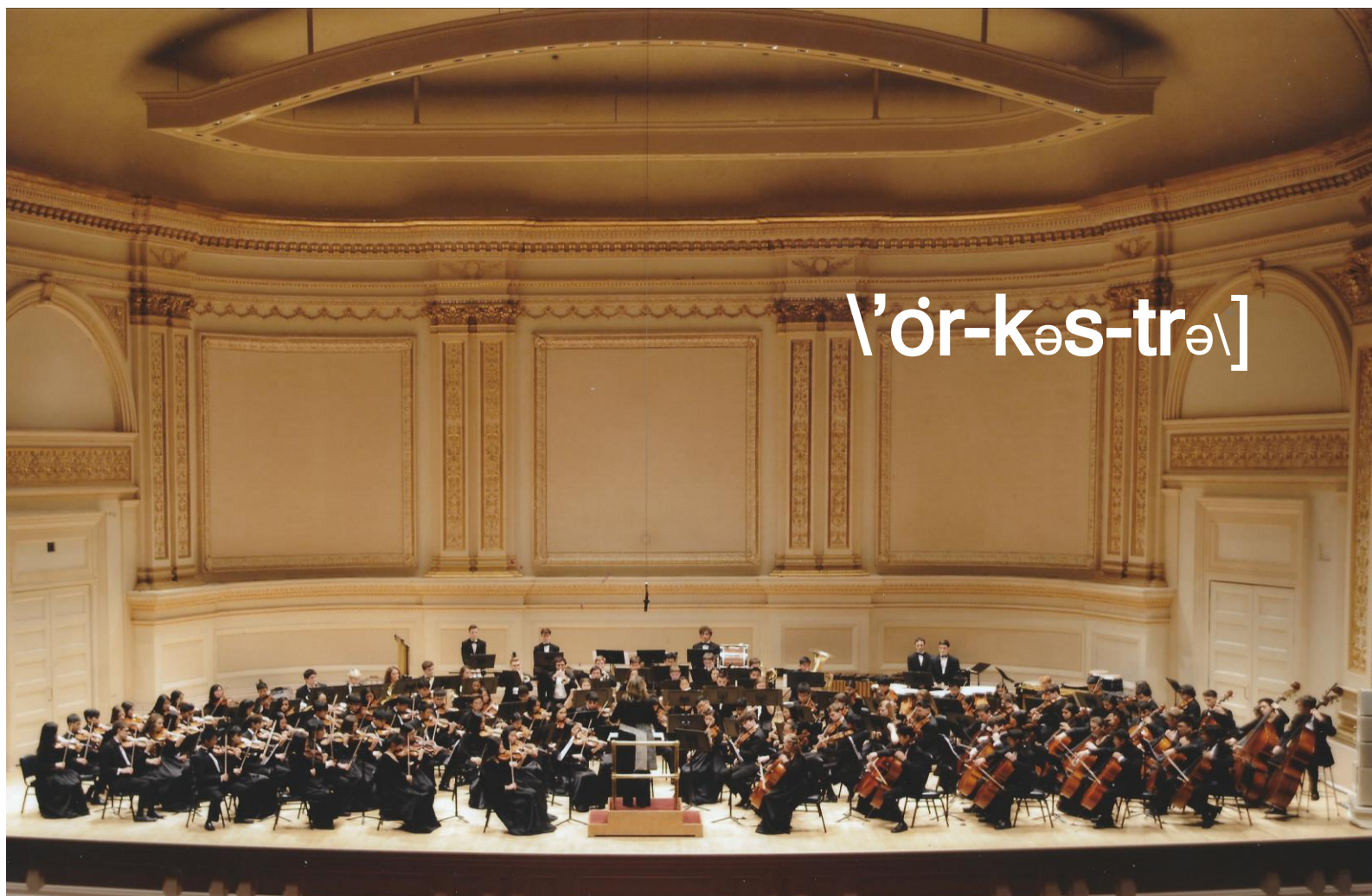




MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA

www.Memorial-Orchestra.com



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MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA:

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS COMMITTED TO
MAKING BEAUTIFUL **MUSIC** AND CONNECTING
THROUGH BUILDING PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIPS

WE ARE . . .

