

Rushing Orchestra

August 2022

Important Upcoming Dates

Friday, September 2nd - Orchestra Fee Due

Tuesday, September 6th - All District Orchestra Contract Due (for students auditioning)

Friday, September 16th - After School Donut Party (All Orchestra Students)

Tuesday, September 20th - All-District Orchestra Auditions - 5:30 pm - Hays MS

September 23rd-24th - All District Orchestra Clinic and Concert

Wednesday, September 28th - PHS Homecoming Parade

Orchestra Fee: Due Friday, September 2nd

There are 2 ways to take care of the \$80 orchestra fee:

[1. Online - Through the Orchestra Booster Website](#)

Please know there is a \$5.00 processing fee to pay online.

2. Check/Money Order/Cash

Please make checks payable to the **PHS EOBC** (Prosper High School Eagle Orchestra Booster Club)

Make sure when you are sending payment this way, put it in an envelope with your student's name on it. There is a lockbox in my room and it is collected once a week on Thursdays.

If you are unable to make the \$80 payment by the 2nd, please send me an email so we can make an arrangement.

Private Lessons

We just found a new double bass teacher and a new violin/viola teacher. If you are interested in private lessons for your student, please fill out the private lesson request form.

Lessons will begin next week for those who are already signed up with Mr. Gonzalez or Ms. Choi.

[Fill out the lesson request form here:](#)

Orchestra Supplies

If you are missing any supplies, please click on the links below.

All Students:

- [Cleaning Cloth](#)
- [Rosin](#) - Violin/Viola/Cello - NOT BASS
- [Tuner](#)
- [Folding Music Stand](#) or [Durable Home Music Stand](#)

Cello Students:

- [Rockstop](#)

Bass Students:

- [Rockstop](#)
- [Rosin](#)
- [Stool for home practice](#) or [Upgraded Stool for Home Practice](#)

Beginners will also need the beginner book:

- [Violin](#)
 - [Viola](#)
 - [Cello](#)
 - [Bass](#)
-

Orchestra Swag



Orchestra Jammies

<https://phseobc.square.site/product/unisex-pajamas-green-plaid/7?cp=true&sa=true&sbp=false&q=false>



Orchestra Hoodie

<https://phseobc.square.site/product/unisex-hoodie-gildan/5?cp=true&sa=true&sbp=false&q=false>



Car Decal, Magnet, or Yard Sign

<https://frontyardswag.com/show/ols/categories/rushing-middle-school-prosper>

Donut Party

Friday, September 16th

We will have our first orchestra social with an after-school donut party. The timing will be from 3:30-4:00 pm. Come hang out and enjoy a donut with some orchestra friends.

Instrument Purchase/Upgrade

Robertson Violins Dallas Fall Show

<https://www.robertsonviolins.com/>

Robertson Violins is based in Albuquerque and is one of the premier string instrument providers in the nation. They provide Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass instruments for rent and

purchase. If you are currently renting from them, you can do size-ups and purchases here at the fall show.

If you are ready to purchase a higher-level instrument, this is the place to go. Also, feel free to come by and take a look around.

Dates: September 16-17

Doubletree by Hilton Dallas Richardson, Bluebonnet Ballroom
1981 N. Central Expressway
Richardson, TX 75081

Friday the 16th: 10am-6pm

Saturday the 17th: 9am-5pm

To best serve you, rental and rental purchase exchange orders must be submitted before 5:30 pm on September 9th, 2022.

All-District Orchestra Auditions

For Camerata, Sinfonia, and Chamber Students Only

This audition is required for Chamber and Sinfonia students and is optional for Camerata students. All District is competing against all Prosper ISD MS orchestra students.

Date: Tuesday, September 20th, 2022

Location: Hays Middle School

14441 Hillcrest Rd.

Frisco, TX 75035

Enter through the front doors and follow the signs for check-in

What to Bring: All students need to bring their instrument, music, tuner and rosin. Violin & viola students need to bring their shoulder rest. Cello & bass students need to bring their rockstop. Bass students will also need to bring their stool.

Time: Please be available 5:30 pm-8:00 pm, however, you will receive your audition window one week prior to the auditions. This will minimize waiting time.

Practice Advice for Parents

Parents, How to help your student practice.

Parents of students often ask me how they can help their kids with practicing their new instrument. While many parents don't hesitate to step in and help their kids with subjects like math or English, I have spoken to many parents who feel uncomfortable stepping in to help their kids' practice because they feel as if they aren't qualified to do so. Regardless of a parent's experience with a musical instrument, there are 5 things that every parent can do to help their kids have better practice sessions.

1) Help your child establish (and maintain) a regular practice schedule.

