

Fowler Middle School
Falcon Orchestra

2011-2012
Orchestra Handbook

www.fowlerorchestra.com

Orchestra Phone
469-633-5074

Director of Orchestras
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The best way to communicate with an orchestra director is through email

Mandatory Parent Meeting:
Wednesday, August 25th @ 6:30pm
Fowler Café

Preface

This handbook has been written for the Fowler Middle School Orchestra members and their parents with the intent of providing information regarding the purpose, procedures, expectations, and activities of the orchestra program. **All orchestra students and parents are expected to read the entire handbook carefully to avoid conflicts with the policies stated herein.**

Fowler Middle School Philosophy of Instrumental music

A well-rounded education is enhanced by one of the most basic of all studies...the study of music. Music develops **self-confidence**. Music gives each student a feeling of **pride** and **accomplishment**. Playing in orchestra teaches students the importance of working with others and helps them develop the **social skills** necessary to be part of a performing organization. Instrumental music engages students in a group activity that allows them to use their free time constructively. Orchestra instills **values**: responsibility, purpose & direction, devotion to duty, spirit of cooperation, and sensitivity to beauty. Not all orchestra students become great musicians, but certainly all become more mature, cooperative, self-disciplined, and hard working members of society with an appreciation of the arts. Music is a subject that affects all sides of a student's development. These include the intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and social aspects of a person.

Pride is an important element of a quality organization. **Pride** is having a desire to succeed in what you do while **respecting** yourself and others around you. It is taking what you do **seriously** while **enjoying** what you do. Pride is a **state of mind**. A person's **quality of life** is in direct proportion to their **commitment to excellence** – whatever their field of endeavor.

Communication

In order to have a successful program, good communication between parents and teachers is essential. The BEST source of information is the orchestra website: www.fowlerorchestra.com The website is updated weekly and will always have DETAILED information as to upcoming events, calendars, private lesson teachers contact information, practice cards, fees, etc.

Please check the website often for late breaking announcements and information. The orchestra staff of Fowler MS wants to be available to you to answer your questions about orchestra, orchestra events, and/or your child's musical progress. If you have ANY questions or concerns please contact us directly. You can also reach Mrs. Lindsey by phone at (469)633-5074.

Orchestra Descriptions and Expectations

There are **FIVE** large performing orchestras at Fowler Middle School. Each group listed below functions as an important part of the entire orchestra program. Orchestras are separated into:

(1) Beginner Students, (2) Intermediate Orchestra, (3) Advanced Intermediate Orchestra, (4) Symphonic Orchestra, & (5) Advanced Symphonic Orchestra.

Membership in each orchestra is determined through a year long evaluation of a student's progress, ability, experience level, class behavior, and overall growth by the end of the year. Students are not automatically placed in the next level orchestra; they must show competence in all of the above. Occasionally, due to schedule conflicts, students may be placed in an alternate orchestra.

ADVANCED SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

The Advanced Symphonic Orchestra is the top-performing group which is made up of the most advanced 7th & 8th grade students only. Students in this orchestra must be proficient on their instrument and must be willing to commit to regular rehearsal and practice time. Members are chosen by Mrs. Lindsey either through a long evaluation of past history with the FMS Orchestra, or by audition.

This orchestra will solely focus on music literature which will be performed for the Full MS Honor Symphony and the MS Honor Orchestra Competitions, as well as Peak's Music Festival and UIL.

The Advanced Symphonic Orchestra is frequently asked to perform at various events throughout the year and it is very important that every member attend. *Not showing up to a performance will count as a zero on a test grade and could potentially fail a student regardless of their ability to perform.*

The Adv. Sym. Orchestra will have one 60-minute rehearsal per week (7:15-8:30am) as a whole orchestra or as a sectional, as well as some extra rehearsals throughout the year. Students are required to participate in ALL scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and contests as these are graded events. This includes attendance at clinics, rehearsals, contests, and concerts as listed in the orchestra calendar. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major orchestra events and count as major test grades. In addition, each student will be required to learn and tryout for the All-Region Orchestra for a major grade & participate in the Solo & Ensemble Contest. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to check the orchestra calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts, changes may need to be made to calendar dates. In order to establish and maintain a high level of performance, Advanced Symphonic Orchestra students will need to practice 45-60 minutes daily as well as study privately with a professional lesson teacher (private lessons). For normal progress, all Advanced Symphonic Orchestra students are required to practice at least 3 hours per week, which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student at the beginning of each six week grading period.

