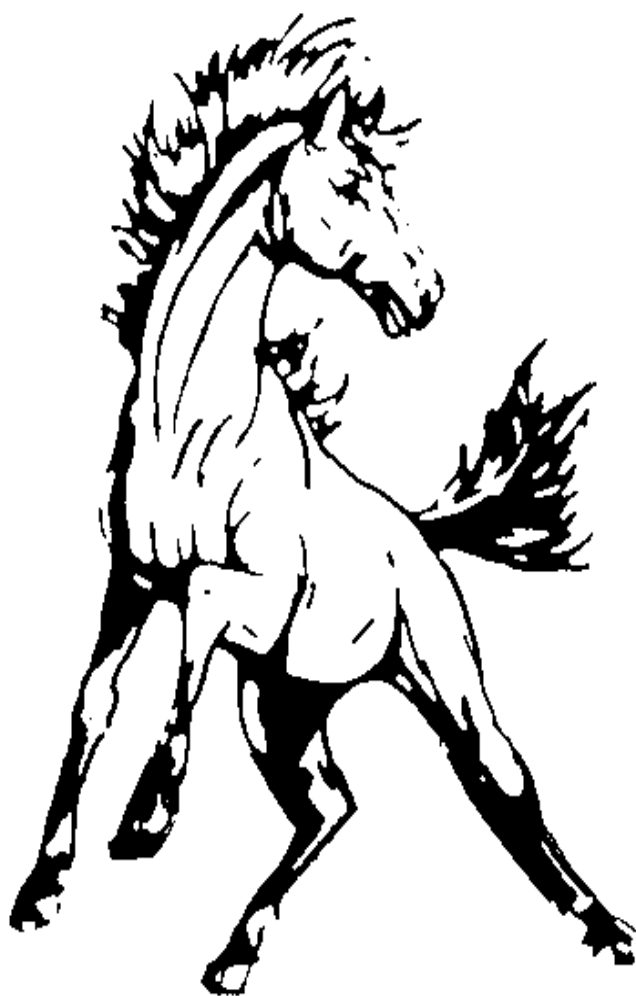


James E. Taylor High School

Orchestra Handbook

2008.2009



Colleges say music participation shows growth of educational journey

Performing arts receive extra validation from top universities

By Richard Floyd

Music Director

In the mid 1990's the College Band Directors National Association committed to a project intended to validate the importance of performing arts as a part of the admission process to universities across the nation. The results were encouraging. When asked, many of the major institutions of higher learning throughout the United States provided statements that clearly validated the value that admissions officers placed on high school participation in the performing arts such as band, choir and orchestra.

In an educational climate that routinely tends to down play the importance of the arts it perhaps is important to be mindful of these compelling statements. They offer convincing evidence of the value of participation in the performing arts as an integral part of the university admissions process. You are encouraged to share these quotes with school counselors, students and parents.

University Admissions Statements

Harvard University: "The ARTS are clearly an integral part of life at Harvard and Radcliffe, important for their value to the college environment and also for the potential they provide for lifelong enrichment. In addition to academic criteria, therefore, we always consider extracurricular talents and personal strengths when we evaluate a candidate's credentials. We look for students whose previous participation in the ARTS shows that they can make a substantial contributions to our community."

Yale College: "Qualifications for admission to Yale College include not only the reasonably well-defined areas of academic achievement and special skill in non-academic areas, but also the less tangible qualities of capacity for involvement, commitment, and personal growth. The ARTS offer remarkable opportunities for the exercise of these qualities. The highly skilled artist, the student whose intellectual interests include close study of the ARTS, and the many applicants who demonstrate motivation and the willingness to extend their reach through participation in the ARTS, all promise to enhance the quality of life at Yale."

Stanford University: "... we believe that exposure to the creative and PERFORMING ARTS enhances a student's intellectual breadth."

John Hopkins University: "The real challenge in selective college admission is not to assemble a class capable of negotiating a rigorous academic curriculum, but one that will also enhance the quality of life on our campus. Participation in the PERFORMING ARTS during the pre-college years is a clear indication to our admission committee that a student is dedicated to, excited about and engaged in the

educational journey. As such, a background in the ARTS is one factor that helps us choose, among academically qualified students, a class which will avail itself of the many opportunities at Hopkins and will contribute to the life of the University.”

The University of Michigan: “Intellectual leaders from Plato to the present have recognized the importance of the ARTS to a thriving civilization. The University of Michigan joins in recommending the ARTS because of their humanizing influences, their demands for self-discipline, their abilities to evoke idealistic dreams that transcend everyday issues, their effectiveness in reflecting the achievements of diverse peoples, and their capacities to stimulate that most important of all intellectual abilities: creativity. Perhaps in no past era of our increasingly global civilization have these qualities been more sorely needed than they are today.”

Cornell University: “There is no magic formula that assures admission-or forebodes rejection-to Cornell University...the ARTS can play an important role. As we seek students who will make contributions to the Cornell community, where the ARTS are so prevalent, their exposure and experience in high school are highly valued.”

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville: “As of 1993, the University of Tennessee has required the completion of one year of high school course work in the visual or PERFORMING ARTS for admission to the university. This is tangible evidence of our commitment to the ARTS as an integral part of a liberal education an affirmation to the vital role that the ARTS play in enriching our campus community.”

University of Virginia: “The founder of this university, Thomas Jefferson, was an avid musician himself and his influence can be seen today in the strength of the offerings in MUSIC, drama, art studio, history of art and also architecture. This university seeks students who have solid backgrounds in English, math, science, history and foreign languages. In addition, we look for students who have well-developed talents in the ARTS, for we know that they add a richness to our student body. They enhance the quality of life for all of our students and faculty at the University of Virginia.”

