

McKinney Middle School Orchestras

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Special iOrchestra web:
[misdstrings.com/
iorchestra.htm](http://misdstrings.com/iorchestra.htm)

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ORCHESTRA ROCKS Sign up now to reserve your spot!

The Orchestra program at all Middle Schools is in its fourth year and it is one of the fastest-growing organizations in McKinney!

You need **NO PRIOR MUSICAL EXPERIENCE** to play in the orchestra. We'll teach you everything you need to know from holding the instrument to reading music.

Students who want to be in orchestra need to mark Orchestra as their choice on their elective cards they will be receiving at their elementary school.

Our orchestra instrument drives to select which instrument you're going to play will be

held on the following days at the indicated locations:

- March 30 at Boyd HS 4:30-7
- April 23 at McKinney North HS 4:30-7
- June 2 at McKinney HS 4:30-7

Students will be able to try all of the string instruments, be sized on the instrument of their choice and reserve a rental for the fall. Space in some instrument sections is limited, so don't delay! If you'd like to make an appointment, call or e-mail the orchestra director from your child's campus (see sidebar) or come anytime during the evening!



Beginning Orchestra Students performing at a spring contest

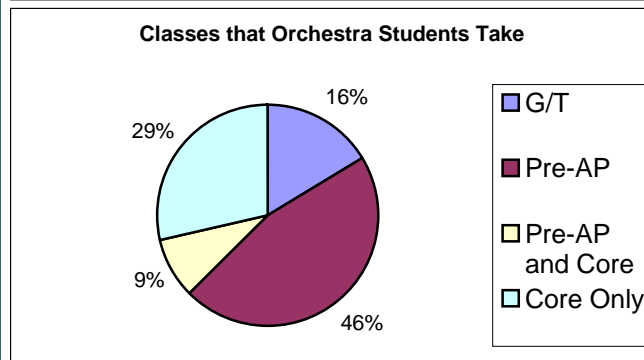
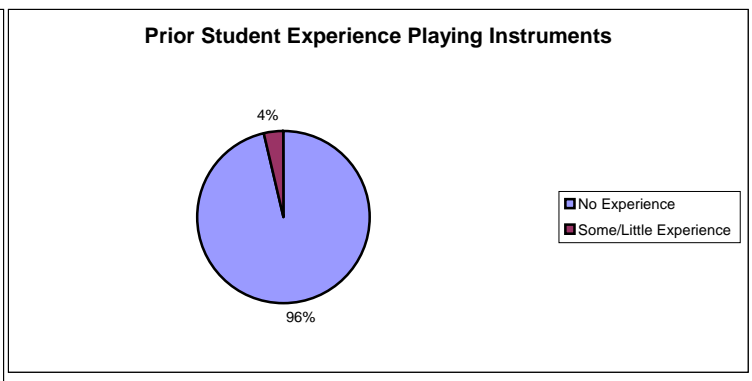
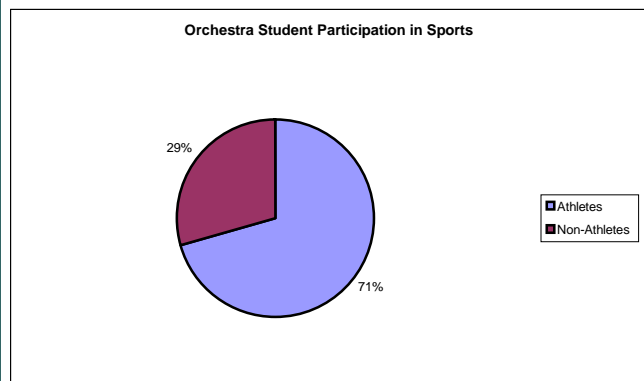


Orchestra=fun with friends!

Top 10 Reasons to Join the Orchestra

10. Learning how to play a string instrument is a lot of fun!
9. Making new friends and getting to know old friends better—we're one of the largest groups of friends you can have in middle school!
8. Going on lots of fun field trips to contests and parks
7. The teachers are really nice!
6. The music that you get to play is really cool!
5. Being in orchestra—it really does make you smarter!
4. You can perform at solo contests and win HUGE medals.
3. Having fun at socials, skating parties, pizza parties, and laser tag parties
2. Sometimes you might even get to play an electric instrument!
1. Who wouldn't want to be a Violin Hero, Viola Hero, Cello Hero, or Bass Hero??!

Orchestra facts at a glance



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Philharmonic Orchestra	1233	1275	1291	1274	1284	1293	1320 / 1962
String Orchestra	1301	1315	1307	1381	1310	1368	1397 / 1903
Symphony Orchestra	1286	1293	1294	1317	1352	1285	1365 / 1983
All-State Composite Score	1215	1213	1193	1209	1209	1221	1219 / 1841
National Average	1019	1020	1020	1026	1026	1028	
State Average	993	992	991	993	992	995	

Frequently Asked Questions About Orchestra

Is it expensive?
 No. Most students RENT (not purchase) their instruments from area music stores—there are several affordable options to choose from. **Do NOT** let financial concerns keep your child from joining - we'll help you find an instrument to fit your budget!

How much time outside of school is required?
 NOT MUCH. Orchestra meets as part of their school day, not before or after school! Students may have a couple after school rehearsals during the year. For a beginner, outside of class practice time is less than 2 hours (100 minutes) over a whole week.

Do I need to have prior musical experience?
 It is NOT necessary to have prior knowledge

or training. Most of the students in the Orchestra had no music training outside regular 5th grade music classes prior to joining.

Will orchestra get in the way of making good grades?
 NOT LIKELY. While the amount of hard work toward classes is determined by each individual, over the years we have found the majority of students in orchestra actually do BETTER in all their other classes. Orchestra helps create habits of excellence that carry over to a multitude of other activities.

Do I have to carry a cello or bass to school every day?
 NO! You will rent an instrument to keep at home and use a school cello or bass at school. Violins and violas can carry their instruments to and from school as they wish.

Can I still be in PE?
 Yes! All sixth grade students will be able to have both PE and orchestra during school every day.

Will I be able to be in orchestra and athletics later?
 YES!! Many of our current orchestra students participate in numerous other activities in middle school. In fact, it's even possible to participate in orchestra and athletics in high school, too!

Can I wait until 7th grade to decide?
 Students who are interested at all in music need to begin learning an instrument in the sixth grade as beginning classes are not offered later.

REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL GET TWO ELECTIVES IN ADDITION TO PE/ATHLETICS IN SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES!

Celebrity Orchestra Members

VIOLIN

- Dido, singer
- Kwame Harris, SF 49ers
- Chelsea Newton, WNBA
- Jon McGraw, NY Jets
- Samantha DeHoyos (Houston Texans Cheerleader)
- Keith Jackson, GB Packers
- John Travolta, actor

VIOLA

- Albert Einstein
- Jimi Hendrix
- John Cale (Velvet Underground)
- Naruhito (Crown Prince of Japan)
- Elizabeth Schwarzkopf

CELLO

- DeMarcus Curry, Rams
- Prince Charles
- Paula Zahn, news anchor
- Lional Dalton, KC Chiefs
- Thomas Jefferson
- Yo-Yo Ma
- BASS**
- Les Claypool, Primus
- Larry Centers, Bills
- Wayman Tinsdale, Suns



Orchestra Students having fun in a 3-legged race during a social