ALL orchestra students in grades 6-8 **MUST** take their instruments home **EVERY DAY** or an orchestra detention after school will be assigned. Advanced students are expected to maintain passing grades in all their classes. If students do not pass all classes they will not be eligible to participate in the extra events and activities of the Fowler Orchestra.

SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

The Symphonic Orchestra is the second performing group which is made up of advanced 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. Students in this orchestra must be proficient on their instrument and must be willing to commit to regular rehearsal and practice time.

This Orchestra will focus on repertoire that will fully challenge their abilities. Shifting, Vibrato, and Bow Technique, and ensemble experience are just a few examples of expected prior knowledge to be placed in this orchestra.

The Symphonic Orchestra will perform 4 concerts for the school year, perform for the 5th graders, and participate at UIL Competition.

The Advanced Orchestra will have one 60-minute rehearsal per week (7:30-8:30am) as well as some extra rehearsals throughout the year. Students are required to participate in ALL scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and contests as these are graded events. This includes attendance at clinics, rehearsals, contests, and concerts as listed in the orchestra calendar. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major orchestra events and count as major test grades. In addition, each student will be required to learn and tryout for the All-Region Orchestra music for a major grade. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to check the orchestra calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts, changes may need to be made to calendar dates. In order to establish and maintain a high level of performance, Advanced Orchestra students will need to practice 30-60 minutes daily as well as study privately with a professional lesson teacher (private lessons). For normal progress, all Advanced Orchestra students are required to practice at least 2.5 hours per week, which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student at the beginning of each six week grading period.

ALL orchestra students in grades 6-8 **MUST** take their instruments home EVERY DAY or an orchestra detention before school will be assigned. Advanced students are expected to maintain passing grades in all their classes. If students do not pass all classes they will not be eligible to participate in the extra events and activities of the Fowler Orchestra.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA

The Intermediate Orchestra is the third performing group that is made up of intermediate/advanced 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. Students in this orchestra will have a one 60-minute rehearsal per week (7:30-8:30am), as well as some extra rehearsals throughout the year. Students in this orchestra are required to participate in the scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and contests as listed in the orchestra calendar as these are graded events. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major orchestra events and counts as a major test grade. ALL intermediate students are required to learn the All-Region Orchestra music for a major grade & participate in the Solo & Ensemble Contest. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to check the orchestra calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts, changes may need to be made to calendar dates. It is strongly recommended that the student study privately with a professional lesson teacher at Fowler MS (private lessons). For normal progress, all Intermediate students are required to practice at least 2.5 hours per week, which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student at the beginning of each six week grading period. ALL orchestra students in grades 6-8 **MUST** take their instruments home EVERY DAY or an orchestra detention before school will be assigned. Because this orchestra will be going to UIL Contest, Intermediate students are expected to maintain passing grades in all their classes. If students do not pass all classes they will not be eligible to participate in the extra events and activities of the Fowler Orchestra.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA

The Beginner Orchestra is a fundamental class designed for beginning 6th or 7th grade students. Students will meet daily for 46 minutes in homogenous classes, and will learn the necessary skills for instrumental performance.

* Violin
* Cello/Bass

* Viola
* Harp

The Beginner Orchestra is intended as a training ground to prepare each student to participate in one of the upper performing orchestras the following year. Students will learn a vast amount of musical and instrumental concepts the first year and will perform scales, solo music, and orchestra literature throughout the year. Basic music concepts the first year such as rhythm notation, music note identification, instrumental fingerings, and tone production will be covered in this class.

*There will be **FOUR** public performances, one contest in May, and one solo contest in May the first year for the Beginner Orchestra.* Beginners will have one **60-minute rehearsal** per week (7:30-8:30am). These rehearsals are the only time the students will be able to rehearse as a full orchestra. In addition to the full orchestra rehearsals and performances, students are **expected** to participate in the Solo & Ensemble Contest at the end of the year. The dates and times for all of our events will be given out in August, so you have several months to make plans and invite family & friends. **Attendance at all rehearsals, contests, & concerts are considered major grades.**

There will be an inexpensive black polo used for formal contests and concerts and a spirit shirt for informal occasions. The polo will be reused for three years in middle school.

