Conroe Independent School District & The Woodlands College Park High School

Cavalier Orchestra Handbook

2023-2024



College Park HS

Dr. Mark Murrell, *Principal* College Park High School 3701 College Park Drive The Woodlands, TX 77384

CISD Administration

Dr. Curtis Null, *Superintendent* Dr. Chris Hines, *Deputy Superintendent* Dr. Chris Povich, *Assist. Superintendent for High Schools* Dr. Robert Horton, *Fine Arts Coordinator*

College Park HS Fine Art Departments

Mr. Emmanuel Coraza, Ms. Mary Kate Hom- Orchestra Mr. Jeff Gorring, Mr. Aaron Owens, Mr. Rob Savala - Band Ms. Erin Bodhaine, Mr. Ben Horton- Choir Ms. Valerie Labonski, Mr. Chris Beineman, Mrs. Samantha Segura- Theatre

College Park HS Orchestra Vertical Team

College Park High School - Mr. Emmanuel Coraza, Ms. Mary Kate Hom Knox Junior High - Ms. Shelby Nichols Collins Intermediate - Ms. Eliasha Gibbs Wilkerson Intermediate – Mr. Anthony Andrade

The Conroe Independent School District (District) as an equal opportunity educational provider and employer does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment matters. The District is required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Board policy not to discriminate in such a manner.

For information about **Title IX rights or Section 504/ADA rights,** contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504/ADA coordinator at 3205 W. Davis, Conroe, Texas 77304; (936) 709-7752.



The Woodlands College Park High School Orchestra Mr. Emmanuel Coraza Director of Orchestras / Ms. Mary Kate Hom, Assistant Director eperaltacoraza@conroeisd.net / www.cporchestra.com

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to College Park High School and the Cavalier Orchestra. We want to thank you for your commitment and continuing your musical studies. This handbook contains information, guidelines and expectations for classroom procedures, UIL activities, uniforms, performance calendar, and forms to be signed and returned. We are looking forward to meeting all our new members and welcoming back our upper classmen as we strive for another Sweepstakes year!

The Cavalier Orchestra Program currently has over 190 musicians and consists of six ensembles: five string orchestras: Sinfonietta, Philharmonic, Camerata, Chamber, Symphony and the Varsity Full Orchestra. During the year, students perform numerous concerts including Fall, Winter, and Spring concert, Bachs Office Hits Pop Show, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest, UIL Solo & Ensemble, TMEA Region Orchestra, CISD Honor Orchestra, School Musical, Holly Jolly Pops (Woodlands Pavilion), and String Fling. Students perform for various social events, holiday functions and weddings each year. The orchestras have earned consecutive Sweepstakes at UIL contest and have been successful participating in festivals in New York (Carnegie Hall 2016), Chicago (Symphony Hall 2010), Dallas (Meyerson Hall 2015), San Antonio (2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017), Anaheim (2009), and Orlando (2007, 2013, 2018), and in 2019, the Cavalier Symphony earned a 3rd place win at the 2019 American String Teachers Association National Orchestra Festival, in Albuquerque, NM.

The Cavalier Booster Organization welcomes your support and membership. Scholarships are provided for private lessons, and for all graduating seniors. The Boosters assist students with several social events, the awards banquet, and the distribution and maintenance of concert uniforms.

We are eager to get the year started and seeing you at all our events. It is a privilege to work with your children, and we know with your support and the dedication from the students that we can maintain our position as the premier high school orchestra program in Conroe ISD.

Sincerely,

Mr. Emmanuel Coraza, Director of Orchestras Ms. Mary Kate Hom, Assistant Director

CAVALIER ORCHESTRAS / EXPECTATIONS

<u>Auditions/Placement</u>-

- All incoming 9th grade students are placed into the Sinfonietta, Philharmonic, or Camerata Orchestras. Members of ALL the Cavalier Orchestras re-audition for placement each year.
- Students who certify to Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest will use their participation in that contest as their placement audition.
- Considerations for placement include musical ability, self-motivation to practice, attitude, behavior, and campus discipline/academic history.
- Audition material will be provided after Spring Break.
- If students have difficulty meeting performance and classroom expectations, they will be considered for reassignment to another elective.
- All audition placements are final.