The Memorial Orchestra is a community – a family of musicians who enjoy making music while being together. We have classes that meet daily during six different periods. In addition – we have a combined orchestra we call **BigMo** – which rehearses on Monday evenings.

The Memorial Orchestra has a rich heritage of excellence - which can be attributed to a strong work ethic in our students, focused teaching and learning and emphasis on character. It is our desire to continue to be a positive presence in the community and to strive to improve musically in order to retain the respect we have worked hard to earn across the state.

We match students to appropriate classes by an audition and a questionnaire. Character, attitude, work ethic, citizenship, teamwork, effort and conduct displayed throughout the year are large factors in determining placement.

SINFONIA MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Because of the high profile nature of Sinfonia – we daily look for:

- students who have demonstrated a full year of satisfactory participation (musicianship, character, passing all classes) in the Memorial Orchestra
- students who demonstrate dedication and commitment to attending extra sectionals and rehearsals



LEAD TEAM

conductors:

danielle**prontka**
mattew**chan**

Danielle.Prontka@SpringBranchISD.com
Matthew.Chan@SpringBranchISD.com

student copresidents:

andrew**cali**
caleb**choi**
phillip**liou**
mallesh**maharana**
abhinav**sinha**
tristan**wang**

‘A RICH HERITAGE OF EXCELLENCE’



ENVISION...



GOALS

Benchmarks have helped us grow into the vibrant organization we are today. Regular self-examination by the conducting faculty is crucial to our progress. Each year, we set two major goals for improvement of the orchestra which have included

- 1993-94: Intonation - the skill of matching pitch throughout the orchestra
- 1994-95: Ensemble skills - the ability to play as one cohesive group
- 1995-96: Tone production - the production of quality sounds
- 1996-97: Basic Theory - study of the written aspects of music
- 1997-98: Advanced Theory and Teamwork - unity across the program
- 1998-99: Uniform Bowing and Classical Qualities - character of honor
- 1999-00: Advanced Bowing Skills and Modern Day Heroes
- 2000-01: Ear Training/Singing and Achievers
- 2001-02: Ear Training/Tuning and Raise the Standard
- 2002-03: Inner Pulse and Take the High Road
- 2003-04: Inner Pulse and More Than Enough
- 2004-05: Bow Control and Intentional Excellence
- 2005-06: Unison and Finish Strong
- 2006-07: Visualize Sound and Maximizing Talent
- 2007-08: Frequencies and Durations and Make a Difference
- 2008-09: Harmony I and One Pebble, One Ripple
- 2009-10: Harmony II and Simplify
- 2010-11: Harmony III and Ignite
- 2011-12: Listen Louder and Believe
- 2012-13: Connections and Make Your Mark!
- 2013-14: Vertical and Great Things
- 2015-16: Tell the Story and What's Your Story?
- 2016-17: Realign and What's Your Story?
- 2017-18: The Music in Me and The Music in Us
- 2018-19: One Voice and Build a Bridge
- 2019-20: Shared Vision and Notable Service

This year, our musical goal is **The pulse within us** – a focus on rhythm and subdivision. And our character goal is **Resilience** – The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and challenges.

SUCCESS IN ORCHESTRA

We enjoy looking around and seeing students who:

*are **WILLING** to improve his or her musical skills and
show a work ethic that will **BENEFIT** the individual and the **TEAM***



In the Memorial Orchestra –

WE VALUE STUDENTS SHOWING AN **EFFORT** TO IMPROVE MUSICAL SKILLS

WE VALUE A SPIRIT THAT IS **POSITIVE** TOWARD THE IMAGE OF THE ORCHESTRA

WE VALUE GOOD **CHARACTER**

WE VALUE A GOOD WORK **ETHIC** AND A **DESIRE** TO FOLLOW RULES

WE VALUE A **SUPPORTIVE** ATTITUDE TOWARD STUDENTS AND CONDUCTORS

WE VALUE BEING **ON TIME** TO CLASS AND REHEARSALS

WE VALUE AN OPEN HEART TO **ACCEPT** TEACHING THAT IS DESIGNED TO HELP

WE VALUE A EAGERNESS TO **HELP** WITH DAILY FUNCTIONS OF THE ORCHESTRA

EQUIPPING YOU...