For normal progress, all beginning orchestra students are required to practice at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days per week (2 ½ hours per week), which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student at the beginning of every six week grading period. **ALL orchestra students in grades 6-8 MUST take their instruments home EVERY DAY.**

Once a student is in the seventh and eighth grade, they may participate in orchestra, athletics, and various other electives. **THERE IS NOT A CONFLICT OF CLASSES, CONCERTS, OR GAMES.**

Some of the very large and very expensive instruments are owned by the school and may be issued to students selected by the director for that instrument (i.e. cellos, basses, and harps). There is a usage fee for **school owned** instruments of \$100 for the entire school year. This cost covers the summer cleaning, bow re-hair, and strings, but does not cover damages done to the instrument beyond normal use.

Private lessons are a **VITAL ELEMENT** in a student's musical life. The opportunity to study privately with a professional musician is one of the most important factors to individual success. These professionals provide detailed, specific, one-on-one instruction tailored for your child. Of the students who make the Texas All-State Orchestra, roughly 97% take private lessons! Lessons are taught at Fowler Middle School, before school or during the orchestra class period depending on the teacher's schedule. Lessons will be 30 minutes per week at a cost of \$16 per lesson. Though optional, please consider private lessons as a necessary part of the orchestra program.

Practice Cards

Your practice card is designed to help you establish an organized routine for daily practice. A practice card is not needed to be able to tell whether you have practiced or not. How you improve from day to day and week to week reveals that fact. Honesty is the best policy concerning practice time. It is helpful for parents to be involved in the student's practice and progress. Your encouragement and support is important for their success!

1. Write down the total number of hours, per week (round off daily to the nearest 5 minutes).
2. **A parent must sign the card and record your grade AFTER the week of practice.**
3. Turn in your card every **Monday** (or first teaching day), with no penalty for Tuesday.
4. Twenty (20) points will be **deducted on Wednesday** (or the third turn in late date) and ten (10) additional points per day will be deducted for late cards after Wednesday. After Friday late cards may be accepted for a maximum grade of "50".
5. Private lessons and rehearsals may be counted as 30 minutes on your practice card.
6. **NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR** per day should be practiced in fulfilling this requirement. The intent of this record is to establish a **DAILY** routine.

GRADE	WEEKLY PRACTICE TIME		AVERAGE DAILY TIME
110	4+	hours	42+ minutes, 7 days per week
105	3.5	hours	30 minutes, 7 days per week
100	3	hours	30 minutes, 6 days per week
90	2 ½	hours	30 minutes, 5 days per week
85	2	hours	30 minutes, 4 days per week
80	1 1/2	hours	30 minutes, 3 days per week
70	1	hour	30 minutes, 2 days per week
50	<1	hour	Cards still must be signed for 50% credit
0			Unsigned Practice cards

Falsified entries/signatures will result in a six-weeks failure and parent conference.

SAMPLE PRACTICE CARD ENTRY:

Week	MON. TUES.		WED. THUR.		FRI.	SAT.	SUN	TOTAL	GRADE	Parent Signature
Aug. 25-31	30	30	40	30	30	30	220/60	110		

Parents: Please TOTAL & GRADE your child's practice time. Please do not sign for practicing not done.

Morning Practice: students may practice in the mornings at FMS. Procedures will include signing your name on the **morning practice log**, then *getting a teacher signature that you practiced*. This will allow parents to see that the student did in fact practice!

Cello & Basses students who do not have an instrument at home will be required to practice AT SCHOOL on their instruments for 2 hours per week. Your weekly private lessons count as 30 minutes toward this time. There will be a **sign-up sheet** in the orchestra office to sign-in and sign-out. Students will not be required to get a parent signature, but instead get a signature from an orchestra director.

Practice Guidelines for Parents

Your child's success in orchestra will depend a great deal on what is achieved during daily home practice sessions. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home. You can use the following guidelines to help your child at home.

TIME SCHEDULE

A **half hour** a day is the minimum amount of practice time recommended for the average student. Practicing at the **same time** every day is good, but some **flexibility** should be built into this schedule. Don't bring the world to a halt at 6:30 pm every evening because it's practice time - kids need time for fun and relaxation just as adults do. If the situation merits, **reschedule** the practice session to an earlier or later time.

