

# Chamber Orchestra

## 2018-2019 Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Ana Maria Solis Herrera  
**Room:** Brady Hall  
**Meeting Time:** 1st and 5th period  
**Grades:** 9 – 12  
**Credit:** 1

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**Playing Assignments:** [smartmusic.com/BLEND](http://smartmusic.com/BLEND)  
**Written Assignments:** BLEND  
**Website:** [austinhiorchestra.com](http://austinhiorchestra.com)  
**Management:** [charmsoffice.com](http://charmsoffice.com)

### DESCRIPTION

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA is an audition-based ensemble. The most advanced players from the Austin High Orchestra program are in this group, with approximately ninety percent involved in private instruction. These students meet performance and rehearsal standards established by the director. Emphasis is on the development of left-hand dexterity, major and minor three-octave scales and arpeggios, advanced bowing techniques, upper positions, vibrato, performance of orchestral literature in combination with winds and percussion players, small ensemble playing, and opportunities for solo performance in front of an audience. In addition, Chamber Orchestra students are required to prepare audition material for the All Region Orchestra and must participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest.

The Chamber Orchestra rehearses every other day during regular school hours and before school hours (7:30:00 - 8:45 a.m.) one time each week, with additional rehearsals on an as-needed basis. The Chamber Orchestra joins with wind and percussion players from the Austin High School Band during the spring semester to form a full orchestra that participates in the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. This group enjoys an outstanding reputation for excellence throughout the State of Texas. Outside-of-school rehearsals and performances are required in addition to regular attendance at sectional rehearsals. NOTE: Students who have room in their schedule may take a second orchestra class and play every day.

### COMMENT

The main goal of this class is to develop advanced skills needed to perform on a stringed instrument. The focus will be advanced technical growth on a specific stringed instrument through listening, observation, and hands-on experience. Students will be involved in a variety of activities that will extend their skills. Public performances of a repertoire will be held a minimum of three times during the semester. There will be additional opportunities for solo and ensemble participation.

### COURSE STANDARDS

Students will:

- Demonstrate independently and in ensemble accurate intonation and rhythm.
- Interpret musical symbols and terms referring to dynamics, tempo, and articulation during solo and ensemble performances.
- Design and apply criteria for making informed judgments regarding the quality and effectiveness of musical performances.
- Sight-read ensemble parts.
- Demonstrate proficiency while performing three octave scales and arpeggios, advanced bowing techniques, upper positions, vibrato, orchestral literature in combination with winds and percussion players, and small ensemble literature.

### HONORS CREDIT: (Juniors and Seniors Only)

In order to receive honors credit, Juniors and Seniors must complete the following:

- Prepare audition material for the All Region Orchestra (fall semester).
- Participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest (spring semester).
- Attend and turn in a written review of three concerts per semester.
- Complete assignments for music theory through the website [musictheory.net/](http://musictheory.net/).

### TEXTBOOK

Music as assigned by instructor, music on Smart Music.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS (not included in orchestra fee)

- Instrument
- Rosin
- Dividers
- Highlighter
- Pencil
- Shoulder rest or rock stop
- Replacement of broken strings
- Uniform parts (shoes, socks/stockings, shirt, as specified in the handbook)

### GRADING (Read the handbook on Charms for details)

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|--|-----|
| A. Full Rehearsals, Sectionals, Combined Rehearsals and Performances | 50% |
| B. Class Preparation, Assignments and Projects                       | 25% |
| C. Playing and Written Test  | 25% |

## **PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, AND LATE WORK**

- Students are expected to be on time and prepared for class with all necessary materials.
- Attendance is vitally important, as much of the work is done in class. Students may make up work for excused absences by recording assignments using SmartMusic.com. Contact the teacher upon return to school for information on assignments.
- If a student engages in academic dishonesty as outlined in the SFA student handbook, a zero will be issued for that assignment.
- Due to the nature of the course, performances may not be made up. However, absences may be excused if the instructor is informed in writing prior to the performance. If illness is the reason for the absence, a note from the parent/guardian must be provided upon return to school.

## **PRACTICING**

Practicing is necessary in learning and maintaining skills on the instrument. Therefore, conscientious practice is required of all students. The instructor will be able to monitor practice at home using Smart Music.

**ORCHESTRA ORIENTATION:** On Friday, September 7, there will be an orchestra orientation for parents at 6:00pm. The orientation will be held in the AHS Orchestra Room.

**CONCERTS:** All Concerts are either at Austin High's Performing Arts Center (PAC) or Cafeteria OR at the new AISD PAC.

September	19	6:30 pm	Fall Concert AHS PAC
October	20	3:00-9:00pm	Monster Concert and Carnival at Austin High
December	4	6:00 pm	Full Orchestra Performance AHS PAC
December	5	5:00pm/6:30pm	Winter Concert and Dinner (Vertical Team) at AHS
January	16 / 23	5:00pm & 6:00pm	Solo and Ensemble Recital , Parts 1 & 2, at Café Austin
February	12	6:00pm	Full Orchestra Pre-UIL Concert at AHS PAC
April	3	6:30pm	String Orchestra Pre-UIL Concert at AHS PAC
May	7	6:30pm	Spring Concert at AHS PAC

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:** Refer to the Austin High Orchestra Calendar on BLEND for further information.

## **CONTESTS**

October	13	All Region Orchestra auditions	Covington Middle School
October	27	All State taping	Lamar Middle School
January	26	UIL Solo and Ensemble	TBD
March	5	UIL Full Orchestra Contest	AISD PAC
April	17/18	UIL String Orchestra Contest	AISD PAC
April	27	AISD Solo and Ensemble Contest	McCallum High School
Junr	1/3	State UIL Solo and Ensemble	UT Austin

**AHS ORCHESTRA BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY:** April 28, 2019. Location County Line.

**FEES:** All students are responsible for the following fees:

- Orchestra Fee covers music binder, General Fund, contest fees, school-supplied uniform, SmartMusic; due by September 11, 2018. (\$175 per year by cash or check; on-line)
- School-owned instrument fee paid by September 11, 2018 (\$60 per year)  
Cello and Bass players using school instruments during school must also pay this fee.
- Pianist for UIL Solo and Ensemble: \$50- \$65) paid directly to the pianist

## **HANDBOOK**

The handbook contains information about orchestra socials, fundraisers, grading system, sectionals, combined rehearsals, class rules, expenditures, instrument care, uniform, lockers, private lessons, other performance opportunities, student accounts, and parental support. The handbook is available on Charms. If you need a hardcopy of the handbook, please contact the instructor.

## **COMMUNICATION**

The handbook contains full information about communications. Announcements regarding Orchestra will be made in several forms: during class via *verbal announcements* and *on the whiteboard*; via *email using Charms*; using the **REMIND text messaging notification system**; and via BLEND, and via the **Austin High Orchestra website** ([austinhiorchestra.com](http://austinhiorchestra.com)).

## **FULFILLING OBLIGATIONS**

From the moment a student becomes a member of the Austin High Orchestra Program, he/she must meet the following obligations:

- Remain academically eligible.
- Act in a proper and courteous manner at all times.
- Perform always to the best of his/her ability.
- Attend all rehearsals.
- Perform at all required concerts and special events.