

A close-up, black and white photograph of a violin body, showing the intricate scrollwork of the f-hole and the texture of the wood. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the curves and shadows of the instrument. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA

www.memorialorchestra.weebly.com

MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA:

\ˈor-kəs-trə\]

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS COMMITTED TO
MAKING BEAUTIFUL **MUSIC** AND CONNECTING
THROUGH BUILDING PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIPS

WE ARE . . .

The Memorial Orchestra is a community – a family of musicians who enjoy making music while being together. We have classes that meet daily during six different periods. In addition – we have a combined orchestra we call **BigMo** – which rehearses on Monday evenings.

The Memorial Orchestra has a rich heritage of excellence - which can be attributed to a strong work ethic in our students, focused teaching and learning and emphasis on character. It is our desire to continue to be a positive presence in the community and to strive to improve musically in order to retain the respect we have worked hard to earn across the state.

We match students to appropriate classes by an audition and a questionnaire. Character, attitude, work ethic, citizenship, teamwork, effort and conduct displayed throughout the year are large factors in determining placement.

SINFONIA MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Because of the high profile nature of Sinfonia – we daily look for:

- students who have demonstrated a full year of satisfactory participation (musicianship, character, passing all classes) in the Memorial Orchestra
- students who demonstrate dedication and commitment to attending extra sectionals and rehearsals

LEAD TEAM

conductors:

danielle**prontka**
matthew**chan**

Danielle.Prontka@SpringBranchISD.com
Matthew.Chan@SpringBranchISD.com

student copresidents:

yara**aljarrah**
brad**duong**
josh**lee**
para**mluchan**
alex**ma**
matthew**nguyen**

'A RICH HERITAGE OF *EXCELLENCE*'





GOALS

Benchmarks have helped us grow into the vibrant organization we are today. Regular self-examination by the conducting faculty is crucial to our progress. Each year, we set two major goals for improvement of the orchestra which have included

- 1993-94: Intonation - the skill of matching pitch throughout the orchestra
- 1994-95: Ensemble skills - the ability to play as one cohesive group
- 1995-96: Tone production - the production of quality sounds
- 1996-97: Basic Theory - study of the written aspects of music
- 1997-98: Advanced Theory and Teamwork - unity across the program
- 1998-99: Uniform Bowing and Classical Qualities - character of honor
- 1999-00: Advanced Bowing Skills and Modern Day Heroes
- 2000-01: Ear Training/Singing and Achievers
- 2001-02: Ear Training/Tuning and Raise the Standard
- 2002-03: Inner Pulse and Take the High Road
- 2003-04: Inner Pulse and More Than Enough
- 2004-05: Bow Control and Intentional Excellence
- 2005-06: Unison and Finish Strong
- 2006-07: Visualize Sound and Maximizing Talent
- 2007-08: Frequencies and Durations and Make a Difference
- 2008-09: Harmony I and One Pebble, One Ripple
- 2009-10: Harmony II and Simplify
- 2010-11: Harmony III and Ignite
- 2011-12: Listen Louder and Believe
- 2012-13: Connections and Make Your Mark!
- 2013-14: Vertical and Great Things
- 2015-16: Tell the Story and What's Your Story?
- 2016-17: Realign and What's Your Story?
- 2017-18: The Music in Me and The Music in Us
- 2018-19: One Voice and Build a Bridge
- 2019-20: Shared Vision and Notable Service
- 2020-21: The pulse within us and Resilience
- 2021-22: Synergy and Resilience
- 2022-23: Take Flight and What Would You Do?

This year, our musical goal is **Elevate** – a focus on taking rehearsal and performance to a higher level. And our character goal is **IGNITE** – Sparking the passion in each of us for self and community.

SUCCESS IN ORCHESTRA

We enjoy looking around and seeing students who:

are **WILLING** to improve his or her musical skills and show a work ethic that will **BENEFIT** the individual and the **TEAM**

willing

benefit



In the Memorial Orchestra –

- WE VALUE** STUDENTS SHOWING AN **EFFORT** TO IMPROVE MUSICAL SKILLS
- WE VALUE** A SPIRIT THAT IS **POSITIVE** TOWARD THE IMAGE OF THE ORCHESTRA
- WE VALUE** GOOD **CHARACTER**
- WE VALUE** A GOOD WORK **ETHIC** AND A **DESIRE** TO FOLLOW RULES
- WE VALUE** A **SUPPORTIVE** ATTITUDE TOWARD STUDENTS AND CONDUCTORS
- WE VALUE** BEING **ON TIME** TO CLASS AND REHEARSALS
- WE VALUE** AN OPEN HEART TO **ACCEPT** TEACHING THAT IS DESIGNED TO HELP
- WE VALUE** A EAGERNESS TO **HELP** WITH DAILY FUNCTIONS OF THE ORCHESTRA

EQUIPPING YOU...