THE ORCHESTRA WE SEE . . .

Our classroom rules are simple and based on respect:

- We see an orchestra where each student is respectful to everyone in the room – in how they talk, in how they interact, in how they treat property
- We see an orchestra where students are responsible to be in their seats, ready to play when the bell rings. This includes instruments, mutes, shoulder rests or roc stops (required), black music binders, pencils and all necessary equipment out and ready to go
- We see an orchestra in which students take pride in its home and care enough to not permit food, drink or gum to damage it
- We see an orchestra where each student is careful about the treatment of all instruments. This includes protecting the instrument by fully securing lockers at all times unless the instrument is being used and not storing anything else in the lockers except for music.

Orchestra hours are assigned to handle discipline and to help our team. To work off hours – students will help with the set up or tearing down of the orchestra room or the stage in preparation for BigMo and performances.

In the Memorial Orchestra – we believe in **communication**.

The
**MEMORIAL
ORCHESTRA**
is a
community - a
family of
musicians
who enjoy
making music
and being
together.



CALCULATION OF GRADES

Your accomplishment is important to all of us – so we have set up a grading system that will hopefully help you attain the highest scores. With our new system in place with the district, grade points are assigned on the following basis.

ACTIVITY	PERCENT
Class warmups (during attendance)	30%
Rehearsals, Quizzes & Playing Tests (tardy costs 3 points per minute)	30%
Performances & Projects (15% of this grade is the uniform grade)	40%

Note: Any assignment turned in late will be assessed a thirty point penalty on the first day and ten points each day after that. To find excuse forms, please go to www.memorial-orchestra.com

The first semester exam grade is determined by the small ensemble performance unit and the second semester exam grade is determined by a theory final.



**YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT
IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US**

DAILY CLASS ATTENDANCE

Daily class attendance will be taken by a quick warm up grade within the first five minutes of class. This will be done whether your student is learning in person or virutally. These are easy and simple. However, this will be 30% of your students' grade. It is imperative that students are on time to their classes.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

While we encourage your participation in other activities and organizations, we also expect you to participate in all orchestra events, rehearsals and performances. The team succeeds only with the contributions of all individuals.

We can give you full credit only with an excused absence – such as another school activity. Please make efforts to make sure that you have reliable prearranged transportation to all activities because problems in transportation do not qualify a student for an excused absence. If you need help, please try to get a ride from another student – or contact your directors.

IMPORTANT: When you have a conflict – you will need to turn in a completed ABSENCE FORM which can be downloaded from the orchestra website – www.memorial-orchestra.com While this form does not automatically excuse an absence - each case is considered individually and privately according to its circumstances. It is helpful to you if you turn in the form at the earliest possible date. *Please understand that performances and projects cannot be made up.*



BIG MO

One of the great things about **BigMo** is that you get to meet and know students who are not in your daily class. the fall, all students will be a member of BigMo. We are not sure if we will be having a Big Mo this year due to our current situation. If Big MO happens, it will be in the spring semester only. Students are chosen from their spring auditions. Those students will be announced at the beginning of the school year.

Students who arrive early have enough time to find their seat, unpack and sign in on time. But students who are not ready to play at start time lose three points per late minute. If you have to miss a BigMo rehearsal – turn in an ABSENCE FORM well ahead of time and do the make up recording.



RECORDED ASSIGNMENTS / PLAYING TESTS

Playing tests are video recorded and sent through google classroom and itslearning so that you have proof of submitting it. Students will each week receive an assignment through itslearning that will link up with google classroom. We also send out reminders to students through REMIND.

Most have found that they can record a video using their phones and it looks and sounds fine. You will turn in your assignments by submitting your video recording to our Google Classroom Folder. More instructions on this will be given during this first week of school.



