

Wilson Middle School Orchestra Handbook

Orchestra Director- Ms. Sofia Velazquez- sofia.velazquez@pisd.edu

Welcome to our Wilson Middle School Orchestra program! A wonderful year of music making lies ahead of us. The following information will serve as a guide to help you navigate our orchestra classroom experience.

2023-2024 COURSE DESCRIPTION

This one-year course is designed for the student who is interested in learning to play a string instrument. It includes the development of skills necessary to become independent as a musician. It concentrates on the development of note- reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, and tonality. The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of fundamental and technical proficiency is expected. Emphasis will be placed on having a variety of performing experiences.

During the year:

- Ms. Velazquez will email you reminders about major events, ask for volunteers, post paperwork, etc.
- Utilize <https://wilsonmsorchestra.weebly.com> for special announcements as well as access to the Google Calendar to know upcoming events and performances.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Instrument: Instruments and materials may be purchased or rented at local music stores. A list of vendors has been provided.
- Designated Method Book: Beginners- String Basics book 1, Intermediate- String Basics book 2, Advanced- String Basics book 3, and Chamber- Habits of a Successful Middle Level String Musician
- Tuner
- Folding music stand for home practice
- Shoulder Rest for Violin and Viola players. Rock Stop for Cello and Bass players
- Name tag: Personal instruments MUST always have a student name clearly marked
- Cleaning Cloth

WILSON DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

The discipline procedures at Wilson have been developed to meet the needs for students to support the value of a quality learning environment. Each student is expected to display a cooperative attitude and exhibit a positive degree of effort in order for learning to occur. With that in mind, each student will adhere to the following rules:

- **Be on time to class**
- **Be prepared for class with materials and completed assignments**
- **Be prepared to remain in class. (Emergencies will be at teacher's discretion)**
- **Work in cooperation with the teacher and other students**
- **Stay on task**

If a student does not comply with the district and campus rules, the teacher will conference with the student and parental contact will be made. If the negative behavior continues to exist, the teacher may issue a detention or implement the "team" discipline plan.

Wilson's Discipline Management Plan provides three major reasons for issuing an office referral. An office referral may be written for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Persistent Pattern of Misbehavior
2. Emergency/Instant – fight or behavior that causes immediate danger
3. Excessive Team Demerits

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

1. Be **respectful** of others, self, and property
2. Always **walk** while inside of the Orchestra room
3. **Refrain from chewing gum**
4. Make certain **finger nail length is to be kept below the fingertips**. Long fingernails inhibit the student's ability to have proper left hand position that will affect the tone quality and intonation. Students will be asked to complete an alternate assignment.

Wilson Grading Guidelines

Gradebook Entries

X = The teacher has elected to exempt the student from that assignment.

Z = The student has not submitted the assignment, and tentatively it calculates as a zero.

0 = The student did not turn in the assignment when it was due and it will no longer be accepted or student received a grade of a zero

Daily Grades - 40% (8 to 12 grades per 9-weeks)

Daily grades include formative assignments that provide feedback of student understanding, including but not limited to: assignments for practice, concept checks, daily assignments, quizzes, homework, etc.

- There are no retakes or resubmissions for daily grades.
- Per district policy, there will be no extra credit assignments.
- Each assignment will be counted as one grade in the grade book.
- Late work will be accepted 10 days past the due date within the same grading period with a deduction of 20 points.
- Assignments not turned in or turned in after the 10 day submission window may receive the grade of a zero.

Major Grades - 60% (2 to 4 grades per 9-weeks)

Major grades include summative assessments that show student mastery of standards, including but not limited to: tests, quizzes, projects, essays, performance assessments, etc.

- Late major grades will be accepted within the current grading period with a 20 point deduction.
- Each assignment will be counted as one grade in the grade book.
- Major grades can be retaken/resubmitted one time for a maximum grade of 80.
- A student will have 10 school days from receiving the graded original assignment to complete or turn-in the retake option. If the grading period ends before the 10 school days from receiving the graded original assessment, then the student must complete the retake option by the grading period end date.

→ The teacher will determine and communicate to the student what learning opportunities will be required before a student can retake/resubmit an assessment. The retake will cover the same material, but may be in a different format.

→ Teacher will document the original grade and the retake grade in the comment section of the gradebook.

Semester Exams in Middle School

Middle school students enrolled in high school credit-bearing classes will take the semester exams for those classes. Semester exams count 20% of the final grade in the class.

Homework

At the secondary level(grades 6-12),determination of how to grade homework shall be consistent within each department at each school and in alignment with the district grading policies and guidelines.The grading expectations shall be explained to the students and parents at the beginning of the school year by each teacher.

The provisions in this policy do not apply to the PISD/CCCC Concurrent Enrollment Program.

General Notes

Student Absences

- It is a student’s responsibility to communicate with the teacher the day he/she returns to school to receive make-up work.
- A student will receive a day for every day they are absent plus one to complete and return make-up work, after that date the work will be considered late.
- When a student is absent for 3 or more consecutive days, a parent may request make-up work through the front office.
- Teachers are not required to provide make-up work prior to an absence.

Citizenship Grades

In grades 6–8, the District shall report grades to parents as numerical grades. Citizenship grades for students in grades 6–8 shall be reported as E, S, N, and U.

