

CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cavalier Orchestra Handbook

2020-2021



College Park HS

Dr. Mark Murrell, *Principal*
The Woodlands College Park High School
3701 College Park Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77384
Office: 936.709.3000

CISD Administration

Dr. Curtis Null, *Superintendent*
Dr. Chris Hines, *Deputy Superintendent*
Mr. Gregg Colschen, *Assist. Superintendent-Secondary Education*
Dr. Robert Horton, *Fine Arts Coordinator*

College Park HS Fine Art Departments

Dr. Peter Kempter, Mr. Emmanuel Coraza- *Orchestra*
Mr. Jeff Gorrington, Ms. Theresa Martin, Mr. Rob Savala - *Band*
Ms. Erin Bodhaine Mr. Kent Doerries- *Choir*
Ms. Valerie Labonski- *Theater*

College Park HS Orchestra Vertical Team

College Park High School - Dr. Peter Kempter, Mr. Emmanuel Coraza
Knox Junior High - Ms. Shelby Nichols
Collins Intermediate - Ms. Eliasha Gibbs
Wilkerson Intermediate – Ms. Shannon Bolen

The Conroe Independent School District (District) as an equal opportunity educational provider and employer does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment matters. The District is required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Board policy not to discriminate in such a manner.

For information about **Title IX rights or Section 504/ADA rights**, contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504/ADA coordinator at 3205 W. Davis, Conroe, Texas 77304; (936) 709-7752.



The Woodlands College Park High School Orchestra

Dr. Peter Kempter, Director of Orchestras / Mr. Emmanuel Coraza, Assistant Orchestra Director
pkempter@conroeisd.net / cavalier.orchestra@gmail.com / www.cporchestra.com

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to College Park High School and the Cavalier Orchestra. We want to thank you for your commitment and continuing your musical studies. This handbook contains information, guidelines and expectations for classroom procedures, U.I.L. activities, uniforms, performance calendar, and forms to be signed and returned. We are looking forward to meeting all our new members and welcoming back our upper classmen as we strive for another Sweepstakes year!

The Cavalier Orchestra Program currently has over 200 musicians and consists of six ensembles: five string orchestras: Sinfonietta, Philharmonic, Camerata, Chamber, Symphony and the Full Orchestra. During the school year, students perform numerous concerts including Fall, Winter, and Spring concert, Bachs Office Hits Pop Show, UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest (four string ensembles and Full), UIL Solo & Ensemble, TMEA Region Orchestra, CISD Honor Orchestra, School Musical, Early Music Festival (Texas Renaissance Festival), Holly Jolly Pops (Woodlands Pavilion), Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival, and the String Fling feeder concert. Students perform for various social events, holiday functions and weddings each year. The orchestras have earned consecutive Sweepstakes at UIL contest and have been successful participating in festivals in New York (Carnegie Hall 2016), Chicago (Symphony Hall 2010), Dallas (Meyerson Hall 2015), San Antonio (2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017), Anaheim (2009), and Orlando (2007, 2013, 2018). Most recently, the Cavalier Symphony earned a 3rd place win at the 2019 American String Teachers Association *National Orchestra Festival*, in Albuquerque, NM.

The Cavalier Booster Organization welcomes your support and membership. Scholarships are provided for private lessons, and for all graduating seniors. The Boosters assist students with several social events, the awards banquet, and the distribution and maintenance of concert uniforms.

We are eager to get the year started and seeing you at all of our events. It is a privilege to work with your children, and we know with your support and the dedication from the students that we can maintain our position as the premier high school orchestra program in Conroe ISD.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Kempter, Head Director
Mr. Emmanuel Coraza, Assistant Director

CAVALIER ORCHESTRAS / EXPECTATIONS

Auditions/Placement-

- All incoming 9th grade students are placed into the Sinfonietta, Philharmonic, or Camerata Orchestras. Members of ALL the Cavalier Orchestras re-audition for placement each year.
- Considerations for placement include **musical ability, self-motivation to practice, attitude, behavior, and campus discipline/academic history.**
- Audition material will be provided after Spring Break.
- If students have difficulty meeting performance and classroom expectations, they will be considered for reassignment to another elective.
- ***All audition placements are final.***

Symphony Orchestra (Varsity String and Full Orchestra UIL) Enrollment Grades: 10-12

- Attend all ***afterschool sectionals, events and performances as required.***
- All-Region Orchestra Audition
- UIL Solo & Ensemble and chamber music recital
- Music in Motion (all Region clinics)
- Waterway Arts Festival
- Festival trip
- Holiday gigs/weddings/nursing homes

Chamber Orchestra (Non-Varsity String UIL) Enrollment Grades: 9-12

- Attend all ***afterschool sectionals, events and performances as required.***
- Prepare for All-Region Orchestra or High School Honor Orchestra.
- Holly Jolly Pops/Winter concert Full Orchestra
- UIL Solo & Ensemble contest and chamber music recital.

