



Handbook 2024-2025

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Kelly Parker, Principal
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Dear Orchestra Parents,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 TRMS Orchestra! I am very happy that you and your child have chosen to participate in this year's program. Playing an instrument encourages creativity, and helps young people learn discipline and focus. Many great skills are gained through the orchestra experience, including self-discipline, a strong work ethic, attention to detail, teamwork, and confidence. I hope each student will take advantage of the many opportunities available through the orchestra program and continue music as a lifelong pursuit.

This handbook serves as your reference for the activities planned for this year. It also includes classroom policies and procedures. Please review the information and mark your calendar with concert and activity dates.

Parents are encouraged to be involved with the orchestra program. Research points to the importance of supporting children in the positive activities they become a part of. There are many areas that require assistance such as uniforms, chaperoning, and pre-concert assistance. Please consider volunteering and indicate your desire to volunteer on the student information sheet.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress in orchestra. It is best to reach me through my school email.

I am so excited to be a part of the Taylor Road family, and I look forward to a wonderful year of music learning and performance!

Musically yours,

Gabriella Paul-Nally

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Purpose

Middle school orchestra is offered to beginning sixth grade students as well as seventh and eighth grade intermediate and advanced students. The purpose of this course is to enhance, enrich, and build a solid instrumental music foundation of performance skills. The courses are performance-based which afford students the opportunity to showcase their talents in class as well as out of class in small and large group performances. The curriculum is comprehensive for all orchestra instruments and facilitates growth at all levels of skill and talents. It is the goal of the Taylor Road Middle School Orchestra to instill a lifelong love of music and playing in our students.

Instrumental Music Participation Fee

Students participating in orchestra will be charged a **fee of \$65 per year**. This fee will be used to offset the cost of guest clinicians, concert polos, t-shirts, awards, rewards, transportation, music, and materials. Families with financial concern should reach out to the director to work out other arrangements.

Please submit the payment through Online School Payment (OSP) by **September 10th, 2024** through OSP (Online School Payment) on the TRMS Website. Link provided through our orchestra website.

Materials

Orchestra Instrument

Students are **expected** to rent an instrument from a local music store. It is extremely beneficial for you and your student to rent from a local music store with high quality products. Music stores will adequately maintain and repair any damages to the instrument. Music stores typically exchange rental instruments when your student outgrows them. However, if there is a financial concern regarding rental, please reach out to Mrs. Paul-Nally and Ms. Wilson as soon as possible.

Method Books:

Sixth Grade – Essentials Elements for Strings – Book 1**

Seventh Grade – Essentials Elements for Strings – Book 2**

Eighth Grade – method books will be provided in class.

**This year, all method books will be supplied to students, no purchase necessary. However, if a student loses the provided book, they must purchase a replacement.

Orchestra Supplies:

Binders, sheet protectors, t-shirts, and concert polos will all be provided this year through the participation fee.

Students who choose to play violin or viola are required to have their own shoulder rest. These can be purchased from any music store, or Amazon. Please consult Ms. Paul for proper sizes.

Rosin: It is recommended that each student have their own rosin, it can be purchased from any music store.

Soft cloth: for wiping down strings after playing. Old wash clothes or cut up t-shirts work great!

Shoulder rest: for violins and violas only. Be sure to try with instrument before purchasing.

Rock stop: for cello and basses.

10-15 pages of lined notebook paper

Pencil(s)- to be kept in your case, binder, or instrument cubby

Music stand for home practice/ field trips (folding wire stand)

Instrument Storage:

Each student will be assigned a place to keep their instrument. Students will receive this assignment during the first few weeks of school. All instruments must be stored in the proper place.

- *Your name should be on your case, book, shoulder rest, and rock stop. Ms. Paul will help you label everything with masking tape.*
- *Violins and violas keep a soft cloth in your case.*
- *Violins and violas keep their cases under or next to their chair, make sure it is closed!*
- *Each student is responsible for putting away their instrument and music at the end of class.*
- *Books and music binders can be kept in the instrument cubby (for violins and violas) or an assigned bookshelf. Students may also keep these materials in their bookbags to take home for home practice.*

Instrument Rental

All students are **expected** to rent instruments from the local music stores as the quality of the instruments is much higher. Many music stores have rent-to-own programs that allow you to contribute your monthly payments to the price of the instrument. Flyers and information will be sent home on recommended shops in the area. However, if there is a financial concern regarding instrument rental, please reach out to Mrs. Paul-Nally as soon as possible.

Music Stores in the area:

- Atlanta Violins
- Beau Vinci Violins
- Huthmaker Violins
- Ken Stanton Music

****We strongly advise against** the purchase of instruments online. You get what you pay for, and many instruments purchased online will easily break and not be sustainable for your students use. Please consult Mrs. Paul-Nally and Ms. Wilson before any rentals or purchases online.**

Performance Attire

The Taylor Road Orchestra performance attire consists of the following:

Sixth/Seventh Grade White TRMS Orchestra Polo, black dress pants, black dress shoes, black flats, or 1" heels (black socks)

Eighth Grade Black TRMS Orchestra Polo, black dress pants, black dress shoes, black flats, or 1" heels (black socks)

Absolutely no sandals, flip flops, sneakers, white socks, or black jeans.

Orchestra concerts are considered formal events for our students, and it is very important that students look their best for each performance. Please address uniform issues long before the concert date. Students who arrive for a concert without acceptable clothing will not be allowed to participate in the event. If you have a problem obtaining an outfit, please contact the director or principal as soon as possible, so we can work together to resolve this matter.

