



Dear 8<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra Students and Parents,

I would like to invite you to our annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Orientation. We will have this meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Lowery Freshman Center Auditorium. This orientation will consist of activities for both students and parents.

**Parents:** We will have a parents meeting at 6:00 PM in the LFC Band Hall with Mr. DeVoto and Mr. Needham. This meeting will cover expectations for high school orchestra, information about the trip we will be taking next year, and other valuable information. The meeting will also give you an opportunity to ask any questions about our programs at Lowery and at Allen High School.

**Students:** At the same time as the meeting, we will be having a combined rehearsal with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Lowery Orchestras in the LFC Auditorium. Music will be sent to your orchestra teacher to be passed out to you. This rehearsal will last about 30 minutes, and then we will present a short concert to your parents when they are done with their meeting. This time will also include an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have about orchestra at Lowery.

We look forward to meeting everybody at this orientation. Even if you are undecided about orchestra next year, come and find out what the Allen High School Orchestra program is all about. Please fill out and return the attached form if you plan on attending the orientation. Please return to your MS Orchestra director no later than Friday, Jan. 20. Feel free to contact one of the HS directors if there are any questions.

Ellen Townley – 972-396-6975 ext. 1908 – [ellen\\_townley@allenisd.org](mailto:ellen_townley@allenisd.org)  
Gary Needham – 972-727-0400 ext. 3187 – [gary\\_needham@allenisd.org](mailto:gary_needham@allenisd.org)  
David DeVoto – 972-727-0400 ext. 7748 – [david\\_devoto@allenisd.org](mailto:david_devoto@allenisd.org)

Please fill out and return to your MS orchestra teacher if you are attending.

**Due: Friday, January 20**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

How Long Have You Played? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you play piano? \_\_\_\_\_ How many years? \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions about the Lowery/AHS Orchestras? \_\_\_\_\_

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Any questions about the Lowery Freshman Center? \_\_\_\_\_

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***We look forward to seeing you on January 26!!***



# LFC/AHS Orchestra Information

## Contact Information

**<http://www.allenorchestra.org>**

Ellen Townley, LFC Orchestras - 972-396-6975 ext. 1908 – [ellen\\_townley@allenisd.org](mailto:ellen_townley@allenisd.org)

Gary Needham, AHS Orchestras – 972-727-0400 ext. 1601 – [gary\\_needham@allenisd.org](mailto:gary_needham@allenisd.org)

David DeVoto, AHS Orchestras – 972-727-0400 ext. 7748 – [david\\_devoto@allenisd.org](mailto:david_devoto@allenisd.org)

## Facts about 9-12 Orchestra

- Estimated 270-300 students in 2012-2013 (3 LFC Orchestras, 5 AHS Orchestras)
- Students are placed by audition **and** director recommendation
- **Lowery Chamber Orchestras** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert , then performs with select members of the Allen Escadrille to form the Lowery FC Full Orchestra for Winter Concert and entire Spring Semester
- **Lowery Sinfonia Orchestra** performs as a String Orchestra for the entire year.
- **Lowery Concert Orchestra** perform as String Orchestra for entire school year
- **AHS Chamber Orchestras** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert, and Full Orchestra for the entire Spring Semester. (with AHS Sinfonia)
- **AHS Sinfonia Orchestra** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert, and Full Orchestra for the entire Spring Semester. (with AHS Chamber)
- **AHS Concert Orchestra** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert, and Full Orchestra for the entire Spring Semester.
- **AHS Camerata Orchestra I & II** performs as String Orchestra for all Performances.
- All 9-12 Orchestras and students participate in UIL and TMEA Events (Contests, Competitions, etc...)
- All 9-12 Orchestras and students participate in Spring Trip and/or invitational performances.
- Annual Orchestra Banquet (includes winds/percussionists who participate in Full Orchestras)

**TO ENROLL IN ORCHESTRA - USE THE COURSE CODE: FA1ORC – Orchestra**

Your director will place you in the appropriate orchestra after auditions in May

## Common Questions About Orchestra

- Can my student take Orchestra and Athletics?

*Yes! Orchestra will meet opposite most athletic periods. Soccer is one of the few sports scheduled during some orchestra classes as of the current schedule*

- What is Full Orchestra?

*Starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, LFC Chamber Orchestra students will perform with selected members of the Allen HS Band – this ensemble will make up the LFC Full Orchestra. Rehearsals for Full Orchestra will be determined each semester – usually once a week after school (Around 2 rehearsals Fall Semester, 8 rehearsals Spring Semester). The AHS & LFC Full Orchestras performs in the Winter Concert, UIL Contest, and Spring Concerts.*

- How much money does it cost to be in the orchestra?

*Each student is required to purchase an orchestra t-shirt, a black music binder, and other music supplies for their specific instrument (see handbook). You must also purchase or rent a quality instrument to play in the orchestra. The cello and bass can be rented from the school for school use (\$100 per year.) Students can also take private music lessons, which is strongly encouraged! Spring Trips will be supplemented by fundraisers. Other costs involve small fees (All-Region Orchestra, AISD Chamber Festival, etc...)*

- What is the Uniform of LFC/HS Orchestra Students for formal concerts?

*Students will be issued a school tuxedo or dress for formal concerts. This is provided at no cost – except for upkeep and dry cleaning. Black shoes, black socks, etc...will need to be provided by the student (see handbook) Freshman are issued new uniforms at the Orchestra Registration Day in August 2012.*

- How is Orchestra scheduled in a typical class day?

*Lowery Orchestras will be scheduled during the middle of the day – currently Chamber Orchestra is 2<sup>nd</sup> period, Sinfonia Orchestra is 5<sup>th</sup> period, and Concert Orchestra is 3<sup>rd</sup> period.*

*Allen HS Orchestras will be scheduled during the middle of the day – currently Chamber Orchestra will meet during 2<sup>nd</sup> period on “A” days and Sinfonia Orchestra will meet during 5<sup>th</sup> period on “B” days. Concert Orchestra will meet during 6<sup>th</sup> period on “B” days and Camerata Orchestra will meet during 3<sup>rd</sup> period on “A” days.*

*These classes will be approximately 1 ½ hours each. Orchestra at LFC and AHS is not a double-blocked class! Every orchestra student will meet 2 or 3 times a week (depending on the week rotation)*

- Which Orchestra should my student sign up for?

*In early May, 2011 – every 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra student will audition with the High School Orchestra Directors to determine which ensemble each student will perform with. Since students register for their classes before May, every student should enroll using this code: **FAIORC – Orchestra**. Students’ schedules will be changed by the directors through the counselor’s office once auditions are finished.*

- Are students required to attend all events?

*Students are required to attend all events on the orchestra calendar that pertain to them. In some instances academic eligibility will not allow students to attend some events which are out of district. We make every effort to inform parents about orchestra activities. Please see handbook for more information.*

- Does the orchestra meet early before school starts in August?

*Yes, there will be an Orchestra Orientation before school starts, in August. Students will size for uniforms, receive handbooks, locker information, and purchase t-shirts. The Allen Orchestra Booster Club sells spirit wear while a local vendor will have instrument repair and music supplies available. See our website for times and information.*

- Can my student participate in Orchestra all four years of High School in their schedule?

*Yes! Students who participate in AP/IB, Athletics, etc...have been able to take orchestra all four years of High School without taking summer school. Counselors CAN make orchestra fit into class schedules. Please use our 4 year planning guide as a reference (and bring them to your counselor when scheduling!)*

- Is there a Booster Club available for parents to help the Allen Orchestra Program?

*Yes! We encourage all parents to join the Booster Club! See website for info!*