THE ORCHESTRA WE SEE . . .

Our classroom rules are simple and based on respect:

- We see an orchestra where each student is respectful to everyone in the room – in how they talk, in how they interact, in how they treat property.
- We see an orchestra where students are responsible to be in their seats, ready to play when the bell rings. This includes instruments, mutes, shoulder rests or roc stops (required), black music binders, pencils and all necessary equipment out and ready to go.
- We see an orchestra in which students take pride in its home and care enough to not permit food, drink or gum to damage it.
- We see an orchestra where each student is careful about the treatment of all instruments. This includes protecting the instrument by fully securing lockers at all times except during class and not storing anything else in the lockers except for music.
- We see an orchestra in which students keep cellphones and earbuds in their backpacks out of sight during class time and rehearsals

Orchestra hours are assigned to handle discipline and to help our team. To work off hours – students will help with the set up or tearing down of the orchestra room or the stage in preparation for BigMo and performances.

In the Memorial Orchestra – we believe in **communication**.

The **MEMORIAL**
ORCHESTRA is a
community – a **family**
of musicians who
enjoy **making music**
and being together.



CALCULATION OF GRADES

Your accomplishment is important to all of us – so we have set up a grading system that will hopefully help you attain the highest scores. With our new system in place with the district, grade points are assigned on the following basis.

ACTIVITY	PERCENT
Daily Grades (Having all materials and active participation each day)	20%
Rehearsals, Quizzes & Playing Tests* (tardy costs 3 points per minute)	40%
Performances & Projects* (15% of this grade is the uniform grade)	40%

**Any playing test or project turned in late will be assessed a thirty point penalty on the first day and ten points each day after that.*

The first semester exam grade is determined by the small ensemble performance unit and the second semester exam grade is determined by the final performance.

BIG MO

One of the great things about **BigMo** is that you get to meet and know students who are not in your daily class. In the fall, all students will be a member of a BigMo. In the spring, only Sinfonia & Lyrica will be involved in BigMo.

Students who arrive early have enough time to find their seat, unpack and sign in on time. But students who are not ready to play at start time lose three points per late minute. If you have to miss a BigMo rehearsal – turn in an ABSENCE FORM well ahead of time and do the make-up recording.

IMPORTANT: When you have a conflict – you will need to turn in a completed ABSENCE FORM which can be downloaded from the orchestra website – www.memorialorchestra.weebly.com While this form does not automatically excuse an absence - each case is considered individually and privately according to its circumstances. It is helpful to you if you turn in the form at the earliest possible date.



**YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT
IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US**



A GROUP OF PEOPLE COMMITTED TO
MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC AND
CONNECTING THROUGH BUILDING
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

MUSIC

In every rehearsal we give you information and markings in the music that are very important to getting us ready for our concerts. So you can understand why having your music in class every day is crucial. Even if your music is not on the stand – you must keep it on the floor next to you so that it is handy for marking.

The orchestra provides the first copy of music and you need to keep it in a black three-ring binder. Students who lose music, will be required to pay \$1/page of music for replacements.

UNIFORMS

It is so important that we look as good as we sound when we perform so part of your performance grade is based upon how you wear your uniform - neatness, cleanliness, etc. We ask you to make your uniform look the best it possibly can and if you need to make any alterations, be sure that no fabric is cut.

Ladies: black dress, solid black hose (non-sheer)

Men: black tuxedos, bow ties and cummerbunds, white wing-tipped shirt, solid black socks

Dresses and tuxedos – including bow ties, cummerbunds, and shirts - are provided by the orchestra - but all students need to provide their own **solid** black dress socks/hose (calf length) and solid black dress shoes– no sandals, no canvas shoes, no boots.

We also have T-shirts – which each student is required to wear on concert days.



SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

The Memorial Orchestra owns several violas, cellos and basses available for your use. In order to check out one of these instruments, you will need to sign a form at the start of the year, and all students will pay \$20-\$40 insurance for the school-owned instrument (you will be INVOICED for insurance after the first few weeks of school).