ELIGIBILITY

We feel that every class you take is important to your education and we want you to maintain the best grades in all classes including orchestra. All of our musical activities are *curricular* or *co-curricular*. But if you are not passing all your classes – state guidelines prevent you from participating in *extra-curricular* activities of the orchestra– which include trips, auditions, etc.

If you are having trouble passing a class, please ask us and we will be happy to try to get you extra help from a teacher or a fellow student.

One of the great things about our community is that it has always been easy for us to find orchestra members who are more than willing to help each other with their studies.

We expect each member of the Memorial Orchestra to do the work necessary to pass all classes. A reminder - your grades in *all* of your classes help determine your placement in orchestra.



MUSIC

In every rehearsal we give you information and markings in the music that are very important to getting us ready for our concerts. So you can understand why having your music in class every day is crucial. Even if your music is not on the stand – you should keep it on the floor next to you so that it is handy for marking. Students will be making musical markings during our synchronous learning days.

The orchestra provides the first copy of music and you need to keep it in a black three-ring binder. We will be scanning music and placing these in the google classroom folders and in the resource folder in itslearning. Students will also be allowed a copy of the music if needed.

UNIFORMS

It is so important that we look as good as we sound when we perform so part of your performance grade is based upon how you wear your uniform - neatness, cleanliness, etc. We ask you to make your uniform look the best it possibly can and if you need to make any alterations, be sure that no fabric is cut.

Ladies: black dress, solid black hose (non-sheer)

Men: black tuxedos, bow ties and cummerbunds, white wing-tipped shirt, solid black socks

Dresses and tuxedos – including bow ties, cummerbunds and shirts - are provided by the orchestra - but all students need to provide their own **solid** black dress socks/hose (calf length) and solid black dress shoes– no sandals, no canvas shoes, no boots.

We also have T-shirts – which each student is required to wear on concert days. For our first concert students will wear jeans and the orchestra t-shirt.

This year students will also receive a black mask for concert performances.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

The Memorial Orchestra owns several violas, cellos and basses available for your use. In order to check out one of these instruments, you will need to sign a form at the start of the year, and all students will pay \$20 insurance for the school-owned instrument (see the INSTRUMENT INSURANCE section below).

We expect you to take the responsibility of making sure the instrument is properly cared for and stored carefully in acceptable conditions and temperatures. Students are expected to treat all instruments with utmost care – regardless of who the owner is.



INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

Your parents have invested a great deal of money into your instrument so we highly recommend that you have some type of coverage on your instrument, whether it is school owned, privately owned or owned by a musical instrument dealer.





Students who use school instruments will get a district-sponsored insurance policy on that instrument, which is effective 1 Sep through 31 August of each school year. Deductibles are the responsibility of the student and claims should be processed through our office. Further information regarding instrument insurance and applications are available from the orchestra office. The district insurance can only cover instruments that are owned by SBISD.



PRACTICE

The very best way you can improve your musicianship as well as contribute to our team is to practice daily at home. When you come to class prepared – we are able to work on the group aspects of making music.

The Memorial Orchestra is a great orchestra because of the quality teaching you have received in the early years of your musical education. It becomes a superior orchestra when each of you puts hard work into it. Just as in any other class, if there is a problem in the music that you cannot handle, please talk with us. We are happy to help you out!



PRIVATE LESSONS

Those who really want to advance in orchestra get involved with one-on-one training. Those who study privately have the added luxury of addressing specific needs. These students also are able to excel in the program. Students may sign up for a half hour private lesson – but are encouraged to consider a full hour lesson so that more can be addressed. Teachers are located on our website.

GETTING INVOLVED ...

CHAMBER MUSIC

One of the more unique things we do as an orchestra is chamber music – which we call **MiniMos**. Students enjoy this time because they have the opportunity to build individual as well as team skills. The challenge of this type of performance is that there are only one or two players on a part. The group is graded on rehearsal habits as well as performances – and some groups are invited to perform at one of our concerts.