Note: Beginners ONLY need to practice 15 minutes per day the first month of school and then start 30 min. per day after that. This is because their muscles and posture have not matured enough the first month to handle 30 minutes of a practice routine without forming bad habits.

ENVIRONMENT

Practicing should be done in an area that is **free of distractions** away from the TV, radio, stereo, and family traffic. Good **lighting**, a straight-backed **chair**, **mirror**, **metronome**, and a **music stand** are definite assets.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Spend some time **listening** to your youngster practice. Offer **constructive** criticisms. You do not need to be a former orchestra member or musician to be able to hear improvement. Encourage them to play assignments and tests for you. Each time the student plays for a friend or relative, it helps them to feel more comfortable with a performance or competitive event.

IS YOUR CHILD PROGRESSING?

For the **beginning orchestra** student, the field of instrumental music is **new** for your child. He/she is learning

to use his/her finger, arm, and back muscles in a different way. There is a new language of symbols (notes) that require the use of his mind and body to translate this into musical sounds. All this takes **time!** Even parents who have had former instrumental experience, have probably forgotten the struggle of producing those first few notes and songs.

Parents can evaluate practice sessions by asking:

1. What is your **assignment** for today?
2. Am I hearing the same **daily warm up** each day? It is important to play the **same** daily warm up and drill before beginning the assigned material.
3. Am I hearing music that they can **already play**, or am I hearing attempts at **new** material?
4. Is the **tone quality** becoming more characteristic of the instrument, or is the tone harsh, unmusical, and unpleasant?
5. Does the familiar tune or exercise move along **steadily** with some sort of fluent rhythm, or is it halting and jerky with no steady rhythm?

Learning how to practice is an important part of playing an instrument!

Practice Guidelines for Students

IT'S HOW YOU PRACTICE THAT COUNTS

Incorrect **habits** are sometimes more easily developed than correct habits, and a habit is hard to change so **THINK** when you practice. Avoid simply going through the motions! Remember, the playing of your instrument comes through development of coordination, just like any athlete.

Patience is a virtue for the ambitious player.

1. **Warm up correctly.** Each orchestra will have a scale to focus on for home practice. Use a mirror and concentrate on tone quality and posture.
2. Set a **goal** for the practice session. Don't try to do too much at one sitting.
3. **Isolate** a problem or a section in a piece of music. It may be a rhythm, a measure, or a line of music. **Repeat** it over and over many times - just like shooting baskets in the basketball goal. Practice it **slowly** at first, and then **gradually** build up the speed using a metronome. Before you finish the practice session, play the difficult measures with the rest of the line or exercise.
4. Correctly played **Repetition** of a problem area reinforces muscle and mental memory.
5. In **difficult technical** passages, change the **rhythms** in the practice session to develop even, accurate, and fluid technique.
6. Practice involves **learning and reinforcing** areas that are difficult for the student. Practice, therefore, is not always fun because you must play music that you have not yet mastered. Try to end each practice session with something that is fun to play and that has already been mastered!
7. **Structure** your practice session to get the most benefit out of your time!

EXAMPLE OF A STRUCTURED PRACTICE SESSION

MATERIAL PRACTICED	TIME (minutes)	GOAL
Warm up and daily drill: (Scale, thirds, arpeggios)	5 - 10	Fundamentals: bow & intonation, Rhythms, long notes, etc.
New material and assignments	10 - 15	Develop new technique
Previous and continuing material	10 - 15	Improvement of finger accuracy
Personal music choices	5 - 10	Enjoyment!

The practice session will vary depending on assignments and time constraints. The more consistent you are with practice time, structure, and climate, the better your results will be. Efficient use of time is important in your busy schedule.

Supplemental Private Lesson Program

VERY IMPORTANT!

