



MEMORIAL  
O R C H E S T R A

### Directors

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To find more information please visit:

[www.memorialmsorchestra.com](http://www.memorialmsorchestra.com)

# Welcome to the Memorial Middle School Orchestra!

Welcome to the Memorial Middle School Orchestra program! We are delighted that you have chosen to join the fine arts community at MMS and look forward to creating an enriching musical experience for all students and stakeholders of the community.

I am excited to begin my second year at Memorial Middle School. This will be my 17th year in string education. Prior to my appointment at Memorial Middle School, I was the orchestra director at Cy-Fair High School (Cypress, TX), Durham Middle School (Acworth, GA), and Cooper Middle School (Austell, GA). I began my musical studies on the violin but pivoted to playing double bass.

We are committed to creating a nurturing environment for students to thrive musically and socially. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Please refer to this document for all of the policies, procedures, and supply-lists for the orchestra program. I look forward to a great 2022-2023 school year!

Musically yours,

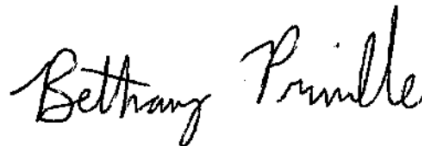


Director of Orchestras  
Memorial Middle School

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I am looking forward to beginning my 10th year at Memorial Middle School. It has been my pleasure and privilege to teach the wonderful string orchestra students at MMS. I began my musical studies on the violin and switched to the viola.

Thank you for trusting us with your child's music education. We look forward to a great 2022-23 school year!



Associate Director of Orchestras  
Memorial Middle School

❖ **ORCHESTRA CLASS FEE**

☐ **The orchestra fee** will help cover expenses required throughout this year such as: orchestra t-shirt, a new binder with required supplies for each student, tuner for each student, our copy machine expenses, food for student activities, clinicians, classroom supplies, purchasing music/books and other costs. Please let us know if you are unable to pay this fee at this time and we will be happy to work out a payment plan with you. If your student is on Free/Reduced lunch, homeless, or in foster care please bring that to our attention so we can assist with your fees. **Go to MySchoolBucks.Com to pay fees.** *If you need more time or financial assistance to pay your student's fees we are flexible on that. Please email [Bethany.Prindle@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Bethany.Prindle@springbranchisd.com) for assistance with MySchoolBucks.*

❖ **STUDENTS USING SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS DUE**

We do not provide school violins. If enough instruments are available, students can reserve school owned violas, cellos and basses with the required insurance fee of \$20. These are available on a first come, first served basis. **Insurance forms must be in our possession and a \$20 insurance fee paid before students can leave MMS with their instrument.** The fee is \$20 per instrument and this fee only applies if you are using an instrument that belongs to SBISD. If you rent from a local shop you will not pay this fee. The insurance form can be found at the end of this document. Please fill out only the portions of the form with your personal information and email the insurance form to: [Bethany.prindle@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Bethany.prindle@springbranchisd.com)

[Instrument Check Out Form](#)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Class Fee</i>	\$70.00	<i>Orchestra T-Shirt, D'Addario Tuner, Orchestra Binder, Guest Clinicians/Artists, Sheet Music, Supplies, Student rewards, refreshments for concerts</i>
<i>Insurance Fee for School &amp; Home Instrument</i>	\$40.00	<i>Insurance for damage and upkeep of both home and school instruments. *This will apply to most CELLO/BASS students who do not own a home instrument.</i>
<i>Insurance Fee for School instrument ONLY</i>	\$20.00	<i>Insurance for damage and upkeep of school instruments. *This will apply to CELLO/BASS students who own a home instrument and VIOLA students who will rent a school-owned instrument.</i>

## **Orchestra Classroom Expectations**

### **Classroom expectations**

1. Be on time to class. Students will have 2 minutes to gather their materials needed for class (instrument, binder, rosin, etc.). Students will be considered tardy if they are not ready after the 2 minute time period and/or enter the classroom after the tardy bell. There will be a timer on the board to assist students manage their time. Students will need to have their instrument out, bow rosined, and folder opened to be considered on-time.
2. Violin/Viola Instrument cases and backpacks will be placed underneath their chairs.
3. No talking or leaving your seat when tuning commences.
4. Perform your instrument only when you are instructed to do so.
5. Raise your hand to ask a question.
6. Raise your hand in the shape of a "C" to make a comment.