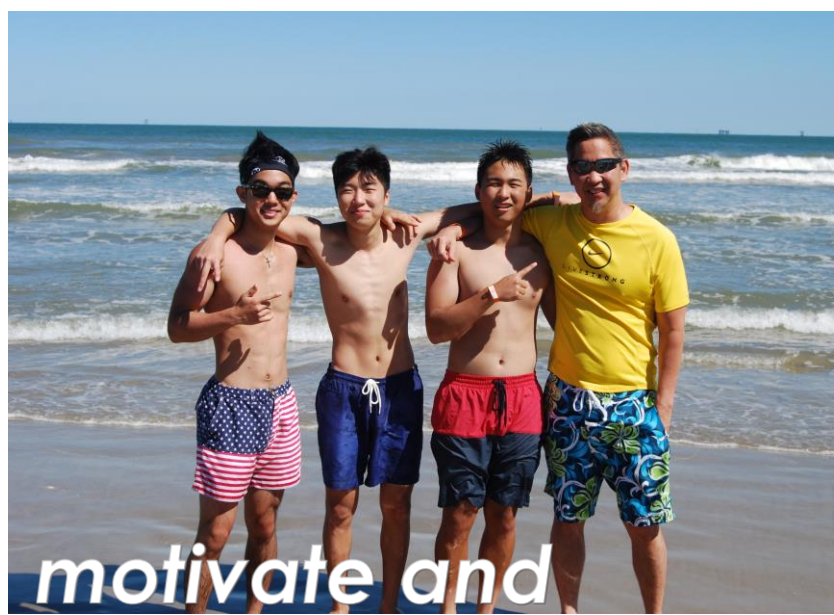
OUR STUDENTS ENTER INTO EACH OTHERS'
LIVES, CELEBRATE EACH OTHERS'
VICTORIES AND FORM UNCOMMON BONDS

SPRING TRIP

Our out of town experiences are designed to inspire us to better musicianship, motivate us to greater work ethics and build us as a team. Every spring, the Memorial Orchestra sponsors an out-of-town trip. In the odd-numbered years – we normally go to Corpus Christi –one of the most popular and unique trips. At Corpus – we perform – but we also enjoy fellowship, relaxation time and the famous Iron Chef Competition. During even-numbered years – we take a larger trip to a city outside of Texas.

The orchestra has been selected to perform at respected sites such as the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio – where we have appeared twice as Texas' Honor Orchestra, the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, four times in New York City's world famous Carnegie Hall, and this past year placed First Runner Up in the National Orchestra Cup Competition in New York City's Lincoln Center

This year we have planned a trip to Corpus Christi. We do not know yet if this trip will happen. We will keep you updated with the information as we know.



COMPETITIONS

In Houston, in Texas and all throughout the country – there are competitions for string players and we encourage you to get involved. The Memorial Orchestra has been represented well in many of these contests, and has enjoyed the successes of individual as well as collective performances.

Our students have been involved in several concerto competitions in the area. SBISD sponsors a Solo and Ensemble Contest, TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) sponsors auditions for the Region and All-State Orchestras. In fact – you can download Region and State Audition Information at TMEA.org and look for All – State Orchestra Audition Material.

These contests make a great opportunity to increase your skills as a string player!



LETTER AWARDS

Each year – we are happy to award letter jackets or blankets to students who have shown musical merit and/or exemplary dedication to the Memorial Orchestra. To get a letter award – you will need to earn 12 points in orchestra:

- a. 5 points for earning a place in Region Orchestra
- b. 3 points for earning a place in Area Orchestra
- c. 1 point for earning a place in a State TMEA organization
- d. 2 points for earning a 1st division rating on a Class One at SBISD solo and ensemble contest
- e. 5 points for being in Sinfonia
- f. 4 points for being in Lyrica and Philharmonia

All points are cumulative from year to year. In addition, a student may automatically qualify for an award after three years of satisfactory participation in orchestra. Students who have already received a jacket or blanket from another organization can qualify for an orchestra letter patch.

CONNECTING...