We expect you to take the responsibility of making sure the instrument is properly cared for and stored carefully in acceptable conditions and temperatures. Students are expected to treat all instruments with utmost care – regardless of who the owner is.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

Your parents have invested a great deal of money into your instrument so we highly recommend that you have some type of coverage on your instrument, whether it is school owned, privately owned or owned by a musical instrument dealer.



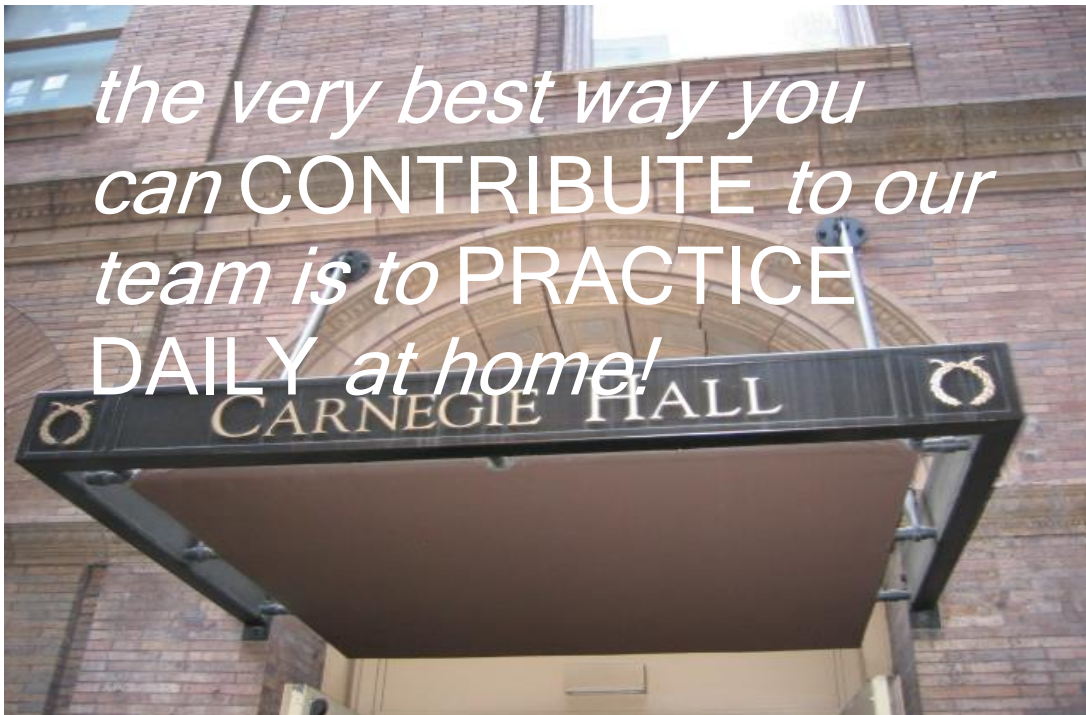
Students who use school instruments will get a district-sponsored insurance policy on that instrument, which is effective 1 Sep through 31 August of each school year. Deductibles are the responsibility of the student and claims should be processed through our office. Further information regarding instrument insurance and applications are available from the orchestra office. The district insurance can only cover instruments that are owned by SBISD.



PRACTICE

The very best way you can improve your musicianship as well as contribute to our team is to practice daily at home. When you come to class prepared – we are able to work on the group aspects of making music.

The Memorial Orchestra is a great orchestra because of the quality teaching you have received in the early years of your musical education. It becomes a superior orchestra when each of you puts hard work into it. Just as in any other class, if there is a problem in the music that you cannot handle, please talk with us. We are happy to help you out!



PRIVATE LESSONS

Those who really want to advance in orchestra get involved with one-on-one training. Those who study privately have the added luxury of addressing specific needs. These students also are able to excel in the program. Students may sign up for a half hour private lesson – but are encouraged to consider a full hour lesson so that more can be addressed.

GETTING INVOLVED ...

CHAMBER MUSIC

One of the more unique things we do as an orchestra is chamber music – which we call MiniMos. Students enjoy this time because they have the opportunity to build individual as well as team skills. The challenge of this type of performance is that there are only one or two players on a part. The group is graded on rehearsal habits as well as performances – and some groups are invited to perform at one of our concerts.

THEORY

Another important part of our year is learning the theory behind music. The students will learn about this all year, and be quizzed throughout the school year. Students may even be given tests over this. This will help all students improve on their instruments and as an ensemble.