Virginia Polytechnic Institute: “At Virginia Tech, the ARTS are quite important in our admission policies, and we do pay particular attention to prospective students who have ARTS training or experiences as a part of their secondary school curricular or extra-curricular record...the University has special admissions procedures for students with “exceptional abilities in certain fields of study such as the creative and PERFORMING ARTS.”

Dear Taylor High School Orchestra Students,

We are very excited about our next school year! Last year was a memorable one! The McMeans, Memorial Parkway, and Taylor Orchestras all enjoyed very successful concert seasons last year. Listed below are the Taylor HS Orchestra highlights from our 2007.2008 school year.

ORCHESTRA CONTEST RESULTS

UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Results

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Alief Taylor High School

Concert Orchestra

Superior Performance Award

Straight Ones!

Symphony Orchestra

Sweepstakes Award Winners

Straight Ones!

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mayde Creek High School

Philharmonic Orchestra

Sweepstakes Award Winners

Straight Ones!

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mayde Creek High School

Chamber Orchestra

Sweepstakes Award Winners

Straight Ones!

Taylor HS has placed in the finals of the TMEA 5A Honor Orchestra Competition seven times. We have placed seven times (Strings – three times and Full Orchestra four times) in the finals. This reflects the high level of excellence in our performance. The Taylor HS Orchestra has also been recognized as the Outstanding Orchestra for their Spring Contests on numerous occasions.

As we consider our history together, we can reflect on the fond memories and the high achievements we have accomplished. I challenge you to carry the torch and continue to do your very best work. You are vital to our continued success!!! Participate to your fullest also in Region, All-State, and UIL Solo & Ensemble contest. Your participation identifies you as a success whether or not you make the Region or All-State Orchestra or earn a medal, because the process of preparing and competing for these competitions will greatly raise your level of musicianship and technique. Make a commitment to yourself to exceed your precious individual accomplishments. Set your personal and ensemble goals high. Reach for the stars!!! Your talent is already evident and with your extra effort, the sky is the limit for the success that lies ahead for you! Be a positive contributor to the orchestra. I look forward to spirited and productive rehearsal and memorable concert and contest performances.

Sincerely,

George Engelmann & Aimee Norris

Taylor High School Orchestra Directors

Taylor High School Orchestra Handbook

2008/2009

INTRODUCTION

The Katy I.S.D. is proud to offer a comprehensive music program that includes string instruction from grades 6 - 12. The Taylor High School music department is well respected throughout the state, and the THS Orchestra is a vital segment of the music curriculum. It is expected that members of the Taylor High School Orchestra will exhibit the highest possible standards in the following areas:

1. Responsibility
2. Dependability
3. Music Excellence
4. Dedication

It is the goal of the director to produce an outstanding orchestra. It is also the belief of the director that students learn more and develop better self-discipline, responsibility, and knowledge, and take more pride in superior orchestras than in poor ones. To produce an outstanding orchestra requires that each student accept certain responsibilities.

This handbook will outline the basic requirements for the Taylor High School Orchestra. Please detach and return the permission slip/medical release forms (notarized) and the last page of this handbook to Mr. Engelmann or Mrs. Norris with all requested information completed and signed. This will indicate your notification and acceptance of the policies of the Taylor High School Orchestra program. Please retain the handbook and calendar at home so that you may refer to it when necessary.

PURPOSE

The Taylor High School Orchestra is a legitimate class that meets regularly during the school day. The nature of this class requires the development of skills, concepts, and attitudes to be learned in class. These must, however, be demonstrated outside of class via many varied forms of rehearsals and performances. Along with your musical growth, I would expect to see development in the areas of leadership, self-discipline, teamwork, and an deeper appreciation for the beauty and joy that music offers to all who partake in it.

CONDUCT

The conduct of an orchestra student reflects not only himself or herself, but also on other students as well as his school and community. Each orchestra member is expected to the following at all times:

1. Display common courtesy, to directors, students, and parents.
2. Exhibit mature conduct and dedication to the THS Orchestra.
3. Follow rules as outlined by the orchestra director on the next page.
4. Follow rules and policies of Katy Independent School District and Taylor High School as outlined in the Katy I.S.D. High School Student Handbook.

CLASSROOM RULES:

1. Be in your assigned seat with all materials (i.e. instrument, bow, music notebook and music before the tardy bell.
2. Be candy, gum, food, and drink free in all areas within the Fine Arts Department including the **Performing Arts Center and the Orchestra Room**. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
3. Speak or play only when invited to.
4. Enter or exit only through the door which opens into the Fine Arts hallway. The West wall door are for emergency use only! **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
5. Bring your instrument, bow, music notebook to class each day unless told otherwise by Mr. Engelmann or Mrs. Norris.

ATTENDANCE

An orchestra performs at optimum with all members present. Therefore, students are required to participate in all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the director. A comprehensive calendar accompanies this handbook, and should be studied closely so as to avoid possible conflicts. Monthly calendars will be provided so that students can plan their busy schedules carefully. All rehearsals will be announced as far in advance as possible. Good communication between teacher, student, and/or parents can prevent misunderstandings. Please read the following rules and contact the orchestra director if you have any questions.

PROMPTNESS

To optimize the after school rehearsal time we have, it is essential that all of the members are early for each rehearsal so that we may start rehearsals on time. Each of us need to commit to arriving early to unpack your instrument, and place your music on the stand. Promptness insures that no instruction time is lost and that are rehearsals are interruption free! Be considerate of your classmates and ensemble.