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

As you prepare to make payments for your activities, you may send checks with your students who will use a personalized envelope that acts as a receipt. Parents may also make payments by credit card on the students' My School Bus account. Please note that trip payments on credit cards result in a 3.8% transaction fee to parents.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Students use not only itslearning, but also google classroom to complete assignments in orchestra. This is how we collect video tests and students are able to easily get feedback through this.

ITSLEARNING

This is the learning center for the district. Students will need to check itslearning for their weekly assignments and for their daily attendance. Links to google classroom are in itslearning. Students will at times have activities to complete from itslearning.

REMIND

The directors interact with students through remind. They will get reminders through this. They can get reminders to their cell phone or email.

MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA In addition the orchestra has its own website **www.Memorial-orchestra.com** - which has a great deal of information about the orchestra, photos, calendars, maps to orchestra events, performance dates and assignments. You and your parents are encouraged to consult the website regularly for news and updates as it is here where you can find the most current issue of our NEWSLETTER – usually on the first school day of each month. You can also find the MoPedia – a glossary of all the terminology and nicknames we have for all things Memorial Orchestra.

TMEA Finally – **www.TMEA.org** (Texas Music Educators Association) has all up-to-date and official information regarding region etudes and the All-State process. This site also has all of the changes that have been made to the audition material. We recommend students look each week to see what changes, if any, have been made.



TEXAS MUSIC SCHOLARS

One of the ways we like to recognize our students' accomplishments is through the Texas Music Scholars Program of TMEA. To be recognized – a student must meet the following criteria during this school year:

- An A average in all cumulative course work
- Participate in all required Orchestra events
- Attend two professional performances (same as PCP)
- Selected and participated in the Region or State Orchestra
- Performed a Class I Solo at Solo & Ensemble or in public
- Exhibits behavior which brings honor to the orchestra, school and community

PARENT PICKUP

With each event the orchestra has – we will do our best to publish an end time so that parents will know when to pick up their students. Since many of our events end when it is dark outside – we would like to stress the importance of parents arriving on time to pick up their students. The directors try to wait and canvas the pickup areas before leaving – but the campus is large and we may not see everyone who is still waiting. On time parent pickup will help insure the safety of our students.



REQUIRED EXPENSES

- 1) **\$65.00 Orchestra Dues (This fee is reduced this year, due to COVID)**
 - a) For ALL students in enrolled in Orchestra
 - b) Due at the beginning of the school year – checks made payable to MHS Orchestra.
Parents may use MySchoolBucks account and pay by credit card (Invoices will be sent out before the first day of school.
 - c) These dues are used primarily to help with the following expenses: clinicians, section coaches, basic supplies, uniform cleaning, uniform bag, snacks for different events, recording of concerts, bus expenses, cleaning supplies for instruments and the yearly orchestra t-shirt and concert masks.
- 2) **\$20.00 Instrument Insurance** for each SBISD-owned instrument used by student
 - a) \$20.00 Fee for Insurance to cover costs if damaged (If damaged, there is also a \$50 deductible paid by the parent)
 - b) To be paid when the instrument is checked out
 - c) Checks made payable to MHS Orchestra – can be combined with with the dues.
- 3) **Additional Supplies**
 - a) Black Binder
 - b) Black Dress Shoes (close-toed shoes)
 - c) Black Dress socks (must be at least calf-high) or Black Knee High/Panty Hose

OPTIONAL EXPENSES

- 1) **Private Lessons** – highly encouraged for all Orchestra students
 - a) List available online at www.memorial-orchestra.com
- 2) **Region Entry Fee**
 - a) \$20 Fee to be made no later than September
- 3) **Solo and Ensemble Contest Fees**
 - a) SBISD (\$10 per entry) UIL (\$10 per entry)
 - b) Students required to get their own accompanist (a list will be provided with the entry form)
- 4) **Spring Orchestra Trip** – available for all Orchestra students
 - a) This year's Spring Trip will be to Corpus Christi
 - b) Although not mandatory, trips are a great way to connect with other members of the orchestra and have a fun educational experience.
 - c) The "No Pass, No Play" eligibility policy will be in effect.
 - d) Trip Payment deadlines will not be released at this time as travel is not permitted at this time for Memorial Orchestra
- 5) **Fine Arts Banquet** – End-of-the-Year Celebration Dinner and Dance held at a hotel
- 6) **Officer Parties** – Social Parties throughout the year