Symphony Orchestra (Varsity String and Full Orchestra UIL) Enrollment Grades: 10-12

- Attend and participate all *afterschool sectionals, events and performances as required.*
- Audition for All-Region Orchestra and/or CISD High School Honor Orchestra.
- UIL Solo & Ensemble and chamber music recital
- Participate in Region clinics as scheduled.
- Holiday gigs/weddings

Chamber Orchestra (Non-Varsity String UIL) Enrollment Grades: 9-12

- Attend and participate all *afterschool sectionals, events and performances as required.*
- Prepare/Audition for All-Region Orchestra and/or CISD High School Honor Orchestra.
- UIL Solo & Ensemble contest and chamber music recital.

Camerata Orchestra (Sub Non-Varsity A String UIL) Enrollment Grades: 9-12

- Attend and participate all *afterschool sectionals and performances as required*.
- Prepare for All-Region Orchestra and/or CISD High School Honor Orchestra
- Encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

Philharmonic Orchestra (Sub Non-Varsity B String UIL) Enrollment Grades: 9-12

- Attend and participate in all *afterschool sectionals and performances as required*.
- Encouraged to prepare for All-Region Orchestra and/or CISD High School Honor Orchestra
- Encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

Sinfonietta Orchestra (Sub Non-Varsity C String UIL) Enrollment Grades: 9-10

- Attend and Participate all *required events and performances as required*.
- Encouraged to prepare for All-Region Orchestra and/or CISD High School Honor Orchestra
- Encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

Communication is the key to any successful program. Students and parents can always contact the directors via email or phone.

<u>Email</u>

Mr. Coraza- <u>eperaltacoraza@conroeisd.net</u> Ms. Hom- <u>mhom@conroeisd.net</u>

Band App

BAND is a free group communication app. The group we created is an invite-only group that no one else can join. We'll be able to communicate privately and share files, forms, and videos and photos of what is happening in the orchestra.

Even if you don't have a smartphone, you can access BAND from your PC at <u>https://band.us</u>.

* IMPORTANT: You MUST use the link or QR code below to join the group.

Smartphone: Scan the QR code below to download the app. You will be asked to create an account and will be asked to accept the invite to our BAND group.

PC: Before going to the website, please be sure to copy/paste or type in the invite link below to your chrome, safari, or other internet browsers. You won't be able to join the group unless you use this invite link. In case you've already created a BAND account, simply copy & paste the link to your browser.

2023-2024 CP Orchestra Band:



Direct Link: https://band.us/n/a4a89aff90NfU

We will be using BAND to send out reminders and other information throughout the year, so it is imperative that you have notifications enabled on your device for the BAND app.

All students enrolled in any Cavalier Orchestra will have access to the software, **Make Music Cloud**. This serves as an aid to teach proper and efficient practice skills. This software may be used for graded assessments in class.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Personal instrument, bow and accessories in good condition.

- Instruments must be traditional in form, material, and function.
- Non-traditional instruments (which include brightly colored, electric, non-wood, or solid body instruments) are not allowed in rehearsal or performance.
- Students playing Cello, Bass, or Harp: A school instrument will be assigned to the student, and it should be treated with the upmost respect.

A \$75.00 per year maintenance fee is required of orchestra students using CISD owned equipment at home or at school This fee is paid via School Cash Online. By the time a student is a sophomore, they will be expected to be using a step-up quality instrument (*NOT FOUND THROUGH THE INTERNET*) and a quality wood or carbon bow. In most cases these items will have been purchased during the eighth or ninth grade year. <u>DO NOT</u> <u>PURCHASE BEFORE CONSULTING</u> your director or private teacher.

Instrument cases must be labeled with name and address. For Violins and Violas- An orchestra locker is provided to safeguard from unauthorized use or theft. *The director is not responsible for misplaced or misused instruments that are not secured in an assigned locker.*

Black three-ring binder

All students are expected to have this in class each day to mark performance information/changes. Music for each performance will be provided to all students.

