

BELLAIRE HS ORCHESTRA & PIANO

HANDBOOK

2017-2018

DIRECTOR
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Bellaire High School Orchestra And Piano



@BHSOrchPiano



bellairehsorch

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Piano

The BHS Piano class is a performance class rather than a piano lab. Students are selected by audition and perform a minimum of two solo recitals, as well as a chamber music recital with string ensembles.

***Audition Requirements:** Scale and solo of student's choice. Students will also be expected to sight-read.

Chamber Orchestra

The BHS Chamber Orchestra is the entry level orchestra at Bellaire HS. No audition is required. This class is for students that have at least one year of experience on their instrument. The main emphasis of this class is on posture, note reading, rhythms, and ensemble technique. Chamber Orchestra students are required to participate in all scheduled rehearsals and concerts (3 per year).

***Audition Requirements: NONE**

Lyrca Orchestra:

The BHS Lyrca Orchestra is the intermediate level orchestra at Bellaire HS. Members are selected through an audition process. The main emphasis of this class is on advanced rhythms, shifting, and ensemble technique. Lyrca Orchestra students are required to participate in all scheduled rehearsals and concerts (3 per year).

***Audition Requirements:** Scale and solo of student's choice. Students will also be expected to sight-read.

Philharmonic Orchestra:

The BHS Philharmonic is the Non-Varsity level orchestra at Bellaire HS. Members are selected through an audition process. **Philharmonic is the highest level a freshman can attain if they did not participate in the TMEA Region 23 Orchestra during their 8th grade year.** Students in this orchestra participate in the annual UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Students with private teachers are encouraged to audition for the region/state orchestra and participate in the solo and ensemble contest. This orchestra requires an increased level of commitment from all students.

***Audition Requirements:** Scale and solo of student's choice. Students will also be expected to sight-read.

Sinfonia:

The BHS Sinfonia is the Varsity level orchestra at Bellaire HS. Members are selected through an audition process. Entering freshmen or students transferring from another high school can audition for this group if they participated in the TMEA Region or State orchestras during the previous year, and with a recommendation from their current director. Students in this orchestra participate in the annual Honor Orchestra Competition, silent film concert, and UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Students with private teachers are encouraged to audition for the region and state orchestras. This orchestra requires an increased level of commitment from all students.

***Audition Requirements:** 3 octave scale of student's choice, solo (or excerpts from the current state etudes), and sight-reading.

IB Music:

10th-12th grade students may sign-up for IB Music (5.0 class). This is not a separate class. Students are simply placed onto the IB roster for the orchestra class in which they are enrolled. IB Music students are not required to be part of the IB diploma program in order to participate. IB Music students are required to complete additional music history and theory assignments and submit music related projects throughout the year. In addition, all IB Music students are required to take the IB Music test at the end of their final year in IB Music (fee required).

FEES

Mandatory Activity Fee = \$75 per year

All students are required to pay the activity fee. This covers music, classroom supplies (rosin, shoulder rests, rock stops, strings), a t-shirt, piano tuning, transportation to special events, video/audio recordings of concerts, clinicians, festival entries, and repairs. Fees may be paid in installments when necessary, and financial aid is available.

School Instrument Rental Fee

Violin/Viola - \$75 per year - Students may take these back and forth from school to home as needed.

Cello/Bass – Instrument to keep at home - \$100 per year (limited supply)

***If a student has unpaid fees, any funds raised through fundraisers will be used before going into the student's individual trip account.

EVENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

By enrolling in orchestra, students are committing to attending all required events during the year. Certain types of absences can be made up. Each case will be considered individually and privately according to its circumstances. All decisions are made at the director's discretion and are final. You must notify Mrs. Reynosa by email at least TWO WEEKS prior to your conflict in order for it to be considered!

Students may make up an **EXCUSED** absence if:

1. The absence is due to the student's own illness or a death in the family.
2. The absence is due to a conflict with another Bellaire related event. Please notify Mrs. Reynosa two weeks prior to the event so she can work things out with the other teacher involved.
3. The absence is due to a conflict with a religious holiday.

Students are considered **UNEXCUSED** if the absence is because of a "non-Bellaire" event, doctor appointments, not having a ride, simply forgetting about the event, or not notifying Mrs. Reynosa in a timely fashion. Please PLAN AHEAD to avoid these sorts of conflicts. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THE EVENT.

Make-up Recordings – Sectionals, Rehearsals, Clinics, and Concerts – EXCUSED absences only!

Students with EXCUSED absences will receive full credit for the grade if they do a make-up recording. Mrs. Reynosa will assign the music that is practiced and the length of the recording. Make-ups are due by the end of the six weeks in which the absence occurred. If the student fails to turn in a recording, a grade of "zero" will be recorded for the event.

