



Hill Country Orchestra

At a Glance

My student has never had any music training before: All beginning orchestra classes are structured to start with the basics, including how to read music. Beginner Orchestra is a great fit for students with no previous musical training!

What kind of time and practice commitment is expected? Students play in class every day and are expected to spend 15-20 minutes reviewing outside of class. This can be before or after school in a practice room, during advisory or at home.

I've decided on Orchestra – Now what?
Circle "Orchestra" on your choice sheet.
Drop by one of our orchestra demonstrations on Feb. 16 at WRMS or Feb. 22 at HCMS. Come by anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to try out the string instruments.

My student currently plays a stringed instrument, how should I proceed?
Please email Rachel Horvitz at rhorvitz@eanesisd.net to set up an audition for a higher level of orchestra. In addition to performing a qualifying level of audition piece, students must have prior ensemble experience to be considered for Sinfonia Orchestra.

Do I need to rent an instrument?

Students who select violin or viola will be required to rent an instrument prior to school beginning in the Fall. Students take their instruments back and forth from school to home for practice. Online purchases are not guaranteed to work properly, we strongly urge families to visit a string shop and to avoid online instrument purchases.

Cello and bass students will have a school instrument issued for daily class use and will need to rent an instrument for home and concert use.

Recommended Instrument Rental Locations

Violins Etc. 6013 Burnet Rd
(512) 452-5617

Blackerby Violin Shop 1111 W Anderson Ln
(512) 469-9343

Terra Nova Violins 7795 Burnet Road
(512) 640-4072

Westbank String Shop 6301 Manchaca Rd
(512) 326-4898

Where do our students perform?

Beginning students have many performance opportunities throughout the year: Beginner Orchestra Stringapalooza at the Hill Country Galleria, Fall Festival Concert, Winter Concert, Solo and Ensemble and our Spring Music Festival in San Antonio!

What does Orchestra offer our students?

- Musical Development and Growth
- Confidence
- Self Expression
- Self Discipline
- Group and Individual Participation
- Responsibility
- Fine Motor Skill
- Community and Friendship

Rachel Horvitz, Director

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Orchestras at Hill Country

Beginning Orchestra: Open to any student with no prior string experience. Each class meets everyday and students are grouped in classes by the instrument they select.

Concert Orchestra: Predominantly a 6th and 7th grade class for students who have had at least one year of study on a string instrument. This class meets everyday as a large ensemble. Please contact Ms. Horvitz for an audition.

Sinfonia: An audition only class made up of mostly 7th and 8th graders who have prior string instrument study and ensemble experience. Students in this class meet everyday as a large ensemble. Please contact Ms. Horvitz for an audition.



“Music can change the world because it can change people.”

-Bono

Eanes Orchestras welcome all students, from those who have never held a string instrument to the student who has been studying for many years. In the Eanes Orchestra Program there is a place for everyone.

For a new student who is looking to start learning a string instrument we have five to select from: Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Harp.

Interested in Harp? Students who are interested in playing the harp will need to audition with our harp instructor, Ayren Huslig, and be willing to pay for weekly private harp lessons for the year. Please contact Mrs. Huslig at ahuslig@austin.rr.com.

We will hold **TWO Instrument Selection Days**. Please plan on attending one of these events to give your student the opportunity to touch, try out and play on our instruments. We will have

private teachers as well as current students on hand to assist incoming 6th graders when trying out the instruments.

String Instrument Demonstration for Incoming 6th Graders:

Thursday, February 16 @ West Ridge 4-7 PM

Wednesday, February 22 @ Hill Country 4-7 PM

Both Events will be held in the Orchestra Hall.

Please drop by at your convenience anytime between the start and finish time of either string demonstration. Individual appointments are not required.

** If your student currently plays a string instrument please email Ms. Horvitz rhovitz@eanesisd.net to schedule an audition appointment for the spring semester.