A PENCIL

Standalone tuner or tuning app on smartphone.

Tuner Recommendations: Snark Chromatic Tuner Tonal Energy (iOS/Android)

Technique Book

Each student will have a copy of their classes' technique/method book in their binder. These books can be bought online or through your instrument vendor/music store.

Sinfonietta and Philharmonic Orchestra- Habits of a Successful Middle Level String Musician- Christopher Selby/Scott Rush

Camerata, Chamber, and Symphony- Habits of a Successful String Musician- Christopher Selby/Scott Rush

Access to Chromebook/Laptop

Students will be asked to use digital resources to assist in practicing and learning class music.

Students should own the following items for home use as needed:

Folding music stand

Shoulder rest (Sumi, Kun) Cello/Bass end-pin stop Mute Extra strings

Items gladly accepted as donations for the use of the orchestra program/classroom:

2-3 boxes of tissues1-2 packages of AA or AAA batteries1-2 reams of white copy paper12-pack Bottle of Water

There will be a supply check at the end of the second week of school. This will be a Major Grade.

These items can be purchased from any of the following vendors, or online from an established music store. For contact information and comparison-shopping, visit the following websites for renting/buying/repairing instruments, sheet music and other supplies.

Lisle Violin Shop 11550 Louetta Dr. Houston, TX 77070 346.236.6650 lisleviolinshop@aol.com www.lisleviolinshop.com

Amati Violin Shop 2315 University Blvd. Houston, TX 77005 713.666.6461 www.amativiolinshop.com **Fishburn Violin Shop (H&H Music)** <u>www.fishburnviolin.com</u> 1500 Research Forest Dr #140, Shenandoah, TX 77381 Music & Arts Center Portofino Shopping Center Shenandoah, TX 77385 936.273.3602 www.musicarts.com

FACILITY CARE / STUDENT CONDUCT / REHEARSAL PROCEDURES/PRACTICE POLICY

Facility Care

The primary function of the orchestra room is to serve as a teaching space for on-campus curricular courses as well as for off-campus guest ensembles. Its condition and appearance must remain orderly and safe. The following guidelines will be *strictly enforced* to ensure the safety and care of our facility.

All stands, chairs, audio/visual equipment, computers/iPads, music folder cabinets, and other items used solely for the purpose of classroom instruction is to be treated properly.

Only students enrolled in orchestra or music theory are allowed in the orchestra room. Friends are asked to wait outside while orchestra students retrieve instruments or conduct classroom business.

Practice rooms are solely used for private lessons or individual practice. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to congregate in practice rooms at any time. Violations to the above will result in loss of privileges for students.

Student Conduct

A high standard of conduct is always expected from students as members of the Cavalier Orchestra. The respect policies set forth in the TWCP Student Handbook will be always in effect on and off campus.

Rehearsal Procedure/Expectation

Productive rehearsals produce successful performances. Proper rehearsal etiquette and the ability to follow directions are crucial for the success of any orchestra program.

♦ Individual warm-up begins *before* the Tardy Bell. A student not seated ready for instruction within one minute after the bell rings will be counted tardy.

No Electronic Devices are allowed during rehearsals/sectionals. Phones must be placed in the cell-phone rack before the tardy bell rings.

Talking while the director is rehearsing is considered **rude and inappropriate**.

Restroom breaks *do not occur* during class time. All students are expected to use the restroom during class-changes.

Demonstration of correct instrument and body posture are always expected. This includes appropriate fingernail length. Fingernails must be shorter than the end of the fingertip so that the end of the fingertip so that they do not click when touching the fingerboard and fingers are shaped correctly. The teacher's judgement is final.

Food, drink and gum of any kind are PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES.

♦ Disruptive behavior of any kind is unacceptable and will result in the student being removed from the classroom. *Failure to follow these guidelines will result in teacher and/or administrative disciplinary action, and a lowering of the student's grade.*

Practice Policies

Practice is an integral part of orchestra class and learning to play any instrument. Every student enrolled in the Cavalier Orchestra program is expected to regularly practice all lessons, skills, techniques, concepts, and concert music taught in class. Students should plan on devote time each day for home practice. The required amount of practice time is determined by your level of mastery of the musical material. Every student is different, therefore there is no set "number of minutes" requirement. Musical success any performing ensemble achieves is directly related to the quality practice time the individual member brings to that ensemble.