To be early, is to be on time

To be on time, is to be late.

To be late, is to be very late.



ABSENCE POLICY

Sectionals are essential to the continued success of our Orchestra. You will generally have one forty-five to sixty minute sectional per week throughout the year in preparation for our concerts and contests. It is during your sectional that we will be able to focus on the specific concerns that are unique to your individual part (i.e. intonation, rhythmic precision, bowings, fingerings, and phrasing).

Full Orchestra preparation offers us an opportunity to experience music at its grandest level by adding the wonderful tone colors of the winds, brass, and percussion to our already rich string sonority. There is a wealth of literature available for the Full Orchestra. We will have two hour rehearsals starting in mid-

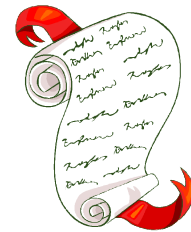
November until May. We will enter perform as a Full Orchestra at the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest.

Sectionals, full orchestra rehearsals, concerts, and U.I.L. Concert and Sightreading Contest are considered an extension of the classroom instruction and therefore, co-curricular. ***Every before or after school rehearsal and performance is graded. Promptness is part of the grade as well. Your rehearsal grade will be lowered if you arrive late for rehearsal or concert.***

1. **Written notices from parents are required for all absences. Verbal or written excuses from students are not accepted.**
2. Advance notices are required for all prior commitments. A prior commitment is defined as a event already committed to before the Orchestra time schedule is announced. A notice of such a commitment should be sent to the director the next school day after a scheduled rehearsal or concert date is announced. In the case of work schedules, which may still be pending, the student should communicate individually with the director about any anticipated concerns. Students are expected to request that their work schedules be arranged to accommodate all rehearsals and concerts. These requests should take priority over social events. In the case of an unscheduled or extra rehearsal being called, each student is expected to make every attempt to attend. Conflicts with extra (unscheduled) rehearsals are easily resolved with good communication
3. In the case of illness and/or family emergency, the parents should send a written notice to the orchestra director as soon as they are aware that such a situation exists. If it is an emergency situation, (e.g. something that happens 30 minutes before the rehearsal is to begin,) it may be impossible to get in touch with anyone. In this case, please follow up with a written note as soon as possible after the fact. This is the only category where absences will be excused the same day, or after the event.
4. Religious holidays or conflicts with individual religious beliefs are considered excused if the director is notified in writing by a parent.
5. All absences in the above categories, verified by parent note, will be considered excused.

Please communicate directly with Mr. Engelmann or Mrs. Norris if there are individual, or unusual, circumstances which may be a problem. Unexcused absences and tardiness affects the morale of the entire orchestra (including the conductor!) ***Although it would be impossible to include a complete list, the following items are examples of unexcused absences:***

1. Commitments accepted after a rehearsal or concert date is announced.
2. Homework. (Please plan your time in advance so you may do your homework before or after rehearsals. Good time-management is essential to success in the 21st century!
3. Transportation problems (Last minute mechanical problems will be excused. This refers to a student who repeatedly fails to arrange transportation in advance.)
4. Baby-sitting.
5. Watching TV.
6. Falling asleep.
7. Forgetting instrument and/or music.
8. Failure to request the time off from a job.
9. "Forgetting" about a rehearsal or concert.



In order to encourage regular attendance at scheduled events, the following policies will take place.

1. Any absence from rehearsal without a note from parents will be considered unexcused, unless prior arrangements have been made with the director.
2. Any unexcused absence will result in an immediate loss of chair rank within the section.

3. Two unexcused absences for a series of rehearsals will result in the loss of performance privileges for the next concert.
4. Attendance at all scheduled performances for the year is mandatory.
5. Failure to meet the attendance requirements for orchestra can result in a student losing the privilege of traveling with the orchestra on the Spring trip,
6. Unexcused absences are grounds for the conductor to deny participation points which count toward earning a letter jacket award.
7. Unexcused tardiness will result in the lowered grade for that rehearsal.

Katy ISD High School Orchestras- Grading Guidelines

Grades earned by High School Orchestra students will fall under the following three categories:

- Major – 45% of the six weeks average
- Minor – 40% of the six weeks average
- Other – 15% of the six weeks average

Student assessment will follow the guidelines outlined below.

Major Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as major grades by orchestra directors:

- Performances
- Tests (performing large sections of music or All-Region/State etudes OR written tests)
- Extended curricular activities – such as master classes, clinics

Minor Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as minor grades by orchestra directors:

- Playing Quizzes
- Concert/Performance Attire and Punctuality
- Sectionals/Rehearsals
- UIL music competitions/preparation
- TMEA auditions process



Other Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed in a category other than major or minor grades:

- Daily engagement in rehearsals
- Preparation – materials, music, equipment
- Written homework

PERSONAL INSTRUMENT EQUIPMENT

The following will be expected of all orchestra members:

1. Personal instruments (violins/violas) should be placed in your assigned locker or storage area.. Your backpacks should be kept near the front doorway (not obstructing the entrance way!) upon your arrival in the Orchestra room. After class all instruments should be completely packed (end pins in and bows loosened) and stored in their assigned areas for safe keeping.
2. All instruments are to be in good playing condition. Proper maintenance is required.