Camerata Orchestra (Sub Non-Varsity A String UIL) Enrollment Grades: 9-12

- Attend all ***afterschool sectionals and performances as required.***
- Prepare for All-Region Orchestra or High School Honor Orchestra
- Encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

Philharmonic Orchestra (Sub Non-Varsity B String UIL) Enrollment Grades: 9-12

- Attend all ***afterschool sectionals and performances as required.***
- Encouraged to prepare for All-Region Orchestra or High School Honor Orchestra
- Encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

Sinfonietta Orchestra (Sub Non-Varsity C String UIL) Enrollment Grades: 9-10

- Attend all ***required events and performances as required.***
- Encouraged to prepare for All-Region Orchestra or High School Honor Orchestra
- Encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Personal instrument, bow and accessories in good condition

By the time a student is a sophomore, they will be expected to be using a step-up quality instrument (*NOT FOUND THROUGH THE INTERNET*) and a quality wood or carbon bow. In most cases these items will have been purchased during the eighth or ninth grade year. DO NOT PURCHASE BEFORE CONSULTING your director or private teacher. Instrument cases must be labeled with name and address. An orchestra locker is provided to safeguard from unauthorized use or theft. *The director is not responsible for misplaced or misused instruments that are not secured in an assigned locker.*

Black three-ring binder with 4 dividers, pencil bag

All students are expected to have this in class each day to mark performance information/changes. Music for each performance will be provided to all students.

Students should own the following items for home use as needed:

Folding music stand
Metronome/Tuner (Several Apps)
Shoulder rest (Sumi, Kun or other)
Cello/Bass end-pin stop
Mute (Tourte-rubber attached)
Extra strings

Items gladly accepted as donations for the use of the orchestra program/classroom:

2-3 boxes of tissues
1-2 packages of AA or AAA batteries
1-2 reams of white copy paper

These items can be purchased from any of the following vendors, or online from an established music store. For contact information and comparison-shopping, visit the following websites for renting/buying/repairing instruments, sheet music and other supplies.

Lisle Violin Shop

11550 Louetta Dr.
Houston, TX 77070
346.236.6650
lisleviolinshop@aol.com
www.lisleviolinshop.com

Music & Arts Center

Portofino Shopping Center
Shenandoah, TX 77385
936.273.3602
www.musicarts.com

Robertson & Sons Violin Shop

3201 Carlisle Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505.889.2999
www.robertsonviolins.com

Fishburn Violin Shop

9420 College Park Dr.
The Woodlands, TX 77384
936.447.9061
www.fishburnviolin.com

Amati Violin Shop

2315 University Blvd.
Houston, TX 77005
713.666.6461
www.amativiolinshop.com

FACILITY CARE / STUDENT CONDUCT / REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Facility Care

The primary function of the orchestra room is to serve as a teaching space for on-campus curricular courses as well as for off-campus guest ensembles. Its condition and appearance must remain orderly and safe. The following guidelines will be ***strictly enforced*** to ensure the safety and care of our facility.

- ❖ All stands, chairs, audio/visual equipment, computers/iPads, music folder cabinets, and other items used solely for the purpose of classroom instruction is to be treated properly.
- ❖ Only students enrolled in orchestra or music theory are allowed in the orchestra room. Friends are asked to wait outside while orchestra students retrieve instruments or conduct classroom business.
- ❖ Practice rooms are solely used for private lessons or individual practice. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to congregate in practice rooms at any time.

Student Conduct

A high standard of conduct is expected from students at all times as members of the Cavalier Orchestra. The respect policies set forth in the TWCP Student Handbook will be in effect at all times on and off campus.

