



8th Grade Orientation
Parent Meeting – January 29, 2009
Allen High School, 6:00 p.m.

Contact Information

<http://www.allenorchestra.org>

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Facts about 9-12 Orchestra

- Estimated 250 students in 2008-2009 (2 LFC Orchestras, 4 AHS Orchestras)
- Students are placed by audition **and** director recommendation
- **Lowery Chamber Orchestras** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert , then performs with select members of the Allen Escadrille to form the Lowery FC Full Orchestra for Winter Concert and entire Spring Semester
- **Lowery Concert Orchestra** perform as String Orchestra for entire school year
- **AHS Chamber Orchestras** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert, and Full Orchestra for Winter Concert and entire Spring Semester. (with AHS Sinfonia)
- **AHS Sinfonia Orchestra** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert, and Full Orchestra for Winter Concert and entire Spring Semester. (with AHS Chamber)
- **AHS Concert Orchestra** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert, and Full Orchestra for Winter Concert and entire Spring Semester. (with AHS Camerata)
- **AHS Camerata Orchestra** performs as String Orchestra for the Fall Concert, and Full Orchestra for Winter Concert and entire Spring Semester (with AHS Concert)
- All 9-12 Orchestras participate in UIL and TMEA Events (Contests, Competitions, etc...)
- All 9-12 Orchestras participate in Spring Trip and/or invitational performances.
- Annual Orchestra Banquet (includes winds/percussionists who participate in Full Orchestras)

Common Questions About Orchestra

- Can my student take Orchestra and Athletics?

Yes! Orchestra will meet opposite most athletic periods. Soccer is one of the few sports scheduled during some orchestra classes as of the current schedule

- What is Full Orchestra?

Starting in 9th grade, Chamber Orchestra students will perform with selected members of the Allen HS Band – this ensemble will make up the LFC Full Orchestra. Rehearsals for Full Orchestra will be determined each semester – usually once a week after school (Around 2 rehearsals Fall Semester, 8 rehearsals Spring Semester). The LFC Full Orchestra performs in the Winter Concert, UIL Contest, and Spring Concerts.

- How much money does it cost to be in the orchestra?

Each student is required to purchase an orchestra t-shirt, a black music binder, and other music supplies for their specific instrument (see handbook). You must also purchase or rent a quality instrument to play in the orchestra. The cello and bass can be rented from the school for school use (\$100 per year.) Students can also take private music lessons, which is strongly encouraged! Spring Trips will be supplemented by fundraisers. Other costs involve small fees (All-Region Orchestra, UIL Solo & Ensemble, etc...)

- What is the Uniform for the 9-12 Orchestra Students for formal concerts?

Students will be issued a school tuxedo or dress for formal concerts. This is provided at no cost – except for upkeep and dry cleaning. Black shoes, black socks, etc...will need to be provided by the student (see handbook) Freshman are issued new uniforms at the Orchestra Registration Day in August 2008.

- How is Orchestra scheduled in a typical class day?

Lowery Orchestras will be scheduled during the middle of the day – currently, Concert Orchestra is 3rd period and Chamber Orchestra is 4th period.

Allen High School Chamber Orchestra will meet during 3rd period on “A” days and Sinfonia Orchestra will meet during 5th period on “B” days. Concert Orchestra will meet during 4th period on “A” days and Camerata Orchestra will meet during 6th period on “B” days. These classes will be approximately 1 ½ hours each. Orchestra at AHS is not a double-blocked class! Every orchestra student will meet 2 or 3 times a week (depending on the week)

- Which Orchestra should my student sign up for?

In early May, 2009 – every 8th grade orchestra student will audition with the High School Orchestra Directors to determine which ensemble each student will perform with. Every student can sign up for Orchestra I (Chamber) - Students’ schedules will be changed by the directors through the counselor’s office once auditions are finished.

- Are students required to attend all events?

Students are required to attend all events on the orchestra calendar that pertain to them. In some instances academic eligibility will not allow students to attend some events. We make every effort to inform parents about orchestra activities. Please see handbook for more information.

- Does the orchestra meet early before school starts in August?

Yes, there will be an Orchestra Orientation before school starts, in August. Students will size for uniforms, receive handbooks, locker information, and purchase t-shirts. The Allen Orchestra Booster Club sells spirit wear while a local vendor will have instrument repair and music supplies available. See our website for times and information.

- Can my student participate in Orchestra all four years of High School in their schedule?

Yes! Students who participate in AP/IB, Athletics, etc...have been able to take orchestra all four years of High School without taking summer school. Counselors CAN make orchestra fit into class schedules. Please use our 4 year planning guide as a reference (and bring them to your counselor when scheduling!)

- Is there a Booster Club available for parents to help the Allen Orchestra Program?

Yes! We encourage all parents to join the Booster Club! See website for info!