Performance Attendance

Students are expected to attend all performances and rehearsals unless a director has approved an acceptable excuse *two weeks prior to the performance or rehearsal*. Good communication between teachers, students, and parents can prevent misunderstandings. Students who do not attend a performance must submit a recording of their concert music within 48 hours the concert or performance. Failure to submit a recording will result in points deducted from the students playing test grade.

Orchestra performances are intended to showcase the students' hard work and are also designed to teach stage and audience etiquette. Therefore, students are expected to behave in a courteous and professional manner before, during, and after all performances.

Performance attendance and make-ups are required for students attending any orchestra field trips. Students who do not meet these requirements will be asked not to participate in these special events. Field trips are a reward (not a privilege) for the hard

work these students put forth throughout the year and their dedication to the orchestra program.

Grading

Grades for all instrumental music classes are reported on a nine-week basis and are based on the following:

- Daily class participation and performance
- Playing and written exams
- Homework assignments, which includes home practice

Grades for orchestra are numeric grades and conduct grades consistent with Fulton County policy

Expectations

We make every effort to teach students more than just the vocational skills they will need to work. In orchestra, students are expected to learn and demonstrate a strong work ethic, professional and respectful conduct, and good communication skills that are required in every workplace. In class and especially in the community, students are expected to:

- Show up early to events
- Prepared with the materials and attitude they need to perform their best
- With a respectful, responsible, and positive demeanor toward themselves, each other, and their teachers, parents, and community members

Rules and Consequences

1. Be on time to class and early to every rehearsal and performance.
2. Bring the materials you need- your instrument, music, and a pencil- and not the ones you don't: phones, work for another class, food/ drink (other than water), or other distractions.
3. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
4. Speak or play your instrument only when you've been instructed to do so.
5. Be respectful to yourself, your peers, your teacher, and the materials.

Students who choose to break the rules are also choosing to receive the following consequences:

- First offense— Verbal or visual warning and conference with teacher after class
- Second offense— Parent/Guardian contact
- Third offense— Parent/Guardian contact and detention
- Fourth offense— referred to administration immediately

Event Calendar 2024-2025

Fiddle Fest For Fiddle Group Members	Thursday, August 29 th , 2024
Participation Fee Due Through OSP	Thursday, September 12 th , 2024
All State Registration Deadline	Thursday, September 5 th , 2024
All State Orchestra District Audition	Saturday, October 12 th , 2024 Autry Mill Middle School
Fall Concert, TRMS Gym – <u>6th and 7th grade only</u>	Tuesday, October 22 nd , 2024 6:30PM Students stay afterschool
Spooktacular – CHS Auditorium <u>8th Grade only</u>	Monday, October 28 th , 2024 7:00PM Students stay afterschool
Winter Concert CHS Auditorium	Wednesday, December 11 th , 2024 7:00PM
All State Orchestra Final Audition	Saturday, January 11 th , 2025 Westminster Schools
RAT PACK <u>6th Grade Orchestra Clinic</u>	Saturday, February 8 th , 2025 Autry Mill Middle School
Pre-LGPE Concert CHS Auditorium	Tuesday, February 6 th , 2024 TIME TBA
LGPE 7 th and 8 th Grade	February 13-15 th , 2025 Exact date TBD
8 th Grade Disney Trip	March 7 th -March 10 th , 2025
7 th Grade Night CHS Pick-up 6:30PM	Date TBA 7 th Grade Students Stay afterschool

Spring Concert
CHS Auditorium

Thursday, May 8th, 2025
7:00PM

7th Grade Orchestra Breakfast

Friday, May 9th, 2025 (subject to change due to
Milestones)
During Connections Classes

6th Grade Orchestra Picnic

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025
5:30PM
Orchestra Room Pavilion

8th Grade Orchestra Banquet

Friday, May 16th, 2025
5:30PM
TRMS Field

Rehearsal Schedule

After School Rehearsals

After school rehearsals are when students stay once the school day has ended to rehearse with their entire grade level in preparation for concerts and performances. This rehearsal time is vital for the success of all students and **attendance is required**. Pick-up time is between 5:15-5:30PM.

6th Grade

Thursday, October 17th, 2024
Thursday, December 5th, 2023
Thursday, May 1st, 2025

7th Grade

Monday, October 7th, 2024
Monday, December 9th, 2024
Monday, February 3rd, 2025
Monday, April 28th, 2025

8th Grade

Thursday, October 24th, 2024
Friday, December 6th, 2024 (During Connections)
Wednesday, December 11th, 2024 (Stay after school on concert day)
Monday, February 10th, 2025
Monday, May 5th, 2025

Rental Supply List

Bring this list with you to the music store when you rent your student's instrument. It will help guide you in collecting all required materials. Remember, a quality instrument is an investment in your child's musical education. If you have any questions, please let me know!

6th grade students will be sent home with a specific check-list within the first month of school, including their correct instrument size.

- ❖ Instrument of choice in **proper size** (Violin, viola, cello, or bass)**
 - Students should be measured in the store for the correct sized instrument
 - Proper sized bow
 - Instrument case
- ❖ **Shoulder rest for violins and violas:** try with instrument before leaving to ensure a proper fit
- ❖ Rock stop for cello and bass
- ❖ Cleaning cloth: for wiping down instrument after use
- ❖ Rosin for bow: can be purchased at any music store
- ❖ Spare strings (highly recommended)
- ❖ Folding music stand (recommended but not required)

Most beginning students (6th graders) will not be on a full-sized instrument

Music Stores Near Us

- ❖ Atlanta Violins
- ❖ Beau Vinci Violins
- ❖ Huthmaker Violins
- ❖ Ken Stanton Music