### **Consequences**

1. Tardiness:
  - a. 1st Tardy - Verbal Warning (Tardy will be marked Skyward)
  - b. 2nd Tardy - Verbal Warning & Lunch Detention (Tardy will be marked in Skyward and Parents will be contacted)
  - c. 3rd Tardy - Administrative Referral
2. Disruptive/Off-Task Behavior:
  - a. 1st Offense - Verbal Warning
  - b. 2nd Offense - Parent contact and Lunch Detention
  - c. Third Offense - Administrative referral (and potential loss of field trips/socials)
3. Extreme Offenses (Vandalism, anti-social behavior, etc.)

Immediate administrative referral and loss of orchestra privileges (trips, socials, etc.)

## Concert Expectations

### **Orchestra Event/Performance Expectations**

1. Concerts will typically start at 6:30 PM. Students should go home after school on the day of a concert unless they have made arrangements with Mr. Ray/Ms. Prindle.
2. Report to the concert by 6:15 PM. (Or at least 15 minutes prior to the performance)
3. Be prepared in the correct uniform.
4. Have a respectful, responsible, and positive demeanor toward themselves, each other, their teachers and other community members.
5. While other orchestra members are performing on stage, all use of electronics, talking, or any other disruptions will not be tolerated.

## Grading

Our retest policy aligns with SBISD and MMS's retest policies. It is the student's responsibility to request a make-up assignment within 3 days for missed performances and rehearsals. For unexcused absences the make-up assignment and original grade will be averaged for the new grade.

Performances, Test Grades	40%
Quizzes	40%
Supply Checks, Daily assignments	20%

## Supply List

There will be a supply check for a homework grade sometime during the 3rd week of school. Students are expected to be prepared with all of their supplies every day.

### **ALL STUDENTS:**

**Music stand, Rosin (for their instrument), Shoulder Rest (for Violin/Viola), roc stop (cello/bass)**

ADDITIONAL BEGINNER SUPPLY: Essential Elements for Strings 2000

Tuners will be provided to every student and kept in the student's orchestra binder and should be brought with them each day. Violin/viola students will keep their tuner on their instrument all the time. I recommend labeling the tuner in silver sharpie so that it can be identified.



## **Orchestra Placement**

There are five performing orchestras at Memorial Middle School. Orchestra placement is determined through student participation, attitude, effort and level of maturity and performance as seen by directors throughout the previous year. Auditions and the resulting orchestra placements are final. Auditions are not required—they are an opportunity for students to show their skill and be considered for a higher level of placement. Students who do not complete an audition will remain in the same orchestra the following school year. All students are given feedback regarding auditions/placement, but there are no additional audition opportunities. Students are thoughtfully placed in the orchestra that best suits their educational needs, emotional development and the group in which they will be most successful. The orchestra directors reserve the right to change student orchestra placement at any time. Participation is a privilege, and poor attitude or behavior can exempt students from performances or activities. Students must complete one year of Philharmonic, Camerata or Symphony Orchestra before they are eligible to participate in the Chamber Orchestra. Discipline referrals, ISS, and further more serious disciplinary measures can exempt a student from participation in the Chamber Orchestra.

### **Concert Dress**

Formal Dress:

*Black Dress Pants or Dress, White Dress Shirt, Black Dress Shoes*

Informal Dress:

*Memorial MS Orchestra T-Shirt w/ Jeans*

FORMAL CONCERTS: Fall, UIL Concert

INFORMAL CONCERTS: Winter Cluster Concert, Spring Concert

Stay Connected Online and Social Media!

[www.MemorialMSOrchestra.com](http://www.MemorialMSOrchestra.com)

Follow Us on Instagram:



@memorialmsorch

*Social media is a tool to keep parents and students informed of orchestra events/updates and to post educational videos and updates. The program might occasionally use photos/videos of orchestra students on the MMS Orch Instagram account. Your student's name will never be posted. If you do not want your child's image to appear on social media for these purposes, please email Mr. Ray. This will exclude live stream concerts that may occur in the future.*

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS.**

By signing the Handbook Acknowledgement Form on the link below, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the policies and expectations outlined in this handbook that are approved by MMS Principal, Ellen Green, for the MMS Orchestra program.

[Click Here to Fill out Parent Form and Sign Handbook Acknowledgment](#)