Rehearsal Procedure/Expectation

Productive rehearsals produce successful performances. Proper rehearsal etiquette and the ability to follow directions are crucial for the success of any orchestra program.

- ❖ Individual warm-up begins ***before*** the Tardy Bell. A student not seated ready for instruction within one minute after the bell rings will be counted tardy.
- ❖ Talking while the director is rehearsing is considered **rude and inappropriate**.
- ❖ Restroom breaks ***do not occur*** during class time.
- ❖ Demonstration of correct instrument and body posture are expected at all times.
- ❖ Food, drink and gum of any kind are **PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES**.
- ❖ Disruptive behavior of any kind is unacceptable and will result in the student being removed from the classroom.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in teacher and/or administrative disciplinary action, and a lowering of the student's grade.

GRADING POLICY

Major: Concerts/Performances

A performance is equivalent to a final exam, being the culmination of several weeks of hard work and preparation. All performances are REQUIRED.

Daily: Daily Participation / Preparation / Materials / Sectionals / Playing tests

A daily participation grade reflects the ability to consistently follow established rehearsal procedures and classroom rules. Contents and condition of music binders will be checked periodically for a grade. Due to the performance-oriented nature of the class, after-school rehearsals (sectionals) and clinics are necessary.

CURRICULAR / EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

On-campus sponsored events are considered *curricular, or co-curricular*. Several *extra-curricular* competitions sponsored by the University Scholastic League (U.I.L.) and TMEA also occur throughout the year for all students to participate. These include Solo & Ensemble, All-Region Orchestra and All-State Orchestra. Clinics taught by Houston area professional performers/educators are hired to prepare for these events. Students are *strongly encouraged* to avail themselves of these opportunities

ELIGIBILITY

Participation in all **U.I.L. sponsored events**, including any **Orchestra Trip** require a grade of **70** (1-100 scale) or above in all classes during the eligibility period of the scheduled event. Students in A.P. or Pre A.P. courses may obtain a waiver to participate. Participation in all **on-campus events** is allowed regardless of grade status.

TMEA ALL-REGION / ALL-STATE

TMEA All-Region takes place in November. Students audition in October for placement in one of two orchestras: Symphony or Philharmonic. The selected audition etudes are posted on the TMEA website (www.tmea.org) in early May. These sites should be visited frequently for official corrections or *errata* regarding the audition material. Cavalier Symphony (Varsity) members are required to participate for this audition.

TMEA All-State takes place each February in San Antonio. Students will audition in early November for placement in one of three orchestras: Symphony, Philharmonic, and String. In addition to pre-selected etudes, orchestral excerpts from the programmed repertoire are heard. Students can download these excerpts in late July from www.tmea.org. Auditions for All-State are done through live recording. ***College Park is the host site for the All-State audition/recording.*** The director will provide an audition contract form for All-Region and All-State.

TMEA HONOR HS ORCHESTRA

The Cavalier Symphony Orchestra may submit a recording for the TMEA Honor Orchestra competition. If selected, they perform at the TMEA Convention in San Antonio in February the following year.

DISTRICT U.I.L. SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST / TEXAS STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

District U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble contest is an opportunity for any student to perform a solo or in a chamber music ensemble for a judge and receive a rating and medal. Students will be assigned to a pre-arranged chamber music ensemble during the year for this as well as other performing opportunities. If students play in two ensembles, they must be different types (i.e. quartet and trio). Specific performance requirements are detailed on the student sign-up sheet. Students become 'certified' to compete at the U.I.L. Texas State Solo & Ensemble in Austin by earning a '1' rating playing a '1' class selection.

U.I.L. CONCERT & SIGHT-READING EVALUATION

The U.I.L. Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation takes place in April, and in early May for the varsity full orchestra. All Cavalier orchestras will perform selections suitable for each ensemble's performing abilities. Music will be determined on the basis of ensemble level and instrumentation. ****Participation in ALL U.I.L. events are mandatory. Failure to notify the director of a conflict prior to event will result in the student being removed from the Cavalier Orchestra Program.***

CAVALIER ORCHESTRA SUMMER CAMPS

ALL-STATE/REGION ETUDE CAMP: This camp introduces the audition etude material for the Region and All-State orchestras with professional clinicians from the Houston area. **All orchestra members from Symphony and Chamber** are strongly encouraged to attend.

