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*Voss Middle School*

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*Orchestra Handbook*  
*2022-2023*



ORCHESTRA

*Mr. Hector Infante*  
*Orchestra Director*

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Voss Middle School  
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830-357-3500 (Main)  
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Information contained herein concerns goals, policies, and procedures of the Voss Orchestra Program in accordance with Voss MS, district, state, and federal regulations.

## GOALS:

Through the study of orchestral music...

- students will gain a better understanding and appreciation of “classical” music by improving their abilities to play stringed instruments, listen and communicate.
- students will have a greater appreciation and understanding of other academic subjects, develop an overall passion for learning and excellence, and a love for their community.
- students will develop essential life skills such as teamwork, commitment, responsibility, and self discipline through individual and group activities.

## COMMITMENT:

By joining the orchestra program, each student is required to make a commitment to the organization and its members. Respect and excellence is everyone’s responsibility and it is expected from everyone at all times.

## MATERIALS:

Each student is required to have the following items in order to participate successfully in the Voss MS Orchestra:

1. an instrument - basses are provided at school for a nominal fee (see LOAN POLICY)
2. a method book
  - a. String Builder Book 1 (Blue)
    - i. 1st period students**
    - b. Essential Elements for strings Book 2 (Purple)
      - i. 2nd and 3rd period students**
3. a shoulder rest for violins and violas
4. a pencil (no pens) for marking music
5. an extra set of strings (except bass students)
6. rosin
7. a cleaning cloth
8. tuners and metronomes (highly recommended for home practice)
9. music folder (provided by the VMS orchestra program)
10. rock-stop (cellos/basses)
11. **All Black Binder 3 ring binder for music (I recommend 1 inch)**



## REHEARSAL/STAGE ETIQUETTE:

- Exhibit great etiquette in concerts and rehearsals – correct posture; nothing in your mouths or ears; cell phones inside your instrument cases; no hats or sunglasses.
- Be respectful at all times, which includes choice of words and tone.
- Share rosin, pencils, etc., by passing items (not throwing).
- Tune, warm-up, and seated no later than 2 minutes after the tardy bell.
- Display a positive attitude and loyalty to one another and the orchestra program at all times.
- Students are not allowed in the orchestra room without supervision, and this applies before and after school. (You will know I am on campus if my office light is “on”).
- For security, always lock your lockers. Student officers will turn locks backwards when found unlocked at the end of the day.
- Food, gum, and drinks are NOT allowed in the Orchestra Room. *At no time are Food/drinks allowed in the auditorium.*

## GRADES:

- **Daily grades: 50% (minor)**
  - participation in class: behavior, attitude, responsibility, preparation for class, etc.
  - before/after-school rehearsals/sectionals (as needed)
  - Playing Quizzes/Chair Tests
- **Performance grade/Tests: 50% (major)**
  - Concerts (Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Spring Concert)
  - Dress Rehearsals (Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Spring Concert)

Some grades are given without warning; e.g. supply checks. Each grading period consists of Formative Assessments and Summative Assessments. Most grading periods include a concert. *Concerts (and Dress Rehearsals) are mandatory and comprise summative assessments.* To receive full credit, students are required to be in their seats on time for tuning, and dressed in proper attire. If a student cannot participate in a concert due to an excusable reason (per District policy), then he/she must bring a signed note of verification from a parent or physician stating the reason for the absence.

With ample notice, morning and/or after-school rehearsals will be scheduled as needed, especially for those students competing in Region and UIL competitions.

## COMPETITIONS:

Students are encouraged to audition for Region 29 Orchestra and to participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. *Any student who participates in these events will get a 100%. That grade will replace the lowest grade of the current grading period.* In addition, all of our musical activities are curricular or co-curricular. Students are required to pass all the classes in order to be eligible to participate.

## **MUSIC FOLDERS:**

Every orchestra student is required to maintain a folder containing the Orchestra Handbook, orchestra calendar, music, pencils, and other pertinent items at all times. To make sure the music is properly marked with correct bowings, dynamics, fingerings, etc., random music folder checks will be conducted without notice by orchestra officers or designees. Failure to maintain a proper music folder will result in seat demotions, grade penalties, etc.

## **AWARDS:**

There are many opportunities for students to earn awards in orchestra. Students receive awards for winning positions in the Region 29 orchestras, scoring “superior” ratings at UIL Concert & Sight-reading Competition, UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, and the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest. One student from the entire orchestra program will receive a “Department Award” and one student from each orchestra will receive a “Most Outstanding Musician” and “Most Improved Musician” certificate for exemplary attributes and notable achievements in the orchestra at the Orchestra Banquet.