SPRING TRIP

Our out of town experiences are designed to inspire us to better musicianship, motivate us to greater work ethics and build us as a team. Every spring, the Memorial Orchestra sponsors an out-of-town trip. In the even-numbered years – we normally go to Corpus Christi –one of the most popular and unique trips. At Corpus – we perform – but we also enjoy fellowship, relaxation time and the famous Iron Chef Competition. During odd-numbered years – we take a larger trip to a city outside of Texas.

The orchestra has been selected to perform at respected sites such as the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio – where we have appeared three times as Texas' Honor and Invited Orchestra, the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, four times in New York City's world famous Carnegie Hall, and been honored as First Runner Up in the National Orchestra Cup Competition in New York City's Lincoln Center.

This year our trip will be to Corpus Christi. We will have the opportunity to perform at A&M Corpus Christi, and build our team while having a fun and relaxing weekend. The approximate cost of the trip will be \$500, but the exact cost will be sent out to all families at the parent meeting.



COMPETITIONS

In Houston, in Texas and all throughout the country – there are competitions for string players and we encourage you to get involved. The Memorial Orchestra has been represented well in many of these contests, and has enjoyed the successes of individual as well as collective performances.

Our students have been involved in several concerto competitions in the area. SBISD sponsors a Solo and Ensemble Contest, TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) sponsors auditions for the Region and All-State Orchestras. In fact – you can download Region and State Audition Information at TMEA.org and look for All – State Orchestra Audition Material.

These contests make a great opportunity to increase your skills as a string player!



LETTER AWARDS

Each year – we are happy to award letter jackets or blankets to students who have shown musical merit and/or exemplary dedication to the Memorial Orchestra. To get a letter award – you will need to earn 12 points in orchestra:

- a. 5 points for earning a place in Region Orchestra
- b. 3 points for earning a place in Area Orchestra
- c. 1 point for earning a place in a State TMEA organization
- d. 2 points for earning a 1st division rating on a Class One at SBISD solo and ensemble contest
- e. 5 points for being in Sinfonia
- f. 4 points for being in Lyrica and Philharmonia

All points are cumulative from year to year. In addition, a student may automatically qualify for an award after three years of satisfactory participation in orchestra. Students who have already received a jacket or blanket from another organization can qualify for an orchestra letter patch.

CONNECTING...

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

As you prepare to make payments for your activities, you may send checks with your students who will use a personalized envelope that acts as a receipt. Parents may also make payments by credit card on the students' My School Bus account. *Please note that **trip payments** on credit cards result in a 3.8% transaction fee to parents.*



IMPORTANT WEBSITES

MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA www.Memorialorchestra.weebly.com - which has all information about the orchestra, photos, calendars, maps to orchestra events, performance dates and assignments. You should consult the website regularly for news and updates as it is here where you can find the most current issue of our NEWSLETTER – usually on the first school day of each month. You can also find the MoPedia – a glossary of all the terminology and nicknames we have for all things Memorial Orchestra.