AFTERSCHOOL SECTIONALS/REHEARSALS

Students placed in the Camerata, Chamber or Symphony Orchestra will have mandatory weekly sectionals/rehearsals in the Orchestra room. Students placed in the Sinfonietta, or Philharmonic will have sectionals/rehearsals on a "as-needed" basis. You will be notified a week in advance when a rehearsal/sectional is scheduled.

Sectionals are essential to the advancing musical growth of our students. During this time, we focus on more instrument specific technique and expand on concepts we go over in class. Sectionals serve their function only when the entire section. is present. Sectional attendance is not optional-participation is an expectation of membership in the Cavalier Orchestra **Program.** By not attending a sectional, you are letting down your entire section and the rest of the orchestra, as well as denying yourself a valuable learning opportunity.

	2:45pm-3:30pm	3:40pm-4:20pm
Monday	Symphony Violins	Symphony Viola/Cello/Bass
Tuesday	Chamber Violins	Chamber Viola/Cello/Bass
Wednesday	Camerata Violins	Camerata Viola/Cello/Bass

Excessive Unexcused or Unreported Absences could result in replacement into an ensemble with less commitments or removal from the program.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

These attendance guidelines apply to orchestra sectionals, rehearsals, and performances. Attendance at social events is highly encouraged, but not required. Orchestra activities are carefully planned so that the least amount of

school activities conflict with them. All students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as they wish, but at the same time, orchestra members are expected to participate in all orchestra music events (i.e.: rehearsals and performances). Remember, a grade is given for each orchestra music event.

Absence Policy All students are **REQUIRED** to attend all scheduled sectionals, after school rehearsals, and performances. We realize that some situations warrant an excused absence from events. Excused absences will be considered for the following reasons:

- Medical Emergency
- Death in the Family
- Religious Holiday
- Excused, curricular school absence.
- One time family event such as a wedding

Excused absences are granted at the discretion of the directors. Please adhere to the following timeline when requesting excused absences:

- Rehearsal/sectional outside of the school day- One Week in Advance
- Concerts and major performances- Two Weeks in Advance
- Contest or Festival At least 1 month in advance

IMPORTANT: In the event of a school related conflict, the student has the responsibility of submitting the Conflict Form. Forms that have not been submitted prior to the aforementioned deadlines will not be considered- if you are within the aforementioned deadlines, speak with a director directly. Verbal or written excuses will not be considered. Unexpected conflicts that occur within the aforementioned time frames will be considered on an individual basis. The students must notify the director of the conflict as soon as possible in the case that an unexpected issue arises. The conflict form does not automatically excuse any absence. Each circumstance will be considered individually and privately.

School club meetings and non-school related activities such as club sports, doctor's appointments, driver's ed, SAT prep, private lessons etc. are not excused. You will be notified of orchestra events well in advance and should work to schedule your appointments around these required, graded activities. Your attendance is vital not only because of your grade, but because an orchestra rehearsal is not effective if every member is not present-similar to a sports team practice. Special circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis, privately.

Tutorials - If possible, please try to arrange to attend any needed tutorials at a time that does not conflict with your sectional/rehearsal. If you must attend a tutorial during sectional time, be sure to communicate with the director ahead of time as this may affect what is covered during the sectional or rehearsal. A student will always be allowed to attend tutorials when needed, but they are responsible for making up work done during the missed sectional. Our teachers are usually very cooperative in working around rehearsals to schedule tutorials, but we understand that sometimes, students will need to miss rehearsals. Students will be responsible for making up the work missed during a rehearsal if this is the case.

All absences must be made up and it is the student's responsibility to obtain the makeup assignment. Only excused absences will be given full credit. Last minute excuses cause problems in scheduling and may not be excused. The only exception would be a student illness, emergency, or death in the family. Not having a ride to an orchestra event does not qualify a student for an excused absence. If this occurs, please try to get a ride from another student. Please make efforts to make sure that you have reliable pre-arranged transportation to all activities-we can help you with this if you ask in advance. The attendance guidelines do not apply to social events.

