

Rushing Orchestra

September 2021 Update

Important Upcoming Dates

Thursday, September 2nd - After School Donut Party - 3:30-4:00pm

Tuesday, September 21st - All-District Orchestra Auditions - 5:00pm, Rogers MS

Friday, September 24th - All-District Orchestra Sectionals and Rehearsal - 5:00-8:00pm, RHHS

Saturday, September 25th - All-District Orchestra Rehearsal and Concert - 9:00am-1:00pm, RHHS

Orchestra Swag

Shirts, Hoodies, and Yard Signs

We have lots of awesome swag from a couple of different places. Please see the links below.

[Help support the booster program by checking out all of the shirt and hoodie options.](#)

[Grab a personalized yard sign or car magnet.](#)

[Do you want an official shirt for yourself? Grab one for the whole family.](#)

[Student Hoodies:](#)

The deadline to order a discounted \$28 hoodie is **Friday, September 10th**. As a reminder, this is for students in the orchestra program only.



Hoodie

Orchestra students order here Deadline September 10th:

https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/prdembd?ref=ZZH55P0BQF0824D_ZZB9FASNDHVU2N3

Family, Friends, and Teachers order here No deadline:

<https://www.prosperorchestra.org/store>



Official 21-22 Shirt

Students get this shirt as part of their orchestra fee. If you would like to order extra shirts for the family, click here:

<https://forms.gle/kMr7RJHgTRoyiAz6>

Deadline is this Thursday, September 2nd.



Yard Sign

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

There are personalized and non-personalized yard signs available.



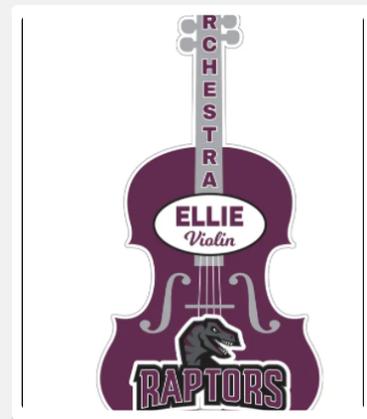
Joggers

<https://www.prosperorchestra.org/store>



Crop Top Hoodie

<https://www.prosperorchestra.org/store>



Car Decal Magnet

<https://frontyardswag.com/shop/ols/products/rushing-orchestra-car-decal-or-magnet-personalized>

All-District Orchestra Audition, Clinic, and Concert

Required for Chamber and Sinfonia Orchestras...Camerata and Beginner not Participating

All-District Orchestra is a chance for students to compete against other Prosper ISD schools and earn a spot in one all-star group. This is a **required event** for Chamber and Sinfonia.

Tuesday, September 21st - Audition

Arrive at Rogers MS at 5:00 pm for check-in. Parents are encouraged and welcome to stay. You will enter the front of the building and go to the cafeteria for check-in and warm-up. Students will be assigned an audition letter and will be taken in groups of 10 to the audition room for a blind audition. They will not see the judges and the judges cannot see them. Parents are not allowed in the audition room. When students are done auditioning, they may leave. Results will be posted in google classroom that evening at the conclusion of the audition.

Friday, September 24th - Sectionals and Rehearsal- Rock Hill HS

Students who make the orchestra will report to Rock Hill HS. Please arrive at 4:45. Sectionals will begin at 5 pm in designated rooms. All students should enter on the south side of the building where it says auditorium. Pizza will be provided for students for dinner. from 7pm to 8pm students will rehearse with the clinician on stage.

Saturday, September 25th - Clinic and Concert - Rock Hill HS

Students should arrive by 8:45am. Rehearsal begins at 9am. Students will wear their all-district orchestra shirt. Students will rehearse until noon. They should bring a sack lunch or snack. The concert begins at 1pm.

Parents please plan on attending the concert at 1pm. It will be cool to hear what your students do in only 4 hours of actual rehearsal. The concert will be over by 1:30pm and you can enjoy your Saturday.

Practice Advice Corner

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, 4th, and 6th Period

The beginners are hard at work learning notes and making first sounds. At home, you should see your student making bow holds on pencils and plucking open string songs. We call plucking "pizzicato". We have also just started adding fingers onto the string. We are very focused on creating a relaxed hand position free from tension.

Parents, you should also start to see practice checklists that require your signature every Monday night. These checklists will help guide your student in knowing what to work on each week.

Some students are still in need of supplies. Please order any missing supplies.

[Violin/Viola](#)

[Book](#)

[Tuner](#)

[folding music stand](#)

[Cleaning Cloth](#)

[Shoulder Rest](#)

[Rosin](#)

[Cello/Bass](#)

[Book](#)

[Tuner](#)

[folding music stand](#)

[Cleaning Cloth](#)

[Rosin](#)

[Rockstop](#)

Camerata Orchestra Update

Intermediate - 2nd Period

Camerata Orchestra is working on 2 songs for our fall concert. One is called Winds of Autumn, and the other is called Haunted Halloween. We are using the time in class to focus on correct posture, clear intonation, and good hand position. We just completed our first playing test, and the students did well. As a reminder, students can always retest playing test grades for a 100 at any point during a nine weeks.

Some students are still missing supplies. Please order them below.

[New Directions for Strings Book 1](#)

[Violin](#)

[Viola](#)

[Cello](#)

[Violin/Viola](#)

[Tuner](#)

[folding music stand](#)

[Cleaning Cloth](#)

[Shoulder Rest](#)

[Rosin](#)

[Cello](#)

[Tuner](#)

[folding music stand](#)

[Cleaning Cloth](#)

[Rosin](#)

[Rockstop](#)

Sinfonia Orchestra Update

Advanced II - 7th Period

In Sinfonia Orchestra, we are working on All-District Music, and 2 songs for our fall concert. The first song is called "Autumn from the 4 Seasons" and the 2nd is called "The Abandoned Funhouse". The students are playing so well, we will likely add a 3rd piece for our concert. We are spending time during warm-up adjust posture and hand positions. We are learning new finger patterns and more advanced bowings.

Please make sure students have all of the required supplies.

Violin/Viola

[Tuner](#)

[folding music stand](#)

[Cleaning Cloth](#)

[Shoulder Rest](#)

[Rosin](#)

Cello/Bass

[Tuner](#)

[folding music stand](#)

[Cleaning Cloth](#)

[Rosin](#)

[Rockstop](#)

Chamber Orchestra Update

Advanced I - 5th Period

Chamber Orchestra is working hard on preparing quite a bit of music. They are working on Autumn Vows and Night Shift for the fall concert as well as All-District and All-Region orchestra music. Students are working on vibrato, shifting, and learning more advanced bowings and finger patterns.

Some students are still missing some supplies. Please get them ordered as soon as you can.

Violin/Viola

[Tuner](#)

[folding music stand](#)

[Cleaning Cloth](#)

[Shoulder Rest](#)

[Rosin](#)

Cello

[Tuner](#)

[folding music stand](#)

[Cleaning Cloth](#)

[Rosin](#)

[Rockstop](#)



Rushing Orchestra

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[Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rushingorchestra/](https://www.facebook.com/rushingorchestra/)