The **Texas Music Scholar Award** is a state level award given to music students who exemplify attributes of meritorious performance in the areas of scholarship, musicianship, and citizenship by meeting 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 in all coursework 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

## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS:

**District policy requires a \$30.00 uniform rental fee due by Friday August 26th, 2022.**

- Black DRESS shoes (no athletic shoes/beachwear)
- Black hose or long black socks (no ankle socks)
- District Issued Uniforms

Orchestra students are required to wear formal uniforms as provided by the district. Without exception, black shoes, black socks, and black hose must be worn with uniforms. Students who do not adhere to uniform policy will be penalized; i.e. grades will be lowered and they may or may not be allowed to perform on stage. With this in mind, if you are unable to secure a pair of shoes for your son/daughter, please send me an email with his/her shoe size before September. Donated shoes will be loaned to your child in time for his/her first concert, but they must be returned with his/her uniform by May 20th, 2022.

Lost/damaged items must be replaced at borrower's cost. VMS uniforms must be **professionally DRY-CLEANED**; never machine washed. After the final concert of the year, all students must return their uniforms for cleaning. Students who fail to **return uniforms by May 20th, 2023** must have their uniforms professionally cleaned at their own expense and provide proof of purchase (receipt).

***Caution: DO NOT CUT district issued uniforms.** To adjust pant and dress lengths, hem to desired lengths or use adhesive tape.*

## LOAN POLICY:

Students who borrow school instruments are responsible for the general maintenance of the instruments. **District policy requires borrowers to pay \$80/year (\$40/semester). The fee is due Friday August 26th, 2022.** If the instrument is damaged or lost, it is the responsibility of the borrower to pay an additional amount to cover the loss or repair of the instrument. If a student borrows two instruments, the cost does not double. Repairs on school instruments are made by district approved repairmen only. You may purchase your own instrument insurance (forms provided with rental) or you can purchase it through a local music retailer as a part of the rental fee). You may want to check your homeowners insurance to see if it is already covered.

Other lost/damaged materials must be replaced/repared by the borrower for the cost of replacement/repair. **There is a \$10 charge to replace lost orchestra locks (as they are custom locks).** In general, students will be held accountable for items they borrow from school.

*I will never allow finances to be a reason for your child to not participate in Orchestra. If any of the fees will cause a major burden to your family please let me know so that we can work out a payment plan*

# VOSS MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

## CALENDAR 2022-2023

| DATE                   | EVENT  | LOCATION/TIME                     |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| TBA                    | Fall Social                                  | TBA                               |
| October 22             | Region 29 MS Region Auditions                | Warren HS                         |
| TBA                    | Pictures                                     | Voss Orchestra room/during school |
| <b>November 2nd</b>    | <b>Fall Concert</b>                          | <b>Voss Cafetorium/6:30 PM</b>    |
| Mon/Tues, December 5/6 | Region 29 Orchestra Sectionals               | Strauss MS/6:30pm                 |
| <b>December 8th</b>    | <b>Winter Concert</b>                        | <b>Voss Cafetorium/6:30 PM</b>    |
| Fri/Sat December 9/10  | Region 29 Clinic and Concert                 | TBA                               |
| <b>February 15th</b>   | <b>Pre-UIL Concert</b>                       | <b>Champion HS/5 PM</b>           |
| <b>March 7-9</b>       | <b>UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest</b> | <b>Brennan HS/TBA</b>             |
| <b>April 6th</b>       | <b>BISD String Fling</b>                     | <b>Champion HS/7 PM</b>           |
| <b>May 18th</b>        | <b>Spring Concert</b>                        | <b>Voss Cafetorium 6:30 PM</b>    |
| May 19/20              | Solo and Ensemble                            | TBA                               |
| TBA                    | Spring Trip                                  | TBA                               |

*Keep in mind, this calendar does not include any socials that the leadership team may plan throughout the school year.*

*All dates subject to change but a notice will be given in advanced if any changes need to be made*

**\*\*\*PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE\*\*\***  
*Due Thursday, Aug. 18*

I have read the Orchestra Handbook and agree to the goals, policies, and procedures set forth in it. In order for my child to be successful in orchestra, he/she must follow the handbook. If my child is unable to follow the handbook, he/she may lose orchestra privileges and possible expulsion from the program.

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Cell Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Cell Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDIA RELEASE FORM:** BISD wishes to use your child's image and/or full name in an official publication and/or official video product. Furthermore, your child's image and/or abbreviated name may be posted on the official BCOPO website to recognize your child's achievements.

\_\_\_\_\_ You have my permission to use my child's image and/or first name as described above and I give permission to my school to send the information to the BISD Communications Dept.

\_\_\_\_\_ You do not have my permission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS:** please fill out a district form (available online) and return it to Mr. Infante. Best times to help: *(please check all that apply-optional)*

\_\_\_\_\_ mornings \_\_\_\_\_ afternoons \_\_\_\_\_ evenings \_\_\_\_\_ weekends

Areas of interest or expertise: *(please check all that apply)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Uniforms      \_\_\_\_\_ Clean-up Crew      \_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone      Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fundraisers      \_\_\_\_\_ Stage Decorations      \_\_\_\_\_ Food Service

**DISTRICT REQUIRED ORCHESTRA FEES:** Make checks payable to Voss Middle School

- \$80 VMS instrument rental fee.....Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_
- \$30 VMS Polo fee.....Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_