3. Students are expected to have rosin, shoulder rests, roc-stops, cloths, sharpened pencils, good strings, etc. Cellos & basses should have roe-stops at all times.
4. All instruments kept in the orchestra room during the day MUST have the students name clearly printed on the outside of the case.
5. Students are to purchase replacement strings immediately following a string breaking. In an emergency, strings may be bought at school, but must be paid for within 24 hours after receiving them. **Extra strings, rosin, shoulder rests, etc must be purchased from a music store and delivered to the school, on or before Tuesday, September 9, 2008. You will have an equipment check on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 for a preparedness grade.**

You may purchase strings at any local vendor or via the internet at Southwest String Company at swstrings.com for very reasonable prices.

ASSESSMENT

All students are **required** to pay an assessment fee of **\$150.00** for the 2008/2009 school year. **Make your check payable to TOPA.** These fees will be used for the following:

- 1) TMEA Honor String and Full Orchestra tape applications fees.
- 2) Honor tape clinicians, recording costs, and postage
- 3) dry cleaning costs for our orchestra uniforms.
- 4) Clinicians: Fall Concert, Pre-UIL Solo & Ensemble, and Pre- UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contests
- 5) Region & All-State Clinicians.
- 6) Banquet Costs (a ticket for each orchestra member plus decorations).
- 7) Winter Dinner Party
- 8) THS Orchestra Spirit Shirts.
- 9) Replacing uniforms.
- 10) Professional recordings of each home concert.
- 11) Food for rehearsals or celebrations (periodically not every rehearsal)
- 11) Postage
- 12) End of the year awards

REPAIRS

String instruments are fragile. Keep your instrument in good repair. Carry extra strings in your case. Have your bow rehaired at least once a year. Instruments should not be put in repair without first being inspected by the director. Many tunes minor adjustments can be made by the director which may eliminate a trip to the repair shop. The choice of repairman for school owned instruments is at the discretion of the director. Please do not attempt to repair the instrument yourself. Realize that neglecting a repair may lean to long term damage and depreciation in the value of your instrument.

TAYLOR ORCHESTRA SUPPLY LIST:

- 1) Personal instrument
- 2) 1 inch thick black, ring binder with a clear plastic shield cover to hold and safe guard your music .
- 3) Plastic, three-hole, resealable pencil bag for your black binder (no plastic bags please!) ,
- 4) Sharpened pencils (keep 2-3 pencils in your pencil bag).
- 4) Violins/Violas - shoulder rest, extra strings, rosin
- 5) Cello/Bass - roc stop, rosin

All supplies are due by Tuesday, September 9, 2008. Notebooks will be checked for completeness for a preparedness grade each six weeks

CARE OF MUSIC

You will need to purchase a 1 inch thick, black, three ring binder to hold your music and three holed pencil bag to house your sharpened pencils. These should fit well in your backpack or zipper compartment of your case. Students are responsible for all music they receive. Be sure to number the measures of each selection you receive throughout the year. Missing or damaged music may result in a replacement fee of up to \$5.00 per page of music.

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS: It is highly recommended that all instruments be covered by the parent's homeowner's or renters insurance. If scheduling of the instrument on the policy proves to be cost prohibitive, there is a specific insurance available for a very reasonable premium.

SCHOOL -OWNED INSTRUMENTS: All students using Katy ISD owned cellos and basses must pay a \$100.00 maintenance fee. Full payment is due on Monday, August 25, 2008, Make your checks payable to Katy ISD Fine Arts Department. This fee is minimal, but necessary for the upkeep of the instruments. (If you were to rent/purchase a second instrument for school use, it would run you a minimum of a \$50.00 deposit plus a \$35.00 per monthly payment.) This fee covers the cost of annual replacement of a bridge (\$86.00, cello or \$175.00 bass) and a bow rehair (\$35.00 cello or \$40.00 - bass).

Instruments will be assigned of a first come, first served basis. Students will not be issued an instrument for school use for the 2008/2009 concert season until all outstanding repair bills from 2007/2008 are paid for. This maintenance fee in not an insurance fee and therefore the student and/or parent are responsible for any damage to an instrument due to student neglect or recklessness.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

ALL-REGION HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS are made up of the finest high school students in the Houston area. Students audition for this each Fall. There are two orchestras that one may be chosen to perform within. Those who are selected rehearse and perform on a specified weekend of November and are featured in a special concert. This is an honor and an exciting experience for those participating. Even the students not selected will experience musical growth in preparing for, and participating in, a competitive audition. Your technique and musicianship will grow tremendously! **The Region 23 Orchestra audition date is Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Alief Kerr High School.**

TEXAS ALL-STATE ORCHESTRAS: Each year the students are selected to perform in one of two full orchestras or a string ensemble. Students may audition for area selection with their region etude, and if select to continue on to area, they are allowed to perform a number of excerpts from the All-State Orchestra programs (See Mr. Engelmann and Mrs. Norris if you need music for the Region etudes.). After Thanksgiving, you will be given notice if you made one of the ensembles. If you make a group, the district will provide hotel accommodations and meal money for your stay in San Antonio when you perform at the Texas Educators Association Convention in February. It is the ultimate music experience. It is well worth your extra effort! **The Area & All-State Audition date is Saturday, November 1, 2008 at Cinco Ranch High School.**

UIL SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST is held annually each February. It provides an opportunity for each student to perform a solo and/or ensemble and receive a rating and an evaluation of their performance. Every student is encouraged to enter this event. Those students earning a "Superior" performance ratings will receive medals. Those students who earn a "Superior Rating" on a grade one ensemble or on a memorized grade one solo will be eligible to advance to the state level of this competition which is held in late May in Austin. **The Region 23 UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest date is Saturday, January 31, 2009 at Morton Ranch High School.**

STUDENT FUNDRAISING:

The Taylor Orchestra organizes one individual student fundraiser. (The Friends of Taylor Orchestra Pages Advertising-Friday, September 12th – Friday, September 26th) for its students to help pay or defray the costs for their spring trip participation and your annual THS Orchestra Assessment fee. **The estimated costs for our Spring Contest Trip to University of Texas in Austin and San Antonio Texas are \$375.00.** Participation in fundraising is optional. You may choose to raise money through our fund-raisers or other jobs that you able to secure on your own (baby-sitting, lawn mowing, or after-school jobs).