6th - 8th Grade Grading rubric for citizenship			
Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory
Consistently displays outstanding demonstration of the district character traits Completes outstanding quality assigned work, on time	Understands and demonstrates the district character traits Completes most assigned work with satisfactory quality, on time	Understands and demonstrates the district character traits to some degree Assigned work is not always completed on time and quality is not always satisfactory	Understands and demonstrates the district character traits to some degree Assigned work is often incomplete and late

Concert Attire

Concert attire is important to the overall appearance of our orchestra. Presentation (how you look) is 80% of it! All students need to have the uniform listed below for our first performance.

Beginning Orchestra Members: Our Wilson orchestra spirit t-shirt, jeans, and close-toed shoes.

Intermediate, Advanced, and Chamber Orchestra Members: Concert black. Long black dress shirt, black dress pants, black dress socks, and black dress shoes. Please utilize a black belt if the shirt must be tucked in and please use heels of no more than 2-inches in height.

ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENT RENTALS, REPAIR AND SUPPLY SHOPS

Dallas Strings: Rental, Purchase, Full Repair Shop, String Music and Orchestra Accessories

20 East McDermott Allen, TX 75002 469-675-0085 www.DallasStrings.com

Williamson Music Co.: Rental, Purchase, Full Repair Shop

701 E. Plano Parkway #100 Plano, TX 972-516-1331 www.williamsonmusicco.com

Kelin Violin: Rental and Accessories

3321 Premier Drive, Suite B Plano, TX 75023 972-881-1915 www.kelinviolins.com

Cadenza Violins: Rental and Accessories

6905 Coit Rd. Suite 100B Plano, TX 75023 469-241-1152 www.cadenzaviolins.com

Instrument Guidelines

Please note: Purchases made on-line will be made at the risk of the purchaser. The inconsistent quality of an instrument (quality of parts, important specifications that make up the instrument, etc.) may affect the care and the quality of sound. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to ensure the instrument is presented with all of the essential working parts. Wilson Middle School Orchestra directors can only provide minimal maintenance assistance (for example, replacing a broken string.) The orchestra directors will not be responsible for major repairs of any instrument that is purchased or rented off campus. Any major repairs or maintenance would best be handled by a professional luthier to ensure the instrument is set up well for student use. The instrument should be varnished, not painted. Paint robs the wood of its resonance, but an instrument that is poorly varnished (too much or too little) will also create poor sound.

USE OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS:

The Plano Independent School District provides certain musical instruments. A non-refundable **\$85.00 instrument maintenance fee** is charged to maintain the normal wear and use of this instrument for the school year. Students who use multiple instruments in the normal course of instruction will pay a single fee. Payment of this fee may be made by cash or check made payable to Plano ISD.

Acknowledgement

"I _____ acknowledge that I understand what is expected of me in the Wilson Middle School Orchestra Program. I am aware of the required materials, classroom etiquette, grading policies, citizenship grading, concert attire, and instrument guidelines. I understand I need to ask questions if I do not understand something that is important for me to understand while I participate in this program."

Print Student Name

Date

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Date

ORCHESTRA CALENDAR

O= Optional R= Required X= Does not apply

Date	Event	Beg	Int	Adv	Ch
Aug 9	First Day of School				
Aug 28	Altitude Social with Haggard MS (110 W. Campbell Rd. Richardson)	O	O	O	O
Oct 3	Vines HS Fall Concert (8th grade student will perform with VHS)	X	X	R	R
Oct 5	Fall Concert @ McCall Plaza Downtown Plano, 6pm	R	R	R	R
Oct 16-Nov 3	Wilson Orchestra Fundraiser: BOW-Nanza Begins! Details TBA	O	O	O	O
Oct 28	Middle School Region Audition	X	O	O	O
Oct 31	8th Graders Visit Plano Senior HS - Need signed permission slip	X	X	R	R
Nov 9	Wilson/Haggard Studio Recital (Required for students who take private lessons)	X	R	R	R
Nov 14	7th Grade Vines Social @ Vines, 5:00pm-6:30pm	X	R	R	R
Nov 27	Cluster Rehearsal @ Haggard MS, 6:00pm-7:00pm	X	R	R	R
Nov 28	Studio Movie Grill Social with Haggard MS	O	O	O	O
Dec 2	Cluster Concert @ PSHS, 2:00pm	R	R	R	R
Dec 5	Galleria Mall Performance *Advanced Only - Need signed permission slip	X	X	R	X
Dec 14	Chamber Holiday Tour (w/ Haggard MS Chamber) - Need signed permission slip	X	X	X	R
Dec 15-16	Region Concert and Clinic @ Allen HS	X	X	X	X
Jan 27	Solo and Ensemble for Central Cluster, Time TBA	X	R	R	R
Feb 21-22	Pre-UIL at Plano Senior High School (Chamber and Advanced Only)	X	X	R	R
Mar 6-7	UIL (time and date TBA)	X	X	R	R
Mar 28	Intermediate Orchestra Concert at Wilson MS	X	R	X	X
April 11	Wilson/Haggard 8th Grade Trip to the DSO - Need signed permission slip	X	X	O	O
April 25	Wilson Spring Concert @ Wilson 6pm	R	R	R	R
May	Courtyard Festival for Beginning and Intermediate - TBA - Need signed permission slip	R	R	X	X