MEMORIAL ORKLYMPICS

www.Memorial-Orchestra.com

CALENDAR 2020-21

Efforts have been made to produce a calendar for the entire school year so that conflicts can be resolved in advance. All dates and times are subject to change – and notice of such changes will be given well in advance and will be announced in class. Events listed in CAPS are required. The calendar is considered official on the first day of school.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / TIME
17 Aug-1 Sep	Sinfonia Sectionals Violin1 Monday 3:30-4:30p, Violin 2 Monday 4:30-5:30p, Viola Tuesday 3:30-4:30p, Cello Tuesday 4:30-5:30p Bass Tue 5:30-6p AFTER SCHOOL Class REHEARSALS BEGIN (see list of dates below*)	Zoom / 9:00a-12:00p
5 Oct	Period 1: 23 Feb Period 3: 7 Oct , 2 Mar Period 4: 13 Oct, 8 Mar Period 5: 9 Mar Period 7: 1 Mar Sinfonia Class rehearsals will be 5:15-7:00pm each rehearsal Sinfonia: 5 Oct, 12 Oct, 19 Oct, 26 Oct, 2 Nov, 9 Nov, 16 Nov, 30 Nov, 7 Dec (fall semester) 11 Jan, 25 Jan, 1 Feb, 8 Feb, 15 Feb, 22 Feb, 1 Mar, 8 Mar, 22 Mar, 29 Mar, 5 Apr, 12 Apr (spring)	Orchestra Room / 3:30p-5:00
31 Aug	Orchestra (New and Returning) Parent Meeting	Zoom / 6:30p
4 Oct	Orchestra Mock Audition Day	Orchestra room / 3:15p – 5:00p
13 Oct	M. O. O. (MEMORIAL ORK OLYMPICS) & SENIOR MEETING	Memorial HS / 6:00p
17 Oct	Region Orchestra Audition	Spring Branch MS / 9:00a
15-18 Oct	Playoff Week for State Orchestra Auditions	Orchestra Room / TBD (Signup for timeslot)
21 Oct	Big MO Begins (see dates below)	Orchestra Roo / 5p or 6:30p
24 Oct	State Orchestra Audition	Cy Fair HS / 9:30a
26-30 Oct	CHAMBER MUSIC OUTDOOR RECITAL Period 1&5 Oct 26, Period 4&7 Oct 27, Period 2&3 Oct 29	Memorial Performing Arts Center / 6:00p
10 Dec	Period 1,5,7 OUTDOOR CONCERT	Memorial Performing Arts Center / 6:00p
11 Dec	PERIOD 2,3,4 OUTDOOR CONCERT	Memorial Performing Arts Center / 6:00p
21 Jan	M. O. O. II	Gym III / 6:00p–7:30
10-14 Feb	Texas Music Educators Association Convention (All State)	San Antonio / All day
19-20 Feb	SBISD Solo & Ensemble Contest	Memorial Performing Arts Center / All Day
25 Feb	ORCHESTRA CONCERT	Memorial Performing Arts Center / 7:00p
11 Mar	ORCHESTRA CONCERT	Memorial Performing Arts Center / 7:00p 31 Mar
30 Mar - 1 Apr	UIL CONCERT & SIGHTREADING – PHILHARMONIAS	Berry Center / TBA
TBD	ORCHESTRA TRIP	TBD
20-21 Apr	UIL CONCERT & SIGHTREADING - SINFONIA	Memorial HS / TBD
27 Apr	ORCHESTRA CONCERT (STRING ORCHESTRAS)	Memorial Performing Arts Center / 7:00p
14 May	Fine Arts Banquet	TBA / 7:30p

Revised: 17-Aug-20

Name: _____