You may choose to pay for your spring trip in full at the beginning of the school year (preferred!!!) or make monthly payments as shown in your monthly calendars. Payments need to be prompt to insure our group payments for deposits, and entrance fees will be paid on time.

PRIVATE LESSONS:

We are very pleased to offer a high caliber private lesson program for students at Taylor H.S. Our private teachers are highly skilled performers and respected teachers in the Houston area. Their dedication and service to our orchestra program is exemplary and worthy of your consideration. I highly recommend private lessons for all students. The Katy ISD private lesson rate is \$17.00 per half hour to be paid directly to their teacher. They pay \$.25 per half hour taught for studio use fee. All monies will be handled by the private teacher directly.

If you have not done so already, please complete a private lesson registration form . Your private lesson teacher will inform you of the payment schedule for lessons. In most cases, the expectation will be that you will need to pay for all of the lessons for a month on the first lesson of the month. (This form was sent to you in our second summer mailing and Mr. Engelmann has additional copies upon request.)

Although your child receives valuable instruction in our classes and receives further instruction in weekly sectional rehearsals, private lessons provides:

- 1) Him/her with an opportunity to deal with the unique challenges of his/her particular instrument one on one with an expert teacher. This will allow him/her to progress at their own level at all times rather than at the rate of the class.

- 2) Review and reinforcement of class assignments when necessary.
- 3) Earlier exposure to techniques such as vibrato, advanced bowing, shifting, and intonation.
- 4) Expanded opportunities for advanced solo and ensemble instruction.
- 5) Greater confidence in their individual performing because of the individual attention private lesson provides.
- 6) Enhanced opportunity for success at individual competitions such as All-Region Orchestra, and Solo & Ensemble contest.
- 7) Heightened standard for group endeavors such as concerts and contests.

Private lessons are not required but are one of the best investments in a student's success!

We ask each of our private teachers to make a commitment to teach our students for the entire school year. In addition, our staff will communicate with you when schedule changes and/or cancellations arise. Our teachers deserve the same consideration on your behalf. Make a full year commitment to lessons and communicate potential calendar conflicts. Arrive early - so that our teachers know that you value them and respect their time.



OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Those students willing to offer extra help and demonstrate leadership to the Orchestra are encouraged to run for an office. Officers are important to the Orchestra. The leaders are asked to help organize the logistical concerns for music performances and social events for the Taylor HS Orchestra.

Officer Qualifications:

- 1) Any student with one year of experience in the Taylor Orchestra may run for any office. Freshmen may run for Freshman representative.
- 2) Officers must maintain academic eligibility throughout the year or they will forfeit their office.
- 3) Officers must maintain regular attendance and promptness for rehearsals, performances, and officer meetings.
- 4) Officers may not receive an N or lower in conduct.

Consequences: A student officer who fails to maintain these standards would forfeit their office. A suitable replacement will be appointed by the director.

Officer Job Descriptions

President: The President is the executive officer of the student board. He/She will assist the director with planning social functions for students, coordinating receptions with parents, and communicating the needs of the student body to the director and board. The President will be called on to assist all the officers and the captains in performing their duties. In addition, the president may be required to handle special duties as requested by the director.

Vice-President: He/She assists the president in his/her duties and will preside over the student board meeting if the president is absent.

Secretary: The Secretary will assist the President with most functions. He/She will help collate and distribute forms (i.e. permission slips) and graded paperwork. He/She will also take notes during each student meeting and post the minutes after meeting.

Treasurer: The Treasurer will assist the directors in collecting and accounting of funds. The treasurer liaison will deliver these funds to the TOPA Treasurer.

Photographer/Historian: The historian will be responsible for keeping records (i.e. photos, videos, and a brief written summaries) of each event throughout the year and coordinating with the yearbook and newspaper staff. This individual will help organize birthdays announcements and make spirit posters for events throughout the year (contests and parties!) At the end of the year banquet, they will display the photos taken during the 2007/2008 concert season in a photo album and help create our video slide show.

Librarian: The Librarians (two needed!) will organize the music library (i.e. distributing music, marking the bowings, and collecting music after concerts), and maintaining the Orchestra office.

Freshman Representative: The Freshman representative will assist the officers in the planning and organization of the Orchestra and provide input from the Freshman class.

PASS / FAIL COURSE STATUS – JUNIORS & SENIORS ONLY!

Katy Independent School District wants to encourage students to pursue their areas of special talents and interests to enrich their academic achievement. Academically able and talented students frequently forfeit opportunities to study in their areas of talent and interest. To encourage this group of students to maintain their participation in these classes, the District is offering to juniors and seniors the third and fourth years of the following courses on a pass/fail basis:

Advanced Journalism; Newspaper; Yearbook; Athletics; Band; Cheerleading; Choir; Debate; Drill Team; FFA; Oral Interpretation; **Orchestra**; Public Speaking; Theatre; Technical Theatre; Theatre Arts ; Theatre Production.

Who is eligible to take a course on a Pass/Fail basis?

