



Emerson High School Orchestras
2024 - 2025

Dear Present and Future Emerson Orchestra Members,

We are excited for the coming school year and pleased that you will be a part of the Emerson Orchestra for the 2024-2025 school year! We are looking forward to making music with you and continuing to get to know you! Please see below for information about our orchestras and the coming auditions.

The Emerson Orchestra Program is a young but growing program. All students involved in the orchestra program at Emerson study a wide range of literature, enjoy performing throughout the year, are engaged in community outreach, and have opportunities to travel and participate in social events. Orchestra placement is based on several criteria: technical skill displayed at the audition, demonstrated academic success, willingness to collaborate and grow together, and teacher recommendation (if required).

Students new to orchestra or their instrument must enroll with a private lesson teacher for at least a year before joining orchestra as Emerson Orchestra does not have a beginner ensemble. Students in Emerson Orchestra have been playing for at least two years in middle school or outside private lessons.

Please find the attached audition music for the Emerson Orchestras. The audition DOES NOT keep you from being in orchestra. Each student has a place in the Emerson Orchestra program! This evaluation ensures that each student is placed in an appropriate learning environment where they will experience the most success and growth.

We will have four orchestras next year. If you choose not to audition, you will be placed in an ensemble at the discretion of the directors, and you will not have the opportunity to audition for another orchestra until the following school year, as Emerson Orchestra does not re-audition during the semester.

The Emerson Orchestra program has a projected enrollment of 120 members for the 2024-2025 school year. All orchestras provide an environment of high-caliber performances, community, leadership, and ensemble and individual competition opportunities. Each orchestra class will often perform independently at concerts and in the community, which requires a balanced instrumentation and skill level for each class. We are counting on you to help make this next year even better than the last.

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Emerson Orchestra Family!



Emerson High School Orchestras
2024 - 2025

Enrollment in orchestra is a full year commitment to this organization. Concerts, performances, and UIL Concert & Sightreading are curricular, and all students are expected to attend. All EHS Orchestra members perform at various school and community functions.

Students are encouraged to participate in UIL All-Region/All-State Auditions, UIL Solo & Ensemble, and additional performances as assigned. Throughout the year, students will be involved in school-sponsored masterclasses taught by recognized Dallas/Fort Worth musicians, which will supplement students' private lessons. Individual preparation of parts, consistent outside practice, and attendance for all rehearsals are expected of all students.

All Orchestra members model Emerson Orchestra Pride by being compassionate, kind, team-oriented, prepared, punctual, respectful, and receptive to individualized feedback.

Chamber Orchestra - 3A

Varsity

Symphonic Orchestra - 3B

Non- Varsity

Philharmonic Orchestra - 1A

Sub-Non-Varsity-A

Sinfonia Orchestra - 1B

Sub-Non Varsity-B

**Chamber Orchestra is the premier performing ensemble of Emerson HS, and students are required to participate in All-Region, Regional Solo & Ensemble, attend 1 after school rehearsal per week, participate in full orchestra, and additional community performances throughout the year, as well as collaborate with musical, band, and choir performance events*

*** Symphonic Orchestra performs with the intention of becoming the Varsity Orchestra members in later years of Emerson HS and students are expected to demonstrate a growth mindset and participate in All-Region, Solo & Ensemble and additional community performances throughout the year.*

****Your schedule may title your orchestra class differently. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the class periods line up with the corresponding orchestra you place into.*



Emerson High School Orchestras
2024 - 2025

AUDITION PROCESS

- **Auditions are video recordings and are due no later than Wednesday, April 24th. Late auditions will not be accepted. You must join the EHS Audition Canvas Class for your instrument** before you can access the audition material. After reading the audition levels and process, join your audition class by clicking the link for your instrument at the bottom of the page.

WHAT DO YOU PLAY?

- To be considered for Philharmonic Orchestra
 - Perform Level 1 Etude **Only**
- To be considered for Symphonic Orchestra
 - Perform **both** Level 1 and Level 2 Etudes Only
- To be considered for Symphonic Orchestra
 - Perform **both** Level 2 and Level 3 Etudes Only

Canvas Class Links

- [Join Violin Audition Canvas Class](#)
- [Join Viola Audition Canvas Class](#)
- [Join Cello Audition Canvas Class](#)
- [Join Bass Audition Canvas Class](#)
- [Non FISD Students will submit their audition through this google form](#)



Emerson High School Orchestras
2024 - 2025

CURRICULAR SKILLS - As you prepare for your audition, focus on the following skills to demonstrate at your audition

- **General Skills:** Every day is an audition! Rehearsal skills and etiquette, positive body language, ability to accept and appropriately react to feedback and instruction from directors and peers, marking music, confident presentation and sound, balanced and tension-free posture, correct notes, correct rhythms, and bowings, consistent and appropriate tempo, appropriate style and piece, expressive markings, appropriate phrase shape (developing and demonstrating musical ideas), primary/secondary clefs.
- **Left-Hand Skills:** Clear finger shape dependent upon key, independent fingers, developing vibrato on all fingers, smooth and tension-free shifting, marked positions demonstrated.
- **Right-Hand Skills:** Flexible and functional bow hold that allows for control and clarity at every part of the bow and in every articulation, mature tone production (WASCPA), appropriate bow placement, appropriate articulations for the piece, demonstrates a wide range and command of dynamic contrast.

AUDITION PREPARATION - Choose your audition path.

- You must pick the excerpts where you can play with excellent intonation, rhythmic precision, a steady tempo (practice with a metronome), and all dynamics, articulations, and style considerations. Bowings and any marked fingerings are mandatory.
- We want everyone to have a solid, confident audition. Even though you will select the excerpts you want to prepare for the orchestra you hope to make it into, **it is not guaranteed that you will qualify for that**



Emerson High School Orchestras
2024 - 2025

orchestra. For example, if you choose to perform the Varsity orchestra excerpts, you may be accepted into the Non Varsity or a Sub Non Varsity Orchestra. All Orchestras perform at a high level, and the process is designed to help find the group where you will experience the most success and fulfillment.

- Play through each of them, take them to your teacher, and decide which excerpts you want to prepare for your audition.

PREPARING YOUR AUDITION

- Start your preparation today!
- Search for and listen to recordings of the music to help your ear learn how it goes
- Use a metronome and tuner regularly!
- Record yourself practicing and listen back to help discern opportunities and goals
- Practice daily in small chunks using practice strategies, such as:
 - Isolating 2-3 notes at a time and repeating for success
 - Starting at a significantly slower tempo, and slowly increasing it week by week
 - Taking out tricky bowings and playing with slow, separate bows before adding in slurs
 - Observing dynamics and melodic direction in every phrase
- Perform for others as the audition gets closer!
- Do your best and remember we are growing, learning, and loving together!



Emerson High School Orchestras
2024 - 2025

RESULTS

Students and Parents will be notified about audition results via the website in late April / early May. Results will be communicated with the counselors and they will work with students and directors to resolve any scheduling conflicts. This gives everyone the opportunity to reconcile your academic schedule with your orchestra placement.

If the situation arises that your orchestra placement conflicts with your class schedule, you will make a choice between that ensemble placement or moving to a lower ensemble to accommodate the other class. You may not choose to participate in a higher-level orchestra. Every orchestra rehearses, participates and performs at a high level and is in need of leaders and well-rounded members.

If you have questions regarding the auditions please feel free to contact Mrs. Mour at mours@friscoisd.org. Thank you for investing the time and energy to participate in the audition process.

Sandra M. Mour, Director of Orchestras
Michelle K. Campos, Harp Instructor
Emerson HS Emerson Orchestra