Absences are the responsibility of the student. Should a student miss any class because of an orchestra event, please keep in mind that assignments done in class are due at the next class meeting. Work assigned prior to the absence(s) is due on the first day of return, including tests.

GRADING POLICY

Major: Concerts/Performances/Playing Exams

A performance is equivalent to a final exam, being the culmination of several weeks of hard work and preparation. All performances are REQUIRED.

There are 5 required concerts. All concerts are GRADED EVENTS and are considered co-curricular. Students are required to participate in the entire concert. A very important part of developing as a musician is listening to and critiquing live performances. Additionally, we are a Cavalier Orchestra team, and we support each other out of respect for our program and respect for the hard work involved in preparing and performing for our school and community.

Students start with a '5' for their performance grade based on attendance, timeliness, following procedures, and performance etiquette. Points will be deducted from the grade for the following infractions:

• Leaving Performance Without Permission-A 'performance' begins with the 1st piece of the first ensemble and ends at the conclusion of the last piece of the last ensemble. There are only 5 concerts a year that are required all ensembles to listen to each other: Fall Concert, Bachs Office Pop Show, Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and String Fling.

• Uniform Infraction- any missing/incorrect pieces or the uniform

• Out of Uniform. This infraction will result in the student being removed from the ensemble and receiving a grade of zero.

- Tardy to 'Call Time'- It is standard practice to arrive 15 minutes prior to assigned call time.
- Missing Equipment/Music Any missing instrument accessory, shoulder rest, sheet music, etc.
- Behavior Issues will be addressed by the director and deduction/disciplinary action applied accordingly.

Fortunately, we rarely have issues warranting deductions and understand that emergencies happen. Directors will work to alleviate uniform, instrument, music, transportation, etc. issues brought to our attention, however it is YOUR JOB to prepare in advance and remember that you are a part of the orchestra team, and your team needs you on time and ready to go!

Daily: Daily Participation / Preparation / Materials / Sectionals / Playing tests/Practice Assignments/In-Class Assignments

A daily participation grade reflects the ability to consistently follow established rehearsal procedures and classroom rules. Contents and condition of music binders will be checked periodically for a grade. Due to the performance-oriented nature of the class, after-school rehearsals (sectionals) and clinics are **mandatory**. Each student will receive a weekly participation grade. Points will be deducted if students do not follow proper rehearsal/class procedures and etiquette. This includes having the necessary supplies needed to participate in class (instrument, binder, pencil, music, etc.).

Sectional/Rehearsal Attendance grades will be received weekly for those ensembles that have sectionals.

Directors reserve the right to determine an assignment classifies as a Major or Daily Grade.

CURRICULAR / EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

On-campus sponsored events are considered *curricular*, *or co-curricular*. Several *extra-curricular* competitions sponsored by the University Scholastic League (UIL) and TMEA also occur throughout the year for all students to participate. These include Solo & Ensemble, All-Region Orchestra and All-State Orchestra. Clinics taught by Houston area professional performers/educators are hired to prepare for these events. Students are *strongly encouraged* to avail themselves of these opportunities.

ORCHESTRA SPRING TRIP

These are fun opportunities for students to enjoy both educational and recreational activities outside the classroom. Each Spring, a trip is scheduled on a rotation of in-state and out-of-state trips. These trips are considered a privilege and must be earned by the students. Students who wish to participate in this activity must have a good academic and citizenship record (No ISS, OSS, DAEP, JJAEP, etc.) in every class. Students be academically eligible and satisfactory behavior EVERY GRADING PERIOD. Students who do not meet these requirements, have shown a record of discipline problems, have missed any required orchestra activities or owe money to the orchestra will not be allowed to participate. All decisions about the trip are at the discretion of the director. Trips are usually scheduled in the spring and must pass principal approval.