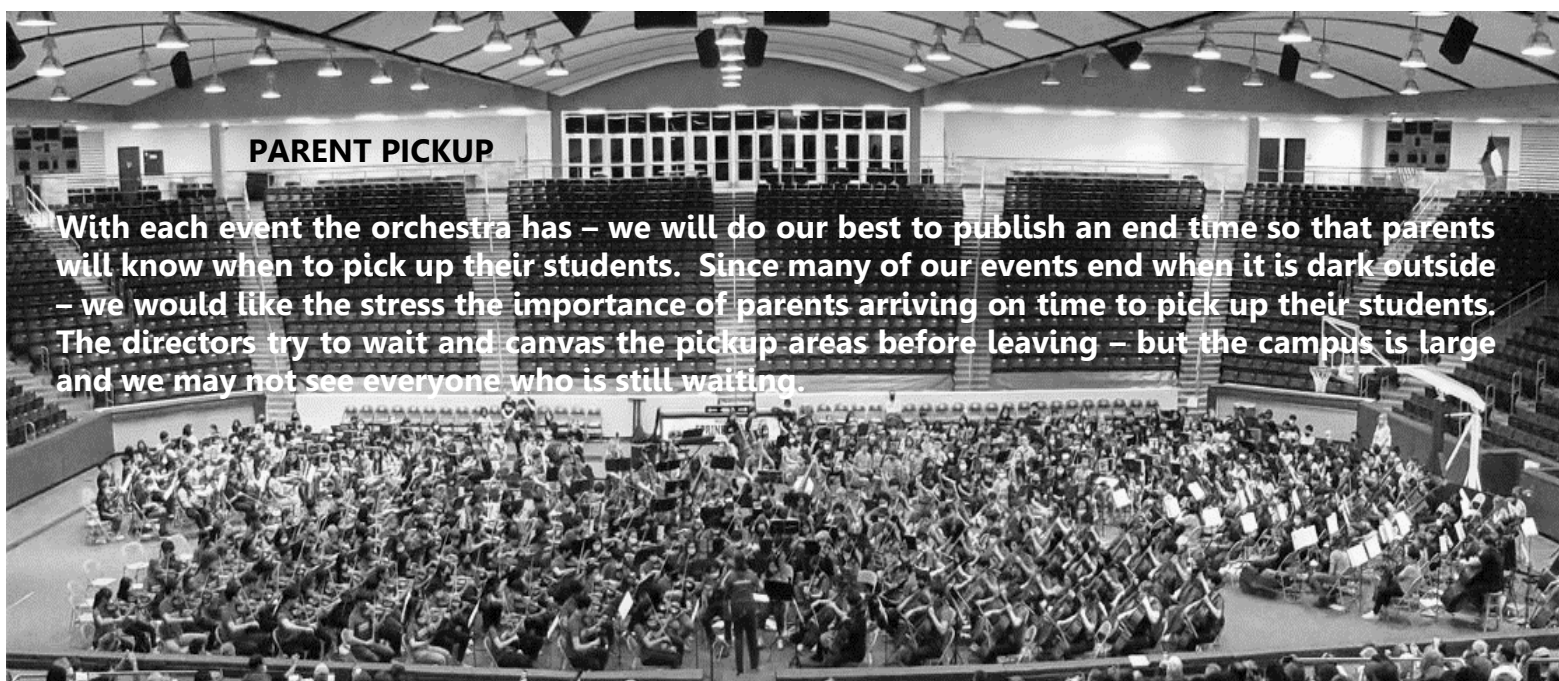
PARENT INFORMATION

There is a parent remind with information from the directors and a groupme in which the parents share information about the program.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Students use google classroom to complete assignments in orchestra. This is how we collect video tests and students are able to easily get feedback through this.

TMEA Finally – www.TMEA.org (Texas Music Educators Association) has all up-to-date and official information regarding region etudes and the All-State process.



PARENT PICKUP

With each event the orchestra has – we will do our best to publish an end time so that parents will know when to pick up their students. Since many of our events end when it is dark outside – we would like the stress the importance of parents arriving on time to pick up their students. The directors try to wait and canvas the pickup areas before leaving – but the campus is large and we may not see everyone who is still waiting.

ORCHESTRA FEES:

Activity Fee (Due on August 31, 2023)

- 1) **\$125.00 Orchestra Dues**
 - a) For ALL students in enrolled in Orchestra
 - b) Due at the beginning of the school year: checks made payable to MHS Orchestra. Or CC Use MySchoolBucks
 - c) These dues are used primarily to help with the following expenses: clinicians, section coaches, basic supplies, uniform cleaning and maintenance, uniform bag, snacks for different events, bus expenses, cleaning supplies for instruments, the yearly orchestra t-shirt, and locks for lockers

- 2) **\$20.00 - \$40.00 School Instrument Insurance (DO NOT PAY NOW – Invoiced at a later date)**
\$20.00-\$40.00 Fee for Insurance to cover costs if damaged (if damaged, there is also a \$50 deductible paid by the parent)

Check if you need home instrument: _____ Viola _____ Cello _____ Bass

- 3) **Additional Supplies (to be paid for by parent)**
 - a) Black Binder
 - b) Black Dress Shoes (close-toed shoes)
 - c) Black Dress socks (must be at least calf-high) or Black Knee High/Panty Hose

Total: Check (Made out Memorial Orchestra \$ 125 Check here if paid by CC on MySchoolBucks _____

OPTIONAL EXPENSES – To be paid at a later date

- 1) **Private Lessons** – highly encouraged for all Orchestra students
 - a) List available online at www.memorialorchestra.weebly.com
- 2) **Region Entry Fee** and/or **Solo and Ensemble Contest Fees**
- 3) **Spring Orchestra Trip** – available for all Orchestra students
 - a) This year’s Spring Trip will be to Corpus Christi
 - b) Trip Payment is approximately \$500/person and the non-refundable \$200 deposit will be due August 31.
- 4) **Orchestra/Band Banquet** – End-of-the-Year Celebration Dinner and Dance held at an event space

↓

Parents – please <u>INITIAL</u> and fill in the appropriate information and return by Wednesday, 24 Aug 2k22
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Orchestra Handbook and Calendar Statement

I have read the Memorial Orchestra Handbook and understand and support the policies and expectations of the Orchestra. I have reviewed the calendar and understand that while it rarely happens - all dates and times are subject to change. I trust that notice of such changes will be given well in advance.