This option is available to juniors and seniors who wish to take one or two course from the above list that are beyond the requirements for graduation. To take a third or fourth year course in these four-year elective programs, the students should have an overall B average for all other courses completed in the field of study with an A average preferred. ***They also must have already taken the first two years of this particular course.*** A student must have been enrolled in Cheerleading or Drill Team as a sophomore or junior in order to be able to waive these courses. All students must meet the prerequisites of each course and have parent, teacher, and counselor approval. **NOTE: Students may take only two (2) full year course or four (4) half year course on a pass/fail basis.**

How are grades handled in a Pass / Fail course? Students who are eligible and choose to take one of these course for a pass/fail grade:

- 1) Will receive a numerical grade all year on their report card
- 2) Will receive the actual numeric grade with a comment or label indicating “GPA exempt” on the Academic Achievement Record (transcript)
- 3) Will have these courses excluded from the computation of GPA and class rank.

What are the performance standards for these courses?

- 1) Students must complete all of the assigned work just as if they were enrolled in the course for a numerical grade. In fact, the numerical grade will reported on the report card.
- 2) Students must take tests and final exam for the course unless exempt from finals.
- 3) Students must maintain eligibility to stay in the pass/fail course by having a passing semester grade average.

How will grades in a Pass/Fail course affect eligibility for extracurricular activities?

The numerical grades earned in a pass/fail course will be used to determine eligibility for participation in all UIL or school-sponsored activities. In addition, numerical grades will also be used to determine honor roll each six weeks; for qualifying criteria used in selection of students for various positions such as drill team officers, class officers, exam exemptions, etc; for eligibility for academic awards, including admission to organizations such as National Honors Society; etc.

How do students enroll in a Pass/Fail course?

Students interested in taking one of the pass/fail course must discuss this option with the teacher of the course on the first day the class meets. If the student meets all of the criteria he/she must:

1) Complete the appropriate forms; 2) Have the form signed by the parent and teacher; and 3) Return the form to the counselor no later than the end of the third week of each semester. At this time, if all criteria are met, it will be approved and a schedule will be made to reflect enrollment in a pass/fail course.

Would this year’s Seniors be able to waive a course from their Junior year? Seniors affected by this policy, will **NOT** be allowed to retroactively waive a course from the junior year. Only one full year exemption is allowed during their senior year.

If a student waives a course during his/her Junior year but does not enroll in the course during his/her Senior year does he/she lose the waived status for the Junior year? No. Each year will stand alone. The student does not forfeit the option of being able to waive the fourth year of that same course since he/she is not taking it.

What if a student drops the waived course? The waiver is a full course commitment for it to be implemented on the student’s GPA. If the student drops a one semester course or a full year course before completion, **NO** waiver will be applied. The student receives the earned grade for the course and it **WILL** count toward the student’s GPA.

When does the waiver need to be turned in to the counselor? Waivers, with all signatures affixed, have to be turned in to the counselor by the end of the third week of each semester.

Taylor High School Orchestra Uniform Guidelines

Uniform Policy: Like all of our other high quality performance groups at Taylor High School, the Orchestra requires a uniform outfit to wear at each performance (concert or contest) unless otherwise specified. It is expected that every student will fully comply with the uniform described below. Non-compliance will result in a lowered concert grade (50% of the concert attire and 50% performance). Every student will be inspected prior to each performance by members of the TOPA board to make sure the dress code is followed.

Uniform Dress Shoes: All orchestra members are **REQUIRED** to wear a standard shoe.

Our TOPA Uniform coordinators will be purchasing shoes for all the new students and any returning students that need to replace the shoes that they wore last year. Measuring will take place at Taylor High School during regular school hours. The shoes will then be ordered in bulk and will be delivered to the students at school. The shoes will need to be prepaid before ordering. The payment deadline for ordering the shoes is **Thursday, September 13, 2007.** Please make all checks payable to TOPA.

Please be sure to purchase a shoe that has room for growth so that it will be useable for the entire school year.

Taylor High School Girl's Uniforms

- Uniform dress (Provided)
- Black nylon hosiery
- Required Black shoes
- Minimal Jewelry (i.e. no hanging items)

Girl's Uniform Care Guidelines

Please follow these guidelines to increase the longevity of these uniforms.

- The new uniform dresses will be measured and hemmed for you. The dresses will be sized and hemmed with the required shoes on the dates to be announced later. If any alterations are required later, do not cut the dress in any way, rather have alterations made in such a way that they can be “undone” at the end of the school year. You will be charged for the cost of a new dress if the alterations alter the original size of the dress in any way.
- The dresses may be machine washed, by itself, in cold water, on gentle cycle, to avoid pilling and snagging. Please tumble dry alone also to avoid pilling and snagging. **The dresses should be turned inside out for washing and drying.** The dress may be tumbled dried on low temperature. Promptly remove from dryer and hang. If this is done properly, pressing should not be necessary. You may press the dress with a WARM iron on a polyester setting, if necessary. Please use a pressing cloth and do not press in bottom of the hem.
- You are not required to launder the garment at the end of the year because the Taylor Orchestra Parent Association will ensure that each garment is cleaned properly for summer storage.
- You are responsible for the replacement or repair of the garment. If you are unable to repair the garment, local cleaners often can perform repairs for you.
- You are responsible for returning the dress to its original condition at the end of the school year.
- **DO NOT REMOVE THE ANY LABELS FROM YOUR UNIFORM CONCERT DRESS.**

Taylor High School Boys Uniforms.