Supplemental lessons are available through the orchestra program to all orchestra students. Individual instruction is **extremely beneficial** due to the one on one teaching environment. The supplemental teacher is able to design a program that meets each individual's needs and each student is able to progress at his/her own rate of ability. **Private lessons are very important!** **Please consider taking private lessons BEFORE considering the purchase of a new instrument!**

Professional teachers on each instrument will be available to teach these lessons during orchestra class or before school. Lessons will be scheduled at your convenience on a first come basis. Students will be taught once a week during the school day. **The cost of these lessons is \$16.00 per 22-minute lesson, per week.** Some lessons are available DURING school hours; however, this is entirely dependent on the availability and schedule of the instructor. If more students request during school lessons than are slots available it is "first-come-first-served." Contact your private teacher now!

www.fowlerorchestra.com

Students taking lessons during the school day (orchestra class) will receive a 22- minute lesson. ****It is okay to find a private teacher outside of the district so that your child will have the option of taking a full 30 minute, 45 minute, or even hour lesson.**

Private Lesson Scholarships: The Fowler Middle School Orchestra Boosters graciously provide private lesson scholarships for those students who can demonstrate financial need. The boosters will match 50% of the cost of the lessons each week (\$8.00). Scholarship selection criteria and Applications are available from an orchestra director.

Much of the successes of the middle school and high school orchestras in North Texas can be attributed to their supplemental lesson programs. In the past, the high number of students enrolled in the program throughout the Frisco School district has allowed the Frisco ISD Orchestras to maintain a **high standard of performance**. Supplemental lessons are not required, but are strongly recommended.

Students/Parents responsibilities to the supplemental lesson teacher:

1. Be fully prepared for each lesson.
2. Bring a pencil, method books, and any other required materials to each lesson.
3. The private teacher may require additional textbooks or music.
4. Notify the supplemental teacher **24 hours in advance** in the event a lesson must be missed****. Failure to do this will result in an unexcused absence and the lesson must still be paid for, or will be taken directly for the make-up lesson. Excused absences by the student or the teacher shall be rescheduled or the money will be refunded.
5. The cost of each lesson is \$16.00 and should be paid **one month in advance.**
6. Due to the nature of the instructors' financial arrangement, we ask that any student wishing to discontinue the lesson program wait until the end of the semester.
7. Private lesson teachers' phone numbers and e-mail addresses can be found online at: www.fowlerorchestra.com (private lessons TAB)

Classroom Policies

POLICIES: There are four basic policies that must be adhered to by all students.

RESPECT MENTAL FOCUS MAXIMUM EFFORT PRIDE

1. **Respect your fellow orchestra members, orchestra directors, and YOURSELF.**

We are an ORCHESTRA FAMILY and should treat each other in that manner. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE for the following behaviors: Theft, Fighting, Profanity, &/or Vandalism. FIRST TIME violations will result in immediate referral to an Asst. Principal and Parent Conference. As an elective class, participation and membership in the Falcon Orchestra is a privilege, not a right.

2. **Communicate effectively and promptly** regarding conflicts with the scheduled calendar of events.

3. **Look at the director when he/she is talking.** It is important that the director knows that he/she has your complete attention. Focus on the rehearsal and what is being learned.

4. **Do not talk during rehearsal.** If you have any questions that need to be asked, please raise your hand and be called upon.

5. **Be prepared for each rehearsal.** Bring the proper equipment and supplies to every rehearsal. Practice your part so that you are ready for the rehearsal both mentally and physically. Every student is expected to have a **pencil** on their stand at all times. Marking music helps students to learn faster and increases productivity. A student loses 10% of their six-week participation grade every time they do not have all their materials for class (Instrument, binder, music, and pencil)

6. **For ALL orchestra members: Instruments are to go home every night.** This is to ensure that the music/assignments are prepared and to warrant your parent's investment in an expensive musical instrument. The SAME consequences will result for instruments left at school as any rules violation. Accordingly, instruments left at home constitute the same violation. **We can't be the best, unless we make this commitment!**

7. **No food, drink, gum, "hanging out", nor running in the orchestra hall or practice rooms.** This beautiful orchestra hall facility is provided for you by the taxpayers of Frisco ISD at a cost of over \$1 million dollars (when including instruments and equipment). Take pride in keeping it clean and free from damage. When music is not occurring, consider the orchestra hall a quiet place. Orchestra students are the ONLY ones allowed in the orchestra hall! NO STUDENT IS EVER ALLOWED IN THE FOWLER ORCHESTRA HALL WHO IS NOT IN ORCHESTRA.

8. Lockers: Orchestra Lockers are for musical instruments and music folders only. They are for books, materials from other classes. **You must lock your locker shut every day!**

CONSEQUENCES: The directors hold members of the Fowler Middle School Orchestra program to **high standards of accountability**. The actions of each member of the orchestra program affect the overall image of the orchestra in both the school and the community. Students who choose orchestra as their elective are among the **best students** in the school and discipline problems should be uncommon in the Fowler Orchestra program. However, if discipline actions are needed, the following consequences will occur.