Student Name Printed: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name Printed: _____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

*** Parents – if you are not able to pay these fees at this time, please email Ms. Prontka so we can work something.**

MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA

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CALENDAR '23-24

Efforts have been made to produce a calendar for the entire school year so that conflicts can be resolved in advance. All dates and times are subject to change – and notice of such changes will be given well in advance and will be announced in class. Events listed in CAPS are required. The calendar is considered official on the first day of school.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / TIME
28 Aug	All Parent Meeting (new and returning parents)	Auditorium / 6:00p
28 Aug	MOO (All Students)	Gym 1 / 6:00p-7:20p
21 Aug	REHEARSAL BEGINS Sinfonia: 21 Aug, 11 Sept, 25 Sept, 2 Oct, 9 Oct	Orchestra Room / 5:30-7:30p
7 Sept	Region Workshop	Orchestra Room / 6:00p-8:00p
16 Sept	Car Wash	MHS Front Lot / 8:30-12:30p
12 Oct	FALL CONCERT & PICTURE DAY	Memorial Performing Arts Center / 7:00p (5:45p)
14 Oct	Region Auditions	Memorial High School / all day
16 Oct	BIG MO REHEARSAL BEGINS (SINFONIA & LYRICA) 16 Oct, 23 Oct, 30 Oct, 13 Nov, 27 Nov, 4, Dec	Orchestra Room / 5:30p-7:30p
28 Oct	All State Area Recording Day	Memorial High School / All Day
6 Nov	PHILHARMONIA EVENING REHEARSAL	Orchestra Room / 5-7p
8 Nov	Region Sectional Day	Stratford HS / 5:30p-9:00p
17 Nov	PIE DAY	Orchestra Room / All Day
17-18 Nov	All Region Clinic and Concert	Cy Woods HS / TBD
4 Dec	PHILHARMONIA DRESS REHEARSAL	Orchestra Room / 3:30p-5:00p
4 Dec	SINFONIA/LYRICA DRESS REHEARSAL	Orchestra Room / 5:30p – 7:30p
8 Dec	MHS / MMS SIDE BY SIDE POTLUCK & CONCERT	Memorial Performing Arts Center / 5:30p
8 Jan	Into the Woods Rehearsal (SINFONIA)	Orchestra Room / 4-6:30p
15 Jan	Into the Woods Rehearsal (SINFONIA)	Orchestra Room / 4-6:30p
15 Jan	BIG MO REHEARSAL (SINFONIA & LYRICA) 15 Jan, 22 Jan, 29 Jan, 5 Feb, 12 Feb, 19 Feb, 26 Feb	Orchestra Room / 5:30p-7:30p
22 Jan	M. O. O. II	Gym III / 6:00p–7:30
25-27 Jan	INTO THE WOODS (SINFONIA ONLY)	Memorial PAC / 7:30p (6p)
2-3 Feb	INTO THE WOODS (SINFONIA ONLY)	Memorial PAC
7-10 Feb	Texas Music Educators Association Convention (All State)	San Antonio / All day
17 Feb	SBISD Solo & Ensemble Contest	TBD / All Day
27 Feb	MASTERWORKS & FULL ORCHESTRA CONCERT	Memorial PAC / 7:00p (6:30p)
6-7 Mar	Philharmonia/Lyrica UIL Clinics	Orchestra Room / 3:30p-7:30p
19 Mar	PRE UIL-ORCHESTRA CONCERT	Memorial PAC / 7:00p
26-28 Mar	UIL CONCERT & SIGHTREADING – PHILHARMONIAS/LYRICA	Berry Center / TBA
4-7 Apr	Orchestra Spring Trip	Corpus Christi
18 Apr	UIL CONCERT & SIGHTREADING - SINFONIA	Memorial HS / TBA
30 Apr	ORCHESTRA CONCERT (STRING ORCHESTRAS)	Memorial PAC / 6:30p (6:00p)
17 May	Fine Arts Banquet	TBA / 7:00p

Revised: 12-Aug-23

Name: _____