CELLO-BASS CAMP: College Park cello and bass students will be encouraged to participate in this camp in June. This camp is for all CISD cellists and bassists from 5th through 12th grade. Students will learn ensemble material and work on the All-Region/State etudes.

ORIENTATION CAMP: All incoming students to the orchestra program are expected to attend.

How to Practice Specific Skills/Techniques

Skill	Practice Activity	Checkpoints
Posture: Violin/Viola	<i>Grow an inch</i> <i>Puppet Shoulders</i>	Head to spine should make a straight line. Instrument is supported by shoulder/collarbone ('shelf') Jawbone rests on chin rest; shoulders level. Instrument generally parallel to floor. Nose-bridge-scroll in a straight line.
Posture: Cello	<i>Grow an inch</i> <i>Palms an' knees</i> <i>Bear Hug</i>	Adjust endpin so C peg hides behind left ear. Chest supports upper back of cello; knees lightly hold sides
Posture: Bass	<i>Grow an inch</i> <i>Puppet Shoulders</i>	1 st finger is at eye level; rim of bass resting left of player's belly button. Both feet support the bass: right foot floor, left foot by rung of stool. Instrument leans into center of body, resting on left thigh.
Bow Hold: Violin/Viola	<i>Finger/Pencil Bowing</i> <i>Flop Hand</i> <i>Balance Point Bows</i>	Index finger-second knuckle joint on top of stick. Thumb forms oval across from 2 nd finger. Little finger on tip over the frog.
Bow Hold: Cello/Bass	<i>Shelving</i> <i>Finger/Pencil Bowing</i>	All fingers naturally curved and draped over stick. Thumb curved, side of tip rests across from 2 nd finger.
Shifting	<i>Find Harmonics</i> <i>One-Finger Scales</i> <i>One-Finger Melodies</i> <i>Tap and Slide</i> <i>Shuttle Shifts</i>	Thumb always travels with hand. Shifting finger travels lightly on the string during shift. Bow stops briefly between shifting notes that are not slurred. Hand shape stays the same in lower position shifts.
Vibrato	<i>At the Bout/The Slide</i> <i>Helping hand</i> <i>Vibrato Harmonics</i> <i>Vibrating to the Click</i> <i>Push Away</i> <i>An Itch</i>	Hand Vibrato: generated by hand waving from wrist joint. Arm Vibrato: generated by moving hand, wrist and arm as a unit. 1 st knuckle of the vibrating finger always flexes. Thumb may be free for cello and bass. Motion is even.
Spiccato	<i>Balance Point Rub</i> <i>To the Frog</i> <i>Balance Point Bounce</i> <i>Multiple Bounces</i> <i>Trampoline Bounces</i>	Brush, glance or touch stroke, do not 'hit' the string. Hand and fingers must be flexible. Soft shoulder and balanced elbow.
String Crossing	<i>Bridge Rocking</i> <i>Rest Crossings</i> <i>Finger Teeter Totters</i> <i>Clockwise/Counter</i> <i>Metronome</i>	Arm moves to the new string with flexible wrist/hand. Faster string crossing: less arm motion and more wrist and hand.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." -Aristotle

"It's not necessarily the amount of time you spend at practice that counts; it's what you put into the practice." -Eric Lindros

"If I don't practice one day, I know it; two days, the critics know it; three days, the public knows it."
-Jascha Heifetz

"Practice until you can't play it wrong." -DK

"An orchestra is only as good as the members who don't practice" -DK

"Perfection does not exist, but it is expected" -DK

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are ***strongly encouraged*** to take private lessons, particularly if they have the desire and dedication to advance as a competitive performer. Many top ranked orchestra programs are successful, in part, due to individual training through private lessons. Private lesson instructors may schedule lessons on campus if they prefer not to teach at their residence.

A full list of CISD approved instructors can be found on the Website.

CAVALIER ORCHESTRA UNIFORM

Students will be issued uniform items for the duration of the school year. Clothing issued that is the property of CISD must be properly maintained to ensure its condition for several years. Students will be fitted in class beginning the second week of school. The uniform cleaning/maintenance cost is covered in the Membership Dues. Students are financially responsible for lost or damaged articles that were assigned to them.