1. **Verbal warning &/or Written Warning**
2. **Removal from rehearsal, student conference, & possible orchestra detention/parent contact**
3. **Orchestra detention, loss of chair placement, parents will be contacted**
4. **C-Hall and parent conference.**
5. **Restriction from participating in any extracurricular events such as Skate Night or Hurricane Harbor.**
6. **Office referral, possible removal from the orchestra.**

Attendance Policy

Regular **attendance and participation** is important for your daily progress and development. Participation in rehearsals and performances outside the normal school hours is a required part of the orchestra program. Absences for personal illness and other extenuating circumstances are sometime unavoidable. **When possible**, the parent should give **advance notice** to the director of any absence. **Unexcused absences from class or from any rehearsal or performance may result in a lowered grade or zero for that performance.** Remember- you are an important part of the orchestra and others depend on **you!** An unexcused absence at a listed performance by an Advanced Orchestra member may result in removal to another orchestra class or elective even on a first offense.

STUDENTS ARE CONSIDERED TARDY ONE MINUTE AFTER THE TARDY BELL BEGINS

This is to allow students to manage the combination on their lockers, carefully be seated with their instruments and materials. Students will NOT be allowed to “run” through the fine arts wing in an attempt to “beat the clock”. The orchestra will follow the Fowler Middle School tardy policy for consequences following these warnings.

Below is the Tardy Discipline Steps:

1st offence: warning

2nd offence: loss of chair seating until the next chair test

3rd offence: parent phone call & detention

We need every minute of the class time to become a great orchestra!!!

Communication of attendance conflicts is an important skill for students to develop. Adequate and thorough communication skills will require the assistance of both the parent and the director.

Please remember that it is always helpful to have both a **written** and **verbal** communication plan.

The main office does not notify the teacher of the details regarding absences. Please email

(preferred) or call Ms. Lindsey in the event of an absence or conflict AS SOON as it is known.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals, whether full orchestra or a sectional, **are important** in a quality orchestra program. **ALL** orchestra students are **required** to attend **one 60-minute** rehearsal per week for a grade. During these rehearsals, students will work on the fundamental skills of their instrument, practice difficult sections of the orchestra music, learn the All-Region Music, and have chair tests on these areas. Academic grades can and will be taken during this sectional time before or after school. Rehearsal days will be scheduled starting the second full week of school. **Every attempt will be made to accommodate to schedule around athletic games and other school activities.** All sectionals will be before school; **7:30-8:30am.**

Please try to schedule doctor's appointments, tutorials, etc. at times that do not conflict with weekly rehearsals. If unavoidable conflicts occur, please communicate these conflicts promptly in **writing** along with a **verbal explanation** from the students and/or parent. **Communication** is vital to a successful program.

The director reserves the right to remove a student from performing at a contest if that student has accumulated 2 or more missed rehearsals.

Competitions

All orchestras will have the opportunity to perform in at least one orchestra during the school year. Criteria must be met for students to have the privilege to perform at these contests.

Criteria include:

1. Pass All classes for the six weeks
2. Attending all rehearsals
3. Demonstrate competency in the music. (bowing, intonation, rhythms, dynamics, etc.)
4. Demonstrate appropriate behavior in class daily.
5. Demonstrate teamwork and willingness to improve everyday

Grading Policy

1. The orchestra's grading policy is the same as for all classes at Fowler Middle School.
2. All grades will be averaged together at the end of each 6 weeks.
3. Extra credit will be given for attending any approved musical performance.

ALL ORCHESTRAS

Major grades & Minor grades count as 50% of the total grade.

Grades will include:

Weekly tests, weekly quizzes, performances, & rehearsals

Orchestra Equipment

1. STUDENT INSTRUMENTS

Your instrument is extremely **valuable** and proper care should be taken to maintain its value. Should your instrument be in need of **repair**, you must always check with your director before taking it to the repair shop. **Never** try to repair the instrument yourself, as you do not have the proper tools or skills required. All instruments must have a **permanent nametag** on the case handle. **NO ONE SHOULD PLAY OR HANDLE AN INSTRUMENT THAT DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM/HER.**

It is recommended that all students have their instrument insured under their parent's home owners/renters policy!

2. SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Students who play school-owned instruments should take the same care as they would their own instrument. To cover the expense of summer cleaning and adjustment, all students using school owned instruments are required to pay a maintenance fee of **\$100.00 per year** (cellos, basses, harps, & even violins/violas). The student who is using the instrument is liable for damage due to negligence, carelessness or loss. Some large school instruments will be shared between periods. The student must always inform the director of any repairs needed. **It is recommended that all students have their instrument insured under their parent's home owners/renters policy!**

3. INSTRUMENT STORAGE LOCKERS

Each student will be given an instrument storage area (and lock) to keep their instrument in during the school day. These lockers should be used for instrument and folder storage only (not as a school or gym locker). **KEEP THEM NEAT AND CLEAN!** Care should be taken to keep lockers in good working order. No instrument should be left in the instrument locker over the weekend or on weeknights unless it is a school cello/bass/or harp. This is a security measure for the safety of your instrument as well as the home practice requirements. **DO NOT TELL ANY PERSON YOUR COMBINATION.** Be sure to lock your locker at all times when not in class. Lost, misplaced, or stolen locks may be purchased for \$10.00. Personal locks may not be used on a orchestra Locker.

NEVER PUT YOUR LOCK DOWN ON THE GROUND, INSIDE YOUR LOCKER OR ON ANYONE ELSE'S LOCKER. Unlocked orchestra lockers WILL result in detention assigned. If the locker is shared between two students, both students will receive the consequence of an unlocked locker.

General Maintenance Supplies for Stringed Instruments

All students are required to have the appropriate supplies for their instrument. Select supplies may be purchased from the orchestra hall at a **discounted price** or from a music store of your choice.

Violin- soft cloth for cleaning, shoulder rest, practice stand for home, optional tuner

Viola- soft cloth for cleaning, shoulder rest, practice stand for home, optional tuner

Cello- soft cloth for cleaning, rock stop, and practice stand for home, optional tuner

Bass- soft cloth for cleaning, rock stop, and practice stand for home, optional tuner

Orchestra Supply List 2011-2012

We try to anticipate ALL the expenses you will have the first year apart from the actual instrument rental. A list of suggested music stores in the area can be found on the orchestra website: **www.fowlerorchestra.com**

ALL STUDENTS: will need to have the following materials **BEFORE** the first day of school, or you may bring a check by the first week of school to pay for the supplies and we will order them for you.

BEGINNER ORCHESTRA

Better deals may be available online

- \$7- Note Speller
- \$7(ea.)- Suzuki Book 1 (for class and lessons)
- \$10- Wire music stand for home practice
- \$33- Digital Metronome Korg TM-40 (optional)

The following items MUST be purchased by this fall

1. Beginning Orchestra supplies listed above
2. \$10- Orchestra Polo (if not purchased in the 6th grade)
3. \$25- **Social Fee** (includes T-shirt for performances/activities, materials, awards, refreshments, & incentives)

INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA

Better deals may be available online

- \$7- Essential Techniques
- \$7(ea.)- Suzuki Book (for lessons)
- \$10- Wire music stand
- \$33- Digital Metronome Korg TM-40 (optional)

The following items MUST be purchased by this fall

1. Intermediate Orchestra supplies listed above
2. \$10- Orchestra Polo (if not purchased in the 6th grade, or 7th grade)
3. \$25- **Social Fee** (includes T-shirt for performances/activities, materials, awards, refreshments, & incentives)

SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

Better deals may be available online

- \$7- All for Strings
- \$7- Suzuki Book (for lessons)
- \$10- Wire music stand
- \$33- Digital Metronome Korg TM-40 (optional)

The following items MUST be purchased by this fall

1. Advanced Orchestra supplies
2. \$10- Orchestra Polo
3. \$25- **Social Fee** (includes T-shirt for performances/activities, materials, awards, refreshments, & incentives)

ADVANCED SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

Better deals may be available online

- \$7- Suzuki Book (for lessons)
- \$10- Wire music stand
- \$33- Digital Metronome Korg TM-40 (optional)

The following items MUST be purchased by this fall

3. Advanced Orchestra supplies
4. \$10- Orchestra Polo
3. \$25- **Social Fee** (includes T-shirt for performances/activities, materials, awards, refreshments, & incentives)

Performances

ALL Orchestras perform **4 school concerts** per school year. Each Student is **required** to attend the concerts with the proper **uniform**. In addition to the school concerts, each orchestra will also participate at a **Contest** or **Festival**. Each student and parent is responsible for looking on the orchestra calendar for these important dates, as well as have the appropriate uniform for that performance.