ELIGIBILITY

To participate in UIL events, contests, and trips, you must be eligible. In other words, you need to be passing all of your classes. Grades are checked every three weeks. If you are passing all classes on your report card, you don't need to worry about your progress report grades. However, if you are failing at least one class on a report card, you must be passing ALL classes on your next progress report in order to regain eligibility.

CALCULATION OF GRADES

40%

Musicianship/Rehearsal Etiquette
Quizzes & Worksheets
Scales (piano)
Sight-Reading (piano)
Pop Performance Tests

60%

After-School Rehearsals and Sectionals
Performance Tests
Concert Performances

FINAL EXAMS ARE 25% OF THE SEMESTER GRADE!

***It is the student's responsibility to routinely check grades in Gradespeed.**

PERFORMANCE TESTS (ORCHESTRA)

Some tests will be live in front of the class, and others will be recorded at home and uploaded/emailed. Only digital recordings are acceptable, as long as it is readable on any computer. Many of your smart phones and laptops are capable of recording. Audio or video is acceptable. If you need assistance with recording, see Mrs. Reynosa. Instructions will be given about where to upload your files.

Recordings are due by **10pm** on the due date. Late tests will be accepted, but will be graded accordingly. Late tests will not affect your chair placement. **20 points off for each day late.**

MUSICIANSHIP / REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE GRADE

EFFORT

- Being on time
- Staying on task
- Not sleeping
- Playing with proper posture
- Not working on other school work
- Consistently marking music
- Being prepared for tests
- Being prepared for class (practicing)
- Not using your electronic devices
- Good attendance at rehearsals

LEADERSHIP & ATTITUDE

- Asking questions & making suggestions
- Making sure the stand behind you gets bowings/fingerings
- Helping out your section
- Stopping when the conductor stops
- Not talking/playing while the conductor is talking
- Not whining/complaining
- Making CONSTRUCTIVE comments
- Thinking of the GROUP before yourself
- Cooperating with other students

Students will receive three musicianship grades per grading period (minor grades). Prior to each concert, the average of all musicianship grades leading to that concert will be worth 25% of your chair placement. For example, if you have the following grades, this is what it will look like:

Pop Test 1: 95

Performance Test 1: 92

Performance Test 2: 80

Total **AVERAGE** Score: $89 \times 75\% = 66.75$

Musicianship Grade (average): $75 \times 25\% = 18.75$

Total Score Rank = 85.5 (this will be used to determine your chair placement for the concert)

RULES AND PROCEDURES

- No food allowed, unless rehearsing during lunch or after school.
- Water only, in closed container.
- Tardies are strictly enforced. If the bell rings and you are still in the hallway, go to nearest AP for a tardy pass.
- Don't ask to go to leave the room during the first/last 10 minutes of class. Only one student at a time may go, and a color-coded pass must be used.
- Cell phones on silent and put away (not on music stand).
- No school work during rehearsals.
- Only piano students may use the pianos.
- Only the person assigned to a specific instrument can use it.
- Be respectful to everyone.
- Treat your instrument well. Clean rosin off after each rehearsal. Put in endpins. Don't leave your instrument in extremely hot or cold conditions (especially your car).
- Do not ask to print anything, unless it is music.
- Check the classroom board each day for assignments and announcements.
- Pay attention to deadlines for payments, contest entries, etc. There will be NO extensions on deadlines unless you are absent that day.
- Do not remove pencils or binders from the room. When music is handed out in class, take an extra copy to keep at home. If we make bowing/fingering changes during class, take a picture of the music for use on playing tests.

COMMUNICATION

WWW.BELLAIREORCHESTRAPIANO.ORG

The orchestra website will keep you up to date on all orchestra related events. You can find the calendar and news items there. It will be updated as needed. It is your responsibility to check it often. You can also find a copy of the handbook under the "CURRENT STUDENTS" section.

SHEET MUSIC

If you need additional sheet music, you may retrieve it from the file cabinet in the orchestra room. It is also accessible online. Go to the "CURRENT STUDENTS" page on the website, and click on SHEET MUSIC. Use the login and password provided to you during class.

REMIND

Remind is a one-way text messaging and email system. With Remind, all personal information remains confidential. Teachers will never see your number, nor will they see yours. All students should subscribe to receive short message reminders. You can opt to receive emails or texts (standard carrier rates apply). To join a group, students should text their class code to the number provided.