ELIGIBILITY

Participation in all **UIL sponsored events**, including any **Orchestra Trip** require a grade of **70** (1-100 scale) or above in all classes during the eligibility period of the scheduled event. Students in A.P. or Pre A.P. courses may obtain a waiver to participate. Participation in all **on-campus events** is allowed regardless of grade status.

TMEA ALL-REGION / ALL-STATE

TMEA All-Region takes place in November. Students audition in October for placement in one of two orchestras: Symphony or Philharmonic. The selected audition etudes are posted on the TMEA website (<u>www.tmea.org</u>) in early May. These sites should be visited frequently for official corrections or *errata* regarding the audition material. **Cavalier Symphony (Varsity) members are required to participate for this audition.**

TMEA All-State takes place each February in San Antonio. Students will audition in late October. In addition to preselected etudes, orchestral excerpts from the programmed repertoire are heard. Students can download these excerpts in late July from <u>www.tmea.org</u>. Auditions for All-State are done through live recording. *College Park is the host site for the All-State audition/recording*. The director will provide an audition contract form for All-Region and All-State.

UIL SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST / TEXAS STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

UIL Solo & Ensemble contest is an opportunity for any student to perform a solo or in a chamber music ensemble for a judge and receive a rating and medal. Students will be assigned to a pre-arranged chamber music ensemble during the year for this as well as other performing opportunities. If students play in two ensembles, they must be different types (i.e. quartet and trio). Specific performance requirements are detailed on the student sign-up sheet. Students become 'certified' to compete at the UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble in Austin by earning a '1' rating playing a '1' class selection.

UIL CONCERT & SIGHT-READING EVALUATION

The UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation takes place in the spring semester. All Cavalier orchestras will perform selections suitable for each ensemble's performing abilities. Music will be determined on the basis of ensemble level and instrumentation. **Participation in ALL UIL events are mandatory. Failure to notify the director of a conflict prior to event will result in the student being removed from the Cavalier Orchestra Program.*

CAVALIER ORCHESTRA SUMMER CAMPS

<u>ALL-STATE/REGION ETUDE CAMP</u>: This camp introduces the audition etude material for the Region and All-State orchestras with professional clinicians from the Houston area. All orchestra members from Symphony and Chamber are strongly encouraged to attend.

<u>FRESHMAN ORIENTATION CAMP</u>: All incoming students to the orchestra program are expected to attend. This camp is designed to get a head start on learning school/classroom procedures, orchestra expectations and policies, and present a short performance at the conclusion of the week. This takes place 2 weeks before the start of school.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are *strongly encouraged* to take private lessons, particularly if they have the desire and dedication to advance as a competitive performer. Many top ranked orchestra programs are successful, in part, due to individual training through private lessons. Private lesson instructors ay schedule lessons on campus if they prefer not to teach at their residence. A full list of CISD approved instructors can be found on the Website (cporchestra.com)

CAVALIER ORCHESTRA UNIFORM

Students will be issued uniform items for the duration of the school year. Clothing issued that is the property of CISD must be properly maintained to ensure its condition for several years. Students will be fitted in class beginning the second week of school. The uniform cleaning/maintenance cost is covered in the Membership Dues. Students are financially responsible for lost or damaged articles that were assigned to them.

Under no circumstance is anyone allowed to wear boots, tennis shoes, or sandals of any kind with their primary concert attire.

Primary Concert Attire worn for all formal performances.

Option A: Black long sleeve dress shirt (purchased with your Membership Dues) Men's Necktie (Checked out) Black dress pants (provided by student/parent) Black dress shoes and socks (provided by student)

Option B: Black formal dress (Checked out) Black closed-toe dress shoes (provided by student) *Jewelry and perfume are not to be worn during performances.*

Secondary Concert Attire for school tours, String Fling: Orchestra T-Shirt or Polo / Jeans or Khakis / Tennis shoes

CAVALIER ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK ACCEPTANCE

Parents and Students: Once you have read this handbook in its entirety, please complete the <u>TWCP</u> <u>Orchestra Handbook Acknowledgement Form</u> together.

Completing this form acknowledges that you have read and understand the policies and procedures of the College Park Cavalier Orchestra.