Primary Concert Attire worn for all performances

Gentlemen:

Black long sleeve dress shirt (purchased with your Membership Dues)

Men's Necktie (Checked out)

Black dress pants (provided by student/parent)

Black dress shoes and socks (provided by student)

Ladies:

Black formal dress (Checked out)

Black closed-toe dress shoes (provided by student)

Jewelry and perfume are not to be worn during performances

Secondary Concert Attire worn at Renaissance Festival, School Tours, String Fling
Orchestra T-Shirt or Polo / Jeans or Khakis / Tennis shoes

COVID-19 ADDENDUM

Cavalier Orchestra Members,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Your directors and support staff have greatly missed performing with you, teaching you, and making special memories with you. This past spring semester was a challenge for many of us and we understand many obstacles and difficulties are still ahead of us. I am confident, however, that because this program has such a strong foundation built on commitment and success – it will all be OK!

You may have received information from CISD and several officials regarding school protocols for the fall. The purpose of this communication is to give you more specific information regarding how the Cavalier Orchestra program will implement, to the best of our ability, these expectations. Through this process, the keys words I have been ‘chanting’ to myself is *flexibility*, *patience*, and *support*.

Orchestra procedures/expectations for the 2020-2021 Fall Semester:

Communication/Logistical information

- We will continue to use the **BAND** app for communicating daily updates and important announcements to both students and parents. Please download this to your mobile device and soon you will be getting an invite to join with instructions.
- Stringed instruments need yearly maintenance. Bow hair and strings should be replaced over the summer, and it is a good idea to have your instrument inspected for cracks or open seams. Also, by the junior year, we are expecting most students to consider getting an upgrade in the quality of instrument. If it is the same since the 7th or 8th grade, it is difficult to produce the desired tone needed to blend in an advanced ensemble. The directors will be more than happy to help you with this!
- Our program uses the **Charms** website for informational records such as finances, uniforms, music library, and most importantly for emailing orchestra members. It is very important that your current email address and preferred phone number is updated. The orchestra homepage www.cporchestra.com has a link for Charms login instructions if you are new to the process.

In-class instruction

- We anticipate the use of masks being necessary for most students, due to the challenge of observing social distancing with our large numbers.
- One music stand per person will be recommended- should the program not have enough music stands; personal folding stands will be recommended for individuals.
- It is recommended that personal instruments and materials do not remain at school overnight. Lockers will still be provided/assigned for violin and viola students.
- Regarding the use of classroom cellos and basses, we will follow all sterilization and sanitation guidelines. It may be your choice, if convenient, to transport your own cello to school each day.
- The orchestra room will use designated entrance and exit doors.

Private lessons

- Fine Arts private lesson teachers will not be allowed to teach on campus facilities until further guidance is provided.
- Private lessons may continue to be conducted virtually, if agreed upon between individual families and the lesson teacher.
- All district guidelines will continue to be followed.

Performances/Rehearsals

- In specific instances, students may need to come to campus at designated times to attend rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts. Additional information will be provided on this after we start.
- It is our goal to adhere to the established performing calendar as much as possible, however, concerts may be adjusted based upon health and safety guidelines.
- Performances will most likely be live-streamed.
- Students will be expected to arrive to concerts fully dressed in designated concert uniforms as changing areas may not be provided. *Concert uniforms will not be assigned for the fall semester.
- Events off-campus (Renaissance Festival, Region, Honor Orch) are currently on hold until specific guidance is provided by CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.

Remote learning (as provided by CISD)

- Regular and frequent interaction between students and teachers will be expected.
- Orchestra will use Canvas for the majority of the on-line learning curriculum.
- Course expectations for remote learning will be of equal rigor to face-to face instruction.
- Students will be provided with rubrics and procedures for completion of assignments.
- Students may be required to log-in at designated times and for designated amounts of time to complete each course's requirements.
- Assignment due dates will be comparable to face-to-face course requirements.
- Students must have access to the online course platform as well as means to document progress on current assignments or projects. (e.g. Camera phone, digital camera, etc.). Individual student needs may be able to be accommodated through a student's home campus.

ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**This form is also a google form in Canvas*

As a participating Cavalier Orchestra member, I have read and agree to observe all policies and regulations herein, and to meet all responsibilities and expectations to the best of my abilities.

Student Signature

Student Printed Name

As a parent of the above student, I have read and agree to observe all policies and regulations herein, and to support and encourage my child in meeting their responsibilities and expectations as outlined to the best of my abilities.

Parent Signature

Parent Printed Name