

Welcome to the Allen Orchestra program!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR  
INSTRUMENT SELECTION, SIZING AND RENTAL NIGHT  
MONDAY MAY 3rd, ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA ROOM  
DROP IN BETWEEN 6:00-8:30 PM

We are glad that you have enrolled in our beginning orchestra program for next fall. Orchestra classes meet twice a week during the school day as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Students are responsible for renting their own instruments and providing the required supplies for class. We ask that **all instruments be rented from an approved vendor or if not, the instrument must be approved by the instructor.** Please visit our website at [www.allenorchestra.org](http://www.allenorchestra.org) for more information on renting an instrument. Please do not buy an instrument from the internet. Often times, parents will spend money on an instrument and it is unplayable. Students are only successful if they have the opportunity to learn on a quality instrument in good playing condition. If you have questions, email [Ann\\_Grosshans@allenisd.org](mailto:Ann_Grosshans@allenisd.org).

Next year in Orchestra you will need:

1. Instrument of good quality in proper playing condition that has been sized for student
2. Kuhn shoulder rest for violin or viola
3. Rock stop for cello or bass
4. metal folding stand
5. Essential Elements 2000 with CD for your instrument
6. pencil

6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra offers many wonderful opportunities. We will begin our year with a short informational concert and demonstration in October. Our next big concert will be in January with the students from our middle school clusters. The end of year concert in May will showcase all of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders in concert. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the orchestras that attend the Sandy Lake Competition. We also encourage students to take private lessons. Visit our website at [www.allenorchestra.org](http://www.allenorchestra.org) for a list of private teachers in our area. Students taking private lessons in 6<sup>th</sup> grade may also audition for All Region Orchestra.

Our classes meet twice a week at the elementary campus. Students are expected to take their instruments home after every class and practice 20 minutes at least 5 days a week. Instruments are not allowed to be left at school. This is a class in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and students will receive a grade based on their participation and hard work. **Students are expected to participate in the class for the entire year.**

Even though the orchestra is relatively young in Allen ISD, beginning in 1997 at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level, the program has already distinguished itself at the state and national levels. In 2004, 2006 and 2007, the Allen HS Symphony Orchestra placed in the finals of the Texas Honor Full Orchestra Competition. In December of 2006, the Allen HS Symphony Orchestra was selected to perform at the prestigious Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL. Today there are over 800 orchestra students in Allen ISD: 15 elementary orchestras, three middle school orchestra programs with three orchestras each, the Lowery Freshman Center with one full and three string orchestras, and Allen High School with 3 full orchestras and 5 string orchestras.