- Full tuxedo (Provided), minus the black studs, that will be issued before and collected after selected performances for safekeeping.
- Individually purchased ¼" Pleat Wing-Tipped White Tuxedo Shirt purchased from Tuxedo Junction
- Black socks
- Required black shoes

For personal hygiene reasons, KISD has mandated that each boy will be required to purchase his own personal tuxedo shirt. The boys will be measured during their orchestra classes and provided sizing information. TOPA has negotiated a discount price with Tuxedo Junction for a new tuxedo shirt. These tuxedo shirts will be ordered in bulk quantity for the convenience of the students and delivered to school. The tuxedo shirts must be prepaid before ordering. The ordering deadline is **Thursday, September 4, 2008.**

Boy's Uniform Care Guidelines

Please follow these guidelines to increase the longevity of these uniforms.

- Tuxedo pants **MUST** be hemmed. No un-hemmed edges will be allowed.
- DO NOT cut the pants when hemming or altering.
- DO NOT use fuseable hem tape to hem your slacks.
- DO NOT REMOVE ANY LABELS FROM THE UNIFORM.
- Tuxedo shirts should be dry-cleaned or machine-washed, AFTER EACH PERFORMANCE to keep them looking nice.
- Tuxedo jackets and pants **MUST** also be dry cleaned periodically. Usually one time half way through the school year is sufficient, unless it becomes heavily soiled.
- You are not required to clean the tuxedo at the end of the year because the Taylor Orchestra Parent Association will ensure that each garment is cleaned and laundered properly for summer storage.
- You are responsible for the replacement or repair of the tuxedo pieces. If you are unable to repair the garment, local cleaners often can perform the repairs for you. You are responsible for all missing buttons on coats and shirts.

REMINDER TO ALL THS ORCHESTRA STUDENTS: The Taylor High School Orchestra Uniform may only worn to THS Orchestra events. Boys may not use the tuxes for other formal occasions (i.e. Speech and Debate tournaments, to school, parties etc.) nor are they allowed to loan their assigned tux to other individuals.

REPLACEMENT COSTS: In the event that a given item listed below is lost or damaged, the student/parent must reimburse the Taylor Orchestra at the listed price.

BOYS

Tux Jacket	\$90.00
Tax Slacks	\$45.00
Cummerbund	\$15.00
Bow Tie	\$10.00
4 Tux Studs (Buttons)	\$ 5.00
Wooden Hanger w/ Pant Bar	\$ 5.00
Missing Buttons-Each	\$ 2.00
Garment Bag (Short)	\$25.00

GIRLS

Dress	\$95.00
Wooden Hanger w/ (foam cover)	\$5.00
Garment Bag (Long)	\$35.00

TEXAS MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

TEXAS MUSIC SCHOLAR AWARD

The **Texas Music Scholar Award** designates students in high school music programs who exemplify attributes of meritorious performance in the areas of scholarship, musicianship, and citizenship.

Designation is attained by TMEA Active Member recommendation of students in grades 9-12 that have met the following criteria during the current school year:

Is a viable member of the school's parent musical organization for the entire school year

Maintains an overall "A" average as defined by the local school district for the entire school year

Maintains academic eligibility for the entire school year

Participates in all scheduled events of the parent organization

Attends, as an audience member, two director-approved concert events of high school, collegiate or professional level during a school year.

Has auditioned, been selected, and participated as required in a TMEA or ATSSB organization (band, orchestra, or choir).

Performs a UIL Prescribed Music List Class 1 solo for a competition or public performance

Consistently exhibits behavior which brings honor to the parent organization, school and community

These criteria may be met through participation singularly or in any combination of band, orchestra, or vocal organizations. The distinction may be achieved each school year.

The school year is defined as the beginning of the year through the next-to-the-last official grade reporting period of the local school district for the purposes of calculating grade averages and determining eligibility.

To recommend a student for this award, fill out the online form, print the required Certification Form and mail it to the TMEA office with the appropriate signatures prior to the May 1st deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.

Texas Music Scholars receive a certificate, patch and letter from the Texas Music Educators Association signed by the Executive Director. You will receive a press release for your use.

Please note that this is an award, not a scholarship or other offer of money.

2008/2009

THS ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK
AGREEMENT FORM

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO MR. ENGELMANN BY 8.25.08

As a student and member of this orchestra, I have read this handbook and calendar, and understand the membership requirements, particularly in regard to study, practice, rehearsals, and concert attendance.

As a member of this orchestra, I will assume the obligations and responsibilities and do my utmost to accomplish the objectives and follow the principles, rules, and regulations.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

As parents of this child, we understand the rules and regulations which our child is expected to follow. We will support our child in his or her orchestra activities.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

I give permission to Mr. Engelmann and Mrs. Norris to have my picture taken and published as an individual and/or member of the Taylor High School Orchestra. This photo may be used in local newspaper(s) or internet web page for publicity and recognition of honors earned with my name in caption beneath the photo.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

I give my permission to Mr. Engelmann and Mrs. Norris to publish my home phone number in the 2008/2009 THS Orchestra Phone Directory which will only go to members of the THS Orchestra.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

I give permission to Mr. Engelmann and Mrs. Norris to allow my child to view **G, PG or PG-13** rated movies during the 2008/2009 school year (i.e. Spring trip bus rides, or movie night outing.)