Remember, an orchestra that looks good, will sound good too!

ALL students will need to purchase the following (on their own) by **October 1st**:

- BLACK DRESS SLACKS (No Capri Pants, no Black Jeans)
- BLACK DRESS BELT
- BLACK SOCKS
- BLACK DRESS SHOES (No open toe shoes, no sandals, no black tennis shoes)

BEGINNER ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES:

- Four Concerts
- Sandy Lake

INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES:

- Four Concerts
- UIL

SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES:

- Four Concerts
- Play for the 5th graders
- UIL

ADVANCED SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES”

- Four Concerts
- Play for 5th graders
- UIL
- Play for Veteran’s Day Breakfast & PTA Breakfast
- Peak’s Music Festival

Fowler Orchestra Handbook Signature Page

**Signature below indicates that I have received, read, and understand the
Fowler Middle School Falcon Orchestra Handbook AND Calendar.**

FMS Orchestra Field Trip Permission Form and Emergency Medical Release

My child, _____ (PRINT FULL NAME), is permitted to travel to **ALL** scheduled Orchestra functions **FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR as listed on the Falcon Orchestra Calendar** (contests, Field trips, performances, etc.) Transportation will be provided by Frisco ISD School buses or by an approved adult chaperone where applicable.

Frisco ISD Required Release of All Claims & Parental Permission for Educational Trip(s)

RELEASE made _____ by _____
(date) (parent/guardian's name)

In consideration of permission granted the above-named student by the Frisco Independent School District of Frisco, Texas to attend field trips to ALL LISTED FOWLER MS FALCON ORCHESTRA EVENTS AS LISTED IN THE ORCHESTRA CALENDAR FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR hereby release and discharge the above-named District, its agents, employees, and officers, from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, and executions which I may have or which my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have, or claim to have against the above-named School District its successors or assigns for all personal injuries, known or unknown, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by, or arising out of, the above described educational trip. I further hereby authorize a representative of the School District to consent to medical treatment of the above name student in the event of an emergency on the trip.

I, the undersigned, have read this release and consent to medical treatment and understand all its terms. I execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Medical conditions for which we should be aware (i.e., diabetes, asthma, allergies, etc.):

(Signature of parent/guardian) (Date and year)

Parents (Home) Phone # _____ Parents (Cell) Phone # _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Relation to Student _____

Emergency Contact Phone # _____

PRIVATE LESSON SIGN UP FORM

Professional teachers on each instrument will be available to teach these lessons during orchestra class or before school. Lessons will be scheduled at your convenience on a first come basis. Students will be taught once a week during the school day. The cost of these lessons is **\$16.00** per 22-minute lesson, per week. Some lessons are available DURING school hours; however, this is entirely dependent on the availability and schedule of the instructor. If more students request during school lessons than are slots available it is "first-come-first-served." Contact your private teacher now! www.fowlerorchestra.com

Much of the successes of the middle school and high school orchestras in North Texas can be attributed to their supplemental lesson programs. In the past, the high number of students enrolled in the program throughout the Frisco School district has allowed the Frisco ISD Orchestras to maintain a **high standard of performance**. Supplemental lessons are not required, but are **strongly recommended**.

Taking lessons is a yearlong commitment. If there is a problem with continuing lessons, notification **MUST** be made to Mrs. Lindsey immediately.

Lessons will begin the first week of September. Students will be scheduled with the help of the private teacher and Mrs. Lindsey.

_____ **YES, I would like my child to take private lessons**

_____ **I would like more information on the
Booster Private Lessons Scholarship Program**

Student First, Last

Parent First, Last

Instrument

Orchestra Level

Parent Email

Parent Cell

By checking YES on this form, you have made an agreement to begin enrolling your student in lessons. The first payment will be due the first Monday of September.

All future payments are due every First Monday of the New Month.

Return this form by Wednesday, August 24th 2011