



Orchestra Auditions 2019-2020

The FMHS Orchestras is comprised of at least five performing organizations, and we are expecting a particularly high level of enrollment for 2019-20. All students involved in the orchestra program at Flower Mound study excellent literature, enjoy performing in performances throughout the year, are involved in community outreach, and have opportunities to travel and participate in social events. All Orchestras build upon students experience in middle school, and increase the level of challenge/difficulty. Orchestra placement is based on ability. Students will be placed where they will experience the most success. All orchestras are high caliber and need high-level students to serve as musical leaders within them. Generally, students are expected to enroll for the entire year. Please talk to the directors if you have any questions.

Chamber Orchestra:

This orchestra typically performs literature at UIL Grade Level 5 and beyond. Being a chamber orchestra member requires a serious commitment, including **full year** enrollment in the ensemble. Preparation of parts, consistent outside practice, private study, and dedication to the ensemble is expected. The ensemble works with members of the band program to form a full symphony orchestra in the spring, and members of the group are often active performers in area youth orchestras, pit orchestra, and throughout the community. Members almost always study privately to help provide the support necessary to perform the level of literature studied in the group.

Philharmonic Orchestra:

This orchestra typically performs literature at UIL Grade Level 4-5 and beyond. Students must demonstrate a high level of musical maturity. It is considered a second "audition" level group. Many members study, or have studied privately, engage in consistent personal practice outside of the school day, study music in the summer, are involved in youth orchestra, pit orchestra, or other area organizations.

Symphonic Orchestra:

This orchestra typically performs literature at UIL Grade Level 3-4 and beyond. Students must demonstrate a high level of musical maturity. This orchestra is typically comprised of students grades 10-12, but is open to all grade levels.

Camerata Orchestra:

This orchestra typically performs literature at UIL Grade Level 3-4 and beyond, and is considered an honors 9th grade ensemble. Students must demonstrate a high level of musical maturity. It is comprised primarily of advanced level 9th grade students, but is open to all grade levels.

Concert Orchestra:

This orchestra typically performs literature at UIL Grade 3 and beyond. Any student with previous playing experience is welcome, but students in this group must still demonstrate a high level of musical maturity. Typically, most 9th grade students enroll in this orchestra, but it is open to all students 9-12. It is the most typical more advanced next step in the progression from middle school orchestra.

The Audition Process:

Students interested in auditioning should plan on preparing the following:

1. Scales (see attached)

Chamber/Philharmonic:

Chamber/Philharmonic Scales in the Packet

Symphonic and Camerata:

Symphonic/Camerata Scales in the Packet

2. Choose 3 of the Attached Excerpts

Chamber: Must be Excerpts 6-8

Philharmonic: Must be Excerpts 4-8

Symphonic/Camerata: Any Excerpts

Excerpts are Scaled in Difficulty (Most Difficult in Back of Packet)

Choosing Excerpts:

1. We recommend that you print out all 8 excerpts for your respective instrument. Play through them, take them to your teacher, and decide which 3 excerpts you want to prepare for your audition.
2. It is important that you pick 3 excerpts which you are going to be able to play with great intonation, rhythmic precision, a steady tempo (at the metronome markings indicated), and all dynamics, articulations, and style considerations. Fingerings/bowings are suggestions and can be changed.
3. Avoid picking excerpts that are too difficult for you or too easy for you. That will not help the conductors assess you accurately, especially if they are too hard for you. You might have big goals to be in a certain ensemble, but if you pick music that is beyond your abilities, it only shows us that you are not ready to play the level of music in which that ensemble plays. We want everyone to have a solid confident audition.
4. Even though you will select the excerpts you want to prepare for the orchestra you hope to make it into, it is NO GUARANTEE that you will qualify for that orchestra. For example, if you choose to perform the Chamber orchestra excerpts (6-8) you may be accepted into Philharmonic, Symphonic, or Camerata if you are not accepted into Chamber. All Orchestras perform at a high level; the process is designed to help find the group where you will experience the most success and fulfillment.

Students will be considered based on the following criteria:

Current rehearsal etiquette, positive attitude and commitment demonstrated on a daily basis in your current orchestra. Schedule for the 2019-20 school year (full year enrollment in orchestra is expected for all and mandatory for membership in the Varsity Level Chamber Orchestra).

Audition Process:

Auditions will be submitted online. You will upload a **video** of your scale and excerpts to a Google Classroom made available through the FMHS Orchestra Website (Join with Code: y8tmul). Make sure the camera angle is positioned so that we can see your left and right hand. This video will only be viewable by the audition committee.

If you prefer scheduling a live audition, there will be a sign-up posted at a future date for current FMHS students. Incoming 9th grade students who prefer a live audition can email one of the directors to schedule an appointment.

All Video Uploads, or Live Auditions must be Completed by

Wednesday, May 1st

Specific Instructions on how to post your video is in the google classroom (contact your director if you are having problems accessing this)

Results: Students and Parents will be notified about audition results via the website at the end of the school year. Guidance Counselors will be informed of your placement for scheduling purposes. You may choose to participate in a lower level orchestra if you have a schedule conflict (E.g., a student placed in Philharmonic could choose to participate in Symphonic, or a student placed in Symphonic could choose to participate in Concert). We have had students take advantage of this option. However, you may not choose to participate in a higher-level orchestra for scheduling purposes. Please make the directors aware of any schedule change requests that you have. Our priority is to find a place for everyone to continue enjoying playing in orchestra.

If you have questions regarding the auditions please feel free to contact Mr. Clink, or Mr. Bunte at 469-713-5192 (x3620), or clinks@lisd.net and bunteb@lisd.net

Thank you for investing the time and energy to participate in the audition process.