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: -----

TODAY'S DATE: _____

2008.2009 TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA FEE CHECK LIST

SPRING TRIP FEES

<u>Date Due</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>payable to:</u>	<u>Required for:</u>
9.4.08	Univ. of Texas /San Antonio Trip Pymt.	\$100.00	TOPA	All students going on our 2008 Spring Trip
11.17.08	Univ. of Texas /San Antonio Trip Pymt.	\$145.00	TOPA	All students going on our 2008 Spring Trip
12.15.08	Univ. of Texas /San Antonio Trip Pymt.	\$130.00	TOPA	All students going on our 2008 Spring Trip
<u>SPRING TRIP TOTAL COST</u>		<u>\$375.00</u>	<u>TOPA</u>	<u>University of Texas / San Antonio Spring Trip</u>

We will not run the November and December Spring Trip check payments until after the 15th of the month to avoid unintended overdrafts.

<u>OTHER ORCHESTRA FEES FOR 2008.2009</u>		<u>Amount</u>	<u>payable to:</u>	<u>Required for:</u>
9.4.08	Orchestra Girls Shoe fee	\$17.99	TOPA	** all female students
9.4.08	Orchestra Boys Shoe fee	\$23.40	TOPA	** all male students
9.4.08	Orchestra Boys Tux Shirt fee	\$12.00	TOPA	*** all male students
9.4.08	Region Orch Fee Due	\$10.00	TOPA	all region students
10.14.08	2008.2009 Assessment-Fall Pymt.	\$75.00	TOPA	for all students
12.2.08	Reg. UIL Solo Fee	\$10.00	TOPA	all students performing a solo at UIL
12.2.08	Reg. UIL Ens. member fee	\$10.00	TOPA	all students performing an ens. At UIL
12.2.08	Reg. UIL Piano Accomp. fee	\$50.00	TOPA	students wanting to use a THS solo accomp.
1.6.09	2008.2009 Assessment- Spring Pymt.	\$75.00	TOPA	for all students
3.1.09	TSSEC UIL Piano Accomp. fee	\$50.00	TOPA	students wanting to use a THS solo accomp.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1 **With each check your write to TOPA, please include the following information in the memo section: 1) your child's name and 2) what items you are paying for.**
- 2 **You may write a check to pay for a number of fees with one exception. Please write separate checks for your Spring Trip payments as these will be deposited into a "Spring Trip" account which is not part of our regular account. This will save a great many accounting concerns.**

****not required if you are returning student with shoes that still fit.**

***** not required if you are a returning student with a used shirt purchased last year that still fits.**

2008.2009 Taylor Orchestra Forms Check list:

Forms due by 8.25.08

Handbook Signature form
TOPA Volunteer form
Private Lesson Form
Region Orchestra Audition Contract
Travel Permission (notarized parent signature) and Medical Release Form
School Instrument Maintenance Agreement form

Required to fill out:

all students
all students
KISD Private Lesson Students
Region and All-State Orchestra applicants
all students
all cellists, bassists, and harpists

2008.2009 James E. Taylor Orchestra Parent Volunteer Form		
STUDENT NAME:		
MOTHER'S NAME:		
FATHER'S NAME:		
<i>PLEASE CHECK COLUMNS WHERE YOU CAN HELP</i>	<i>MOTHER</i>	<i>FATHER</i>
CORPORATE DONATIONS		
MY EMPLOYER WILL DONATE TO THS ORCHESTRA		
NAME OF EMPLOYER		
CONTACT PERSON FOR DONATION		
DONATION FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS		
MATCHING FUNDS DONATION		
REFRESHMENTS		
BAKE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS		
ASSIST WITH SERVING (WINTER & SPRING CONCERT RECEPTIONS)		
UNIFORMS		
FITTING (AUGUST, SEPTEMBER)		
HEMMING/REPAIRING		
INVENTORY (MAY 11TH- MAY 15TH)		
OFFICE SUPPORT		
WILL HELP BUILD ITEMS NEEDED FOR ORCHESTRA		
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/RECORDING CONCERTS		
CHAPERONES		
CALL ME FOR ANY CHAPERONING OPPORTUNITIES		
PICNIC AT GEORGE BUSH PARK (9.20.08)		
COOKING FOR PICNIC AT GEORGE BUSH PARK (9.20.08)		
MASQUERADE SERENADE (10.24.08)		
REGION 23 AUDITIONS (10.18.08 - Alief Kerr High School)		
REGION 23 ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS AT THS (11.14.08)		
REGION 23 ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS AT THS (11.21.08)		
REGION 23 ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL & CONCERT (11.22.08)		
PRE-UIL S & E MASTERCLASS - 1.31.08 - Taylor High School		
UIL SOLO AND ENSEMBLE (1.31.09)		
BOWLING AND PIZZA PARTY (2.27.09)		
UIL FULL ORCHESTRA CONTEST (3.11.09)		
SPRING TRIP (4.3.09 to 4.5-09)		
UIL STRING ORCHESTRA CONTEST (4.20.09 & 4.21.09)		
STATE SOLO AND ENSEMBLE IN AUSTIN (5.30.09)		
SECRET SANTA GIFT EXCHANGE (12.01.08-12.05.08)		
HELP ORGANIZE & COLLECT SECRET SANTA ITEMS		
WINTER BALL DINNER (12.13.08)		
HELP DECORATE 9TH GRADE CENTER (10:00AM - 12:00 Noon)		
HELP SERVE THE WINTER BALL MEAL (catered) 6:00PM - 9:00PM		
AWARDS BANQUET (5.22.09)		
PLANNING, PURCHASING OR CREATING DECORATIONS		
DECORATING CROWNE TOWER BALLROOM (5.15.09)		
INVITATIONS, PLACE CARDS, GUEST LIST		
CHAPERONE (5.15.09 - 7:00PM - 12 MIDNIGHT)		
FUNDRAISING		
FRIENDS OF TAYLOR ORCHESTRA PAGES		
OTHER FUNDRAISING		