All Orchestra & Piano Students: Text 81010 with the message @bhsork

Chamber: Text 81010 with the message @bhsork4

Lyrical: Text 81010 with the message @bhsork6

Philharmonic: Text 81010 with the message @bhsork5

Sinfonia: Text 81010 with the message @bhsork7

Piano: Text 81010 with the message @bhsorkp

IB Music: Text 81010 with the message @bhsibmusic

WWW.CHARMSOFFICE.COM

Charms Office Assistant is a student management system used to keep track of student information, finances, fundraisers, etc. If you ever need a receipt for payments you have made, you can find it in the "Finance" section of Charms. Fundraising profits can be found there as well.

To log in to Charms:

1. Go to www.charmsoffice.com
2. Type in BellaireHSOrch in the student/parent login.
3. The student ID is the password

LETTERMAN JACKET POINT SYSTEM

The University Interscholastic League mandates that a student is eligible to receive only one award jacket during their high school career. This is inclusive of all UIL sponsored activities. Students that receive a jacket from another organization will receive an orchestra patch. They do not receive another jacket. All other patches/additions to the jacket are the responsibility of the student. Orders will be placed each September.

SENIORS

Seniors will receive a jacket if they have been enrolled in orchestra during all four years (9-12). Students must have attended all performances. Exceptions will be granted at the discretion of the orchestra director (illness, death, etc.). Students must have been academically eligible for their entire junior year. Students that violate discipline policies of the school and/or orchestra will not be eligible for a jacket. Withdrawal or dismissal from orchestra during the senior year will result in forfeiture of the jacket, which requires a reimbursement payment of \$50 to the orchestra.

NON-SENIORS

For non-seniors to letter in orchestra, a student must accumulate 15 points. Students must have been enrolled in orchestra for TWO consecutive years to qualify. Students will be required to keep track of their own points and turn in a point worksheet to prove eligibility for the jacket/patch. Withdrawal or dismissal from orchestra during the second consecutive year will result in forfeiture of the jacket, which requires a reimbursement payment of \$50 to the orchestra.

Any student that makes the TMEA All-State Orchestra will be awarded with a jacket, regardless of classification. They do not have to do two consecutive years of orchestra to qualify.

HONOR ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATION

***points awarded for highest level earned in a year

TMEA All-Region HS Orchestra	5 points
TMEA All-Area Orchestra	10 points
TMEA All-State Orchestra	15 points

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC COMPETITIONS

UIL REGIONAL Solo and Ensemble

Solo Class 1, Division 1 (memorized)	5 points
Solo Class 1, Division 1 (w/ music)	4 points
Solo Class 2, Division 1	3 points
Solo Class 3, Division 1	2 points
Ensemble Class 1, Division 1	3 points
Ensemble Class 2, Division 1	2 points

UIL STATE Solo and Ensemble

Solo, Division 1	6 points
Solo, Division 2	4 points
Ensemble, Division 1	3 points

PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS

***You are responsible for purchasing your own uniform for concerts**

Orchestra Students:

Ladies:

- SOLID BLACK, ankle-length gown with sleeves
- OR
- SOLID BLACK, ankle-length full skirt OR dress slacks, with black top having sleeves. If you wear slacks, they must be loose fitting. No sleeveless, strapless, spaghetti strap, halter or backless dresses or blouses, short skirts, straight skirts, or skirts with side slits higher than the knee, jeans, hip-hugger pants, crop pants, low-cut tops or dresses will be permitted on stage.
- No excessive jewelry, sequins, or sparkles. Hair accessories must be black, silver, or gold.
- No plunging necklines, rising slits, low-cut backs, or displays of midriff.
- Black dress shoes (dressy sandals or dressy flats are ok).



Sinfonia/Philharmonic Men:

- SOLID BLACK tuxedo (preferred) or suit
- Pressed white dress shirt
- Black bow tie
- Black dress socks (no ankle socks)
- Black dress shoes (no cowboy or combat boots)

Chamber/Lyrica Men:

- SOLID BLACK dress shirt with collar and long sleeves
- SOLID BLACK dress pants
- Black dress socks (no ankle socks)
- Black dress shoes (no cowboy or combat boots)
- If you have a suit/tux from past years, you may continue to wear it if you wish.

Piano Students:

Ladies:

- Dress or skirt (mid-calf or longer) OR dress slacks. If you wear slacks, they must be loose fitting – nothing tight, and no jeans.
- Dressy blouse
- Dress shoes (dressy sandals or dressy flats are ok).

Men:

- Dress slacks
- Pressed dress shirt with long sleeves
- Tie (long tie or bow tie)
- Dress socks (no ankle socks)
- Dress shoes (no cowboy or combat boots)
- Jacket and/or vest not required, but preferred

Musicians who are not in compliance will be asked to contact parents to provide appropriate concert dress prior to concert time. If it is not possible to provide appropriate concert dress, the musician may not be allowed to perform. Grades will be affected when concert uniform requirements are not met.