Young musicians need to practice daily in order to establish solid muscle memory on their instruments. I suggest that beginning students practice at home for 20 minutes a day, at least 5 days a week. Practicing at home is ideal due to the similar distractions that students are exposed to when they practice in the classroom at school.

Create a weekly school and activity calendar with your child, and help them to carve out practice time each week.

2) "Supervise" and hold your child accountable.

Stay within earshot of your child when they practice. Young musicians often become distracted during practice sessions and can end up doing other things while the practice timer keeps ticking. When you hear prolonged silence, step in and see what is going on.

It is very tempting for young musicians to spend their entire practice session playing through their favorite tunes that they already know well. Students should spend most of their practice time focusing on material that they aren't as familiar or comfortable with.

You should hear between 3-5 unique songs and/or exercises for a 20 minute practice session.

3) Encourage your child to focus on fixing mistakes.

If you hear your child making repeated mistakes in their music, encourage them to isolate the problem spot and practice slowly. You could even suggest that they practice naming the notes" or counting the rhythm of the trouble spot.

4) Make sure your child uses a metronome or the practice track.

The metronome is a device musicians use to help us keep a steady pace when we practice music. Make sure that you hear the metronome playing when your child practices. This will ensure that they are spacing the notes in a song evenly, which is essential in playing cleanly and confidently. If you don't hear the music "syncing" properly with the metronome (trust me,

you'll know!), encourage your child to decrease the speed on the metronome until they find a speed that is easy to "sync" with.

5) Stay in touch with your child's orchestra director.

Check in with your child's orchestra director on a semi-regular basis about your child's progress in orchestra. They will be able to tell you what your child's strengths and weaknesses are, and how they can be focusing their practice sessions to target areas that could use improvement and extra attention.

Beginner Orchestra Update - 1st, 2nd, and 4th Period

We are rocking and rolling in beginner orchestra class. Most everyone has their instrument and supplies. We are still waiting on some deliveries, especially from Williamson. At the moment students without instruments are borrowing one of mine.

Students now know how to hold their instrument correctly and have learned 2 notes; D and A. The songs in their book have both D and A notes.

Our first orchestra test is on parts of the instrument and will occur on Friday, August 26th. Have your student show you the different parts of their instrument.

The Bow:

Very, very important!!!! Students SHOULD NOT be playing with their bow at this time. Parents, please help me with this at home. Students must complete 500 perfect bow holds before they earn their bow in class. We are working to build muscle memory by holding the bow. I just sent home a coloring sheet. Every bow hold your child makes outside of class, they can color a square on their paper. 100 bow holds will be on a pencil and 400 will be on a bow. I anticipate we will be playing with the bow by the end of September.

Home Practice:

You should see your student practicing 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week. You should see them go over the parts of their instrument, play page 4-5 in their book, and work on their bow holds.

Private Lessons:

Now is the time to jump into lessons. Be sure to sign up before all of the time slots are full.

Camerata Orchestra Update - Intermediate - 8th Period

In this orchestra, students are working on preparing two pieces for the Fall Concert (Sky Suite and Subatomic). You should hear your student practice at least 5 days a week for 25 minutes. If you are not seeing this, please encourage them to bring their instruments home.

The students in this orchestra may choose to audition for All-District Orchestra on September 20th, but it is not required. All-District Orchestra is a competition between all Prosper ISD MS orchestra students. They are competing to earn a spot in the orchestra group. The Orchestra will have a special guest conductor, Soon Hee Newbold, who is a famous orchestral composer. If a student in Camerata makes the All-District Orchestra, as long as there is no scheduling conflict, will move up to the Sinfonia Orchestra at either the Nine Weeks or the Semester.

Sinfonia Orchestra Update - Advanced II - 3rd Period

The start of the year is going very well! Sinfonia students are working hard preparing two pieces for the Fall Concert (Morning Lights and Dark Dreams). Students in this orchestra should be practicing for a minimum of 35 minutes 5 days a week.

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Optionally, students in this orchestra may compete for All-Region Orchestra on October 29th. This competition is against orchestra students from Prosper, McKinney, and Frisco ISD. It is a more difficult process and a huge honor to be accepted into the group. If students want to pursue this option, private lessons are necessary.

Speaking of lessons, we just hired a new violin/viola teacher, Ms. Penny Tong. She is certified Suzuki through book 10. At this time, she has a wide-open schedule, so please be sure to put in a request as lessons are on a first-come, first-serve basis. In this group, lessons are not required but HIGHLY encouraged.

Chamber Orchestra Update - Advanced I - 7th Period

The start of the year is going very well! Chamber students are working hard preparing two pieces for the Fall Concert (Waltz of the Wicked and Struggle in the Shadows). Students in this

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Rushing Orchestra

 Facebook

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Follow us on social media for updates!

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rushingorchestra/>