and will be in the best interest of the entire ensemble. Placement in the first or second violin section will also be at the discretion of the director. The RHS orchestra director looks at many factors in determining section placement. Music at the high school level is equal in both sections and balance of sound and ability across the orchestra is important for the entire ensemble.

Care of Equipment, Music, and Rehearsal Facilities:

Students are responsible for the care and return of all music they receive. Missing or damaged original music must be replaced and a replacement fee of \$3.00 must be paid. Students are never to mark on music with anything other than a pencil. All marks must be erased on classroom sets before the music is returned.

Students are to use only equipment that has been assigned to them or is their personal instrument. They should never play anyone else's instrument. Accidents can happen and have the potential to be very costly. Instruments should always be kept in playing condition. Proper maintenance is required. Do not try to play on "dead strings" or on a bow that needs to be rehaired.

To keep our facilities clean and in order, we ask that everyone hold themselves personally responsible for the care of our rehearsal rooms, practice rooms, music library, instrument and uniform storage areas. Practice rooms are available before school from 8:00-8:45 with permission and are available after school ONLY when previously scheduled with a director. Students may not be in the building after school without direct supervision of a teacher or sponsor.

Lockers:

Every orchestra student will have a locker for instrument storage during the day. The student has no expectation of privacy and should keep ONLY their instrument in the orchestra room. Instruments should not be stored overnight or over a break. Students who leave their instruments overnight do so at their own risk and the orchestra program and RISD are not liable for damages or thefts. Students are responsible for securing their instrument before school and after class. Students should pick up their instrument at the end of day, every day. For security, combinations should not be shared with other students unless sharing is needed. It is always recommended that insurance be placed on personal instruments that are owned by the student. Most rentals

have insurance or a fee for lost, stolen, or broken instruments, but one should check their contract. Any lock that is damaged or lost will incur a \$5 replacement fee.

Supplies:

Required for class everyday:

1. Instrument and bow (in playing condition)
2. Rosin
3. Two Pencils
4. A highlighter
5. Black 3-ring binder and zipper pouch with orchestra music
6. Set of extra strings (unless renting from Dallas Strings)
7. Mute
8. Korg Chromatic Tuner with clip
9. Cello/basses need—rock stop
10. Violin/violas need- shoulder rest

Spring Trip:

The orchestra will go on an optional spring trip each year. Students, who choose to attend, are responsible for paying for their own trip. Students must strictly adhere to the payment schedule.

Social Media:

RHS orchestra members will not post negative comments about anything related to RHS orchestra or RHS orchestra members. Remember that what you post belongs to Facebook, Twitter, etc. and it will be out there in cyberspace for eternity. Students will not use social media while in the orchestra classroom. Please DO NOT tag or label anything as RHS orchestra or Rockwall High School Orchestra on the internet without permission from the directors

Follow RHS Orchestra on Twitter: @RockwallOrch

Questions or Concerns:

Please contact Ms. Johnson or Mr. Mussetter with any questions, concerns, or general inquiries. Due to traveling between several elementary and secondary campuses; the fastest form of communication will always be email. ☺

Ashley.Johnson@Rockwallisd.org or Jonathan.Mussetter@Rockwallisd.org

All attempts will be made to return email and phone calls within 24 hours.

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Please return this form to Ms. Johnson or Mr. Mussetter by Friday, August 24, 2018.

We have received and read our copy of the 2018-2019 Rockwall High School Orchestra Policies and Procedures. We will make every effort to adhere to them.

Student Name **(Printed)**

Student Signature

Parent Name **(Printed)**

Parent Signature