Ginnings & Wilson

2010-2011

**Fifth Grade**

**Orchestra Handbook**

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*A guide for Orchestra Students and their Parents*

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**Dates to Remember**

## Winter Concert – 12/6/2010 SMS Auditorium 6:00pm

## String Fling – 4/12/2010 RHS gym 6:30

## Sandy Lake Fun Fest – 5/10/2010

## PTA at you school (subject to change)

**A Parent’s Guide to Enhancing Your Child’s**

**Musical Experience**

Numerous studies indicate that parental attitude, support, and involvement are important factors in a child’s ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music. These guidelines are designed to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With strong support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child’s life.

###### Benefits for Your Child

Music participation enhances:

Problem-solving Memory Skills

Teamwork Self-confidence and esteem

Goal-setting Concentration

Self-expression Poise

Physical Coordination And much, much more!

**How You As A Parent or Guardian Fit In**

###### Schedule Practice Times

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. The time in orchestra rehearsal is limited. New concepts learned at school need daily personal practice time by your child at home is order for these new skills to be developed. You can help your child by:

Checking her/her assignment sheets and recording practice times.

Providing a quiet place in which to practice.

Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible.

Schedule consistent daily time for practice.

It is recommended that the student practice with the CD that is included with the method book. The CD provides musical accompaniment to the exercises and a fun way to practice! Note: The first six weeks will develop proper playing position and note reading skills. Therefore, practice will involve “silent” activities such as instrument position, bow holds, and note name identification.

## Bringing Materials to Class

It is imperative that your child brings his or her instrument, book, and supplies to class every day. In an effort to assure your child has the highest quality orchestra experience, a form will be sent home with your child if he forgets his instrument. Please sign and return this form the next day if it is sent home. For students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, orchestra fee-waiver forms are available to help student obtain an instrument.

##### **Attendance**

The DISD Fifth Grade Orchestra Program is a **year-long commitment**. No exceptions will be made except for cases of personal or academic emergency with recommendation in writing of the homeroom teacher, signed by the parent. Students are expected to attend every orchestra class meeting, even if they have forgotten their instrument, without exception. If the classroom teacher must keep a student in class during part or all of the orchestra period, the student should bring a note of explanation from the teacher on arrival or at the next orchestra period.

Attendance is required at all performances. Excused absences are: death in the family, medical emergency and religious holidays. All absences are to be reported in writing by one week prior to the event. Circumstances may justify an excused absence for reasons other than those listed above. In case of emergency, contact the orchestra teacher by phone no later than 4:00 PM on the day of the event. The orchestra performs at various events, including PTA concerts, Sandy Lake, and String Fling. A calendar will go out in August to keep you informed of the year’s events.

##### **Concert Attire**

Concert attire for 5th graders in the Denton Strings Program is a black skirt or pants for girls (skirt length should be below the knee), black pants for boys, a white blouse or shirt, and black shoes. This attire must be worn to dressy concerts. Students need to purchase an orchestra T-shirts for String Fling and any other competitions their school participates in. (see form)

###### Materials Needed

These are the accessories that you will need for 5th grade orchestra:

1. Method Book – *Essential Elements 2000* by Allen, Gillespie, and Hayes (Hal Leonard, publisher) for violin, viola, cello or bass.
2. Kun brand shoulder rest (violin and viola), Rock Stop (cello and bass).
3. Pencil.
4. Soft cloth (clean piece of material, wash cloth, handkerchief) used for cleaning rosin dust off your instrument.
5. (recommended) Metal folding stand for home practice – this will encourage a correct playing position.

**Care of Your Instrument**

1. Keep your instrument and bow in case when not in use.
2. Do not let others play your instrument.
3. Always unpack your instrument on the floor or a table.
4. Keep instrument away from very hot and cold temperatures.
5. Use a soft cloth to wipe off rosin dust from your instrument after playing.
6. Place the cloth over the top of the violin/viola before closing the case.
7. Do not turn the pegs or fine tuners – let your teacher do that.
8. Notify your teacher if the bridge is not perpendicular to the violin or if the fine tuners are touching the body of the instrument.
9. Never touch the hair on the bow.
10. Tighten the bow when you want to play, loosen the bow when you put it away.

Class Procedures

Enter class quietly.

Ask questions appropriately and at the appropriate times.

Place instrument cases under or alongside your chair.

Be unpacked, ready to play in your seat by the start of class.

Shadow-bow or silently finger until your teacher signals for class to begin.

Keep hands and bow in your own space.

# **Consequences**

Verbal Warning

Phone Call Home

Severe Disruption: student sent immediately to principal’s office

Exclusion from Field Trips

## Rewards

Verbal Praise

Music Games

Progress Charts

Ribbon Tests

Field Trips



Thank you for the support and encouragement you give to your child and the Denton Strings Program. Please fill out the INFORMATION SHEET and AGREEMENT and return it to your orchestra teacher after you have read through this handbook. Please return it at your NEXT ORCHESTRA CLASS after receiving this handbook

## INFORMATION SHEET

Please Print

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_6-Digit School ID Number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents’ Names: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Private Teacher (include phone number) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

###### AGREEMENT

**I agree that orchestra is a year-long commitment and will support my child by:**

* **providing the necessary equipment**
* **scheduling home practice times**
* **arranging transportation to each concert 30 minutes before start time.**

I have read the Denton Strings Program Handbook and to abide by these requirements and expectations.

## Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **RETURN AT YOUR NEXT ORCHESTRA CLASS**

5th Grade Orchestra T-Shirt Order Form

2010-2011

I am proud to say that 2010-2011 5th Grade Orchestra T-shirts will be available for purchase to wear at performances (String Fling), Festival performances (Sandy Lake Fun-Fest), other extracurricular activities (parties) and to show school spirit.

T-shirts will be $5.00. Please indicate the T-shirt size and quantity below.

* Please include $5.00 with this order form. (paperclip or envelope, please)
* **Pay Cash or Make checks out to SMS Orchestra (Do not make it out to the Elementary School)**
* Parents are welcome to purchase a shirt as well.

Student Name, first and last \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# of T-shirts\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sizes(s) (circle)

Youth S Youth M Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL Adult XXL

Amount of money attached (paperclip or envelope) (#of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_shirt(s) x $5.00)\_